

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting October 7, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting on Thursday, October 7, 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 Hugan, Ronald McCartney, Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaró, Raymond Walkowiak and Sharon Wilson. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Greg Gleason, 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 37 individuals and one members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:37 pm. He apologized for the late start. Carnegie Elementary students Jacob Seitz, John Suppers-Mayfield and Lorin Welsh detailed their roles in the fruit and vegetable snack program, as coordinators, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.*

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *President Brown began by addressing all who wished to speak, asking them to be mindful of the length of their comments and to not make personal attacks on any given person. He asked everyone to be respectful and courteous to one another.*

The first to speak was Noel Weaver, of Crafton. She said she works in the architectural field and was familiar with the process, adding she was disappointed Kimball did not look at the existing buildings the district owns and build upon that. She then reviewed the Request for Proposal (RPF) process and suggested the district call for bids for a full team. Her final statement was to ask the board to vote “no” to hiring an Architect of Record.

Dan Cindrich, president of Crafton Borough council, read a resolution the borough passed opposing the closing of Crafton Elementary. He said council supports the efforts to renovate Crafton Elementary and the resolution was passed unanimously. “As an architect myself,” Cindrich said, “it is crucial to employ someone who is objective and familiar with the community.” He implored the board to consider renovation.

Crafton resident and council member April Weitzel submitted a document regarding the Brentwood School District renovations, which included costs. Landmark Design Associates were the architects. She asked that the letter be entered into record.

Phyllis Barber, of Crafton, came forward, announcing she had a background in auditing and sustainability. She questioned if busing needs were considered if the schools were consolidated, as well as changes to the market values of the homes. She also asked if the board had considered the cost of maintaining vacant buildings or if a plan was in place for them. In closing, she said believes it best to live within our means.

Mike Bernard, of Carnegie, asked why meetings were not broadcast on Verizon Fios. Dr. Panza explained that the district was taking measures to broadcast the meetings on a public service channel, but it was taking some time. Mr. Bernard said he is an architectural project manager and has done work at both the educational and collegiate level. He said he found it interesting that an RFP was not used to hire an Architect of Record.

Crafton resident AJ Pescuric asked if it were not premature to hire an Architect of Record when concerns about other costs and future economic conditions with the looming pension crisis seem to have been given little credence. She called attention to several paragraphs in a booklet by Pennsylvania Landmarks Association, reading them aloud. She also brought forward and distributed a rough mock-up of what can be done with the Glaser property, across the street from Crafton Elementary, if it were acquired. The drawing offered 87 parking spots.

Diane Dennis, of Crafton, former president of the Crafton Historical Society, spoke on behalf of “those who support and love the history and architecture of older buildings.” She asked what plan the district had if Rosslyn Farms, as rumored, pulls from the district. President Brown said the board has already checked with the state and was notified it would be nearly impossible for that to occur.

David Kwiatkoski, of Crafton, said he finds it highly irregular that the board is prepared to hire an Architect of Record so soon after approving the facility study. He said he does not like the idea of the school being built so close to a shopping center, adding that neighborhood schools are the kind that binds ties within the neighborhood.

Crafton resident Alan Dorfield commented that all discussion up to this point seems to follow the same path of saving the neighborhood schools. His question was: “Does it matter?” Breaking it out more, he asked, “How much of an affect do our comments have on you?” President Brown said he could not speak for the others, but the comments are and will be a factor to his decision.

Crafton resident David Obrien said he has two young children, and as a parent, he is cognizant of the consequences of their behavior. Therefore, he stated, if the board has not completed a comprehensive study to illustrate the consequences or outcome of the proposed action, they have done a disservice to the communities and its families.

Coletta Perry, of Crafton, said she has serious concerns about hiring an Architect of Record, asking if the board already knew which option they were planning to select. President Brown said they did not. She stated that the award is pre-mature, not well organized, and there is not enough understanding by the public.

Crafton resident David Roussos said he appreciates the job the board does. He asked what specifically the board was voting on, in reference to the motion to hire Kimball as the Architect of Record. Solicitor Gleason said hiring Kimball as the Architect of Record allows Kimball to act as an advisor. Mr. Roussos asked what they can offer that was not already offered in the feasibility study. Dr. Panza recounted the process by which the board has followed since the spring of 2008, ending with the board hiring Kimball to conduct and present a feasibility/facility study. He said this is the next logical step in the PlanCon

process. Mr. Roussos asked the board how they plan to pay for this project, adding that he has crunched the numbers and he does not see how this can be done without raising significant taxes. President Brown said the next step will be to meet with bond councils and underwriters who will look over everything and advise. President Brown said the board will listen to what is available and make a decision at that point. Mr. Roussos then said he hopes a plan is in place to determine what will happen with the current buildings, adding this is important to know before abandoning them. He referenced this action to that most likely taken by a homeowner, who would want to be certain their original home was sold before purchasing another. He asked that the board be sensitive to the type of organization(s) to which the vacant schools might be sold, thereby not creating a negative factor to the neighborhood. He referenced a case familiar to Dr. Panza where a former school was proposed to be sold and occupied as a youth detention center.

Michael Kozy Sr., of Crafton, questioned the process by which Kimball would be awarded the Architect of Record and asked for clarification, particularly on the 5.75 percent fee. Kimball representative John Hummel, who attended the meeting, said the company's proposal included the bid to complete the feasibility study and general price ranges for working on a project of this scope. Solicitor Gleason said that when the study was bid out, no one had any idea if the board would pursue a building project. Mr. Kozy questioned why the board would move forward without re-bidding the process, suggesting that by generally choosing Kimball as the Architect of Record, this benefits Kimball.

Resident Mike Ortasis suggested the board take a vote from the community to see what they want.

Carnegie resident Lori Dedola announced to the board that she hopes they will make a decision that is educationally sound for the children and the taxpayers. She also suggested the board speak to residents of neighboring Chartiers Valley to see how their "campus-style" schools operate, asking the board to do what is best for all, and not only Crafton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2010 Regular Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Minutes of the September 16, 2010 Meeting

REPORTS:

- Executive Session – President Brown noted that contractual and legal issues were discussed in executive session within school code guidelines. Mr. Brown thanked board members Nyra Schell, Betsy Tassaró and Ray Walkowiak for traveling with the superintendent to view other school districts with recent consolidation and building projects.
 - Principals' Reports – The elementary principals placed newsletters before each board member. Mr. Veri mentioned that the Grable Foundation once again granted monies to continue the Tower Power program at Carnegie Towers; Mrs. Maslyk called attention to the new character education program at Crafton Elementary and disclosed the names of the Students of the Month. Dr. Susini announced that nearly 200 will attend the

Homecoming dance at Bella Sera in Canonsburg, and informed board members of the names of the elected king and queen. SAT prep classes begin Saturday, October 9.

- Business Manager Report – Mr. Christy reported that the Department of Education has indicated the district's index allowance rate for the 2011-2012 school year and said representatives of the Auditor General's office are presently conducting an audit of the 2007-2008 school year.
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Panza briefly summarized the calendar of upcoming events and commented on the following:
 - A safety team committee meeting has been scheduled
 - The pool work is completed and the pool should be filled within two weeks
 - Policies related to dispensing prescribed medicines were provided in the packets for review.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

I. Miscellaneous

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

- C...L.Rowley...AIU...Title 1 Compliance/Programming, 9/30
 - C...C.Badger...Greenway PD Ctr...AP Conference, 10/11
 - C...L.Begg...Greenway PD Ctr...AP Conference, 10/11
 - C...M.Kozy...Greenway PD Ctr...AP Conference, 10/11
 - C...L.Rowley...BVIU...Title 1 Compliance Mtg, 10/14
 - C...M.Mishkin...Pgh Marriott City Ctr...ADA Conference, 10/14
 - C...J.Nagorski...Wheeling Jesuit U...Challenger Ctr, 10/15
 - C...A.Mendiola...AIU...Literacy Workshop, 10/27, 12/1, 2/23, 4/20
 - C...S.Donnelly...AIU...Literacy Workshop, 10/27, 12/1, 2/23, 4/20
 - C...J.Nagorski...AIU...Literacy Workshop, 10/27, 12/1, 2/23, 4/20
 - C...R.Gevaudan...Hershey...Cohort 3 Workshop, 11/9-11
 - C...J.Sweeney...Hershey...Child Accounting Conference, 3/9-11
 - FT...Carnegie 1st Grades...Triple B Pumpkin Farm...Farm Life, 10/6
 - FT...MBVeri...Station Square...Walking tour of Pgh, 10/13
 - FT...M.Smoller...AGH...Observe Careers in Medicine, 10/18
 - FT...B.Palonis...Bvr Cty Wetlands...Ecosystem Studies, 10/20
 - FT...MBVeri...North Allegheny HS... Creative Convention, 10/22
 - FT...M.Stagl...Greentree Radisson...Interact Conference, 10/25
 - FT...MBVeri...Science Ctr...Science & Tech Workshop, 11/9
 - FT...Craf 1st Grades...Car. Museum/Playhouse...Museum & Theater, 5/13/2011
 - C...L.Merglowski...SouthpointeWellness...Workshop...10/15
 - C...S. Barnes...Circuit Center...Counseling Seminar...10/21
- (Miscellaneous Item #1010-01 REVISED)

The revision to the 2010-2011 school year calendar, as submitted (school closed February 21, 2011 rather than February 14). (Miscellaneous Item #1010-02)

By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.

II. Finance

Conference and Field Trip Requests

Revision to the 2010-2011 School Calendar

Director DiPietro moved, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2010 as submitted;

August 2010 Treasurer's Report

And the August 2010 bills in the amount of \$1,910,483.28 as submitted; **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 9-0.**

August 2010 Bills

Director Schirripa moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to name L.R. Kimball as the Architect of Record for an elementary building project and to begin the PlanCon process. **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 6-3, with Directors Schell, Tassaro and Walkowiak voting NO.**

L.R. Kimball – Architect of Record

Upon calling for her vote, Director Schell asked if she could question several parts of the AIA document. She had a question on page 3, PlanCon Part C, and was told it is not pertinent because the district is not acquiring property. Dr. Panza said that should the district need to, Kimball would advise. Director Schell asked Mr. Hummel how far the variation of options could be stretched, to which he replied, "There are no limits on the variations." Mrs. Schell referenced a chart on page 12. She said the chart lists basic service for items not indicated, to which Mr. Hummel said it means the services have yet to be assigned. Director Schell asked for a breakdown of page 22 and asked if it was standard. Mr. Hummel said yes. Betsy Tassaro asked if the fee structure for Dana Steadman would be hourly. Dr. Panza said it was yet to be negotiated and Solicitor Gleason said this was not unusual.

Upon calling for her vote, Director Wilson said the decision has caused her to pause and reflect on what is best for everyone. She said she does take into account the comments made by the public. Upon discussing this with the solicitor, she understands that the hiring of an Architect of Record is the next step, so she will vote "yes."

III. Personnel

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

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

- Richard Taylor, Instructional/Lunchroom/Playground Aide
- Bryan Davidson, Secondary Social Studies/English
- Bradley Hemmings, Secondary English/Communications
- Harold Hokanson, Health and Physical Education, K-12
- Breann Kaufman, Elementary/Special Education
- Trisha McHaffie, Elementary
- Britni McGrath, Secondary Mathematics
- Leigh Simonton, Music, K-12 / Psychology
(Personnel Item #1010-01)

The additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List as recommended:

Additions to the 2010-2011 Athletic Supplemental List

- Thomas Welch – Boys' Assistant Basketball Coach
(Personnel Item #1010-02)

The resignation of music education teacher Matthew O'Neil as submitted; (Personnel Item #1010-03)

Resignation – Matthew O'Neil

The deletion and additions to the 2010-2011 Activities Supplemental List as recommended:

Deletion/Additions to the 2010-2011 Activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Matthew O’Neil – Band Director (<i>resigned</i>) ▪ Christina Pantelidis – Colorguard Instructor / Majorette-Silks Sponsor (<i>two positions</i>) ▪ Cynthia Eddy/Michelle Smoller – National Honor Society / Junior National Honor Society Sponsors (<i>two positions - shared</i>) (Personnel Item #1010-04) 	<p>Supplemental List</p>
<p>And a long-term substitute position to Lauren Kostley for the 2010-2011 school year, at the elementary level, per the terms and conditions of the Carlynton Federation of Teachers Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement; By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.</p>	<p>Long-Term Substitute – Lauren Kostley</p>
<p>Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve a Leave of Absence for Employee #SCA10-08 as requested; (Personnel Item #1010-05)</p>	<p>LOA – Employee #SCA10-08</p>
<p>Ida Prevost for the position of cafeteria worker at Crafton Elementary as submitted per the terms of the Secretarial-Cafeteria-Aides Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement; (Personnel Item #1010-06)</p>	<p>Cafeteria Worker at Crafton – Ida Prevost</p>
<p>The following after-school tutors at the junior-senior high school for the At-Risk Learners After-School Program in four subject areas for one-hour per week per subject, funded by IDEA-ARRA monies, at the teacher’s per diem rate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maggi Mishkin – Science ▪ Doris Parson - Mathematics ▪ Pamela Stone – English and Social Studies <p>(Personnel Item #1010-07)</p>	<p>Secondary After-School Tutors</p>
<p>The posting for the position of an inclusion aide at the junior-senior high school, to be funded with stimulus monies;</p>	<p>Posting – Inclusion Aide at JSHS</p>
<p>And the posting for the positions of four (4) after-school tutors/instructors – two at Carnegie and two at Crafton Elementary – to conduct an after-school tutoring program at each elementary school. By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.</p>	<p>Posting – Four After-School Tutors for Elementary Schools</p>
<p><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS:</u> <i>Director Schell commented that she choose to vote “no” on the item to appoint an Architect of Record, not because she disliked the arrangement with Kimball, but because of the timeliness of the issue. She said she believes the inability to adequately communicate the issue to the public guided her decision. She noted that she is appreciative of Kimball and the patience they have had with her many questions.</i></p>	
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS:</u> <i>None</i></p>	
<p><u>OPEN FORUM:</u> <i>April Weitzel asked, in regards to hiring an architect, “Why the rush?” Director Wilson replied that the architect will help the board gather information and will dialogue on important decisions; President Brown concurred. He said he reviewed the matter with several other architects and found Kimball’s fee of 5.7 percent to be competitive. Director McCartney said the board agrees that something needs to be done; this will give them some</i></p>	

alternatives and objectives. Director Schirripa said this is part of the PlanCon process. Mrs. Weitzel asked to have the PlanCon process posted on the district website.

Joyce Glaser Johansen introduced herself as the co-owner (along with a brother) of the property across the street from Crafton Elementary. She said she corresponded via email with the board, but had yet to hear from anyone. Going on, she said they were hoping to become part of a solution and would welcome anyone to look further into their property. She provided scaled drawings of the site and asked what the reimbursement rate is for new construction versus renovation. Dr. Panza said it is based on capacity.

An unannounced resident in the audience then asked, “What’s next” He went on to ask if Kimball now designs a building or does the board tell Kimball what they want. Solicitor Gleason said the board gives the architect the direction.

Audience member Tara Fox said it is well-known that our schools have deficiencies and she asked why these were not addressed all along. She then asked if the new structure would be maintained as issues arise, although she added that she was a proponent for renovating the current schools. President Brown said maintenance of the building would be a priority, adding it would be easy for the board to do nothing, but the school directors chose to tackle an issue they knew would be controversial. Director McCartney said he did not want to see the maintenance staff being “bashed;” they work hard at what they do, but certain things only have a certain lifespan.

Director Wilson spoke up to say that her primary concern is that which is best for the students, with the second being taxes. She said she emotionally agrees with everyone’s comments to save the neighborhood schools, but she questions the impact of renovations to students during the process and noted that space issues in both buildings are of concern.

At 9:50 pm, all administrators were excused from the meeting.

Michael Kozy again came forward to comment that the Crafton Elementary structure is 100 years old. He noted that Carnegie Elementary is not much older than the high school. He asked if a committee of residents could be formed to make decisions; Mt. Lebanon did this with a committee of some 50 individuals and all decisions were made by the public. Director Schell said the board has and will ask for public input through teachers, staff and community.

Jody Hilarzewski, of Crafton, stated that her husband works for the Fort Cherry Middle School, where they are currently conducting renovations. She said there are air quality issues and other problems have arisen, many of which are negatively affecting the students.

Crafton resident Susan Kozy said she works as an educator in a building that is undergoing renovations, and though it has not been easy, the comments from parents now are very favorable since much of the renovations are complete. Many have said the project was “worth it.”

Kathleen Lopez, of Crafton, asked why the board seems to be alienating the community, stating that it’s possible everyone would move out and there then would not be a tax base. President Brown said that whatever the decision the board makes, it would be one to make the community more attractive.

Lil Rose, an audience member, declared, “We voted you into office; you represent our voice, so your decision should represent what we want.” She went on to say that the board is to work for the best interest of the kids. President Brown said some tough decisions are ahead; the board will have to choose “what we like, and what we don’t like.”

Dr. Panza reminded everyone that members of a school board are not paid for their job, taking 15-20 hours a month to volunteer on behalf of the district’s educational needs and trying to make the best decisions.

Jack Kobistek, resident and mayor of Carnegie, submitted two letters, saying he was presenting them on behalf of two individuals who could not make the meeting. One letter suggested one combined elementary school; the other asked for two neighborhood schools. Mr. Kobistek again urged the board to remain cognizant of the partnerships that stand firm within the communities between the schools, businesses and public officials.

Michael Kozy spoke up to say that many residents in the borough have homes as old as Crafton Elementary and noted that the building in Pittsburgh that holds the offices of L.R. Kimball and Associates has beautiful architecture and was built in 1902.

Jim Schriver, of Crafton, brought forward a document with millage rates of school districts throughout the Commonwealth. He said by applying the statistics of wealth and real estate, the Carlynton School District is the twelfth most expensive district out of 500 school districts. Dr. Panza noted that statistically, those numbers can be skewed and viewed in a number of ways, asking if the aid ratio was computed into his findings. Mr. Schriver continued by saying that the cost to build, compounded by the looming pension crisis, scares him. He concluded that renovating older buildings is possible and with the current economy, now is not the appropriate time to consider building.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Director Hugan moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 9-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kirby Christy, Board Secretary

Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary