

CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Voting Meeting October 21, 2010 Carlynton Jr.-Sr. High School Library – 7:30 pm

MINUTES

The Carlynton School District Board of Education conducted its Regular Voting Meeting Thursday, October 21, 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 and Raymond Walkowiak. Also present was Superintendent Michael Panza, Solicitor Greg Gleason, Business Manager Kirby Christy and Principals Jacie Maslyk, Robert Susini and Christopher Very. The audience was comprised of 22 individuals and two members of the press.

CALL TO ORDER - *The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 7:30 pm. Crafton Elementary fourth grader Kira Gossard was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and she was congratulated for earning a perfect score on the math portion of the PSSA.*

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD: *None*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2010 Agenda Setting/Committee/Voting Meeting as presented. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

REPORTS:

- **Executive Session** – *President Brown noted that contractual, legal and labor issues were discussed in executive session, all within school code guidelines.*
 - **Principals' Reports** - *The elementary principals announced that the fall parades will be held Friday morning, October 29, for grades K-3; Dr. Susini announced that the junior high girls' basketball team won the Southside Beaver Basketball Tournament.*
 - **Business Manager Report** – *Mr. Christy reported that the tax collection committee has reached an agreement with Jordan Tax Services; formal collection will be effective January 1, 2012. Dr. Panza made a presentation to Mr. Christy, presenting a large, framed certificate recognizing his years of service as business manager and alliance with the Pennsylvania School Business Officials (PASBO) organization.*
- **Superintendent's Report** – *Dr. Panza summarized the calendar of upcoming events and commented on the following:*

Minutes of the October 7,
2010 Meeting

- *He attended the recent PSBA conference in Harrisburg, accompanied by Director Schirripa; they attended many valuable seminars*
- *President Brown was recognized in the PSBA bulletin for eight (8) years of service to the school board*
- *Several technology items will be advertised as surplus*
- *The marching band received a certificate of recognition for performing in the Northgate band festival; the band will perform with the University of Pittsburgh during the half time ceremonies of the Pitt vs. Rutgers game at Heinz Field on October 23. President Brown noted that Dr. Panza has assumed the duties of band director until a new director is hired.*
- Parkway West CTC Report – *Director Hughan recognized Alex Mongelli, a Carlynton/Parkway West ACE student who was named Student of the Month. Open House will be held November 1; and 627 students are enrolled at Parkway this year, with 48 freshmen.*
- SHASDA – *Director Schirripa reported that Jocelyn Kramer, from the Ira Weiss Law Firm, was the keynote speaker at the last meeting; she was very informative and did a great job*
- PSBA-Legislative – *Director Walkowiak called attention to three house bills; the first relative to Title 9 and athletic reporting; the second regarding Right to Know laws with changes and updates; and the third related to pension reform with changes for new employees and other features.*

BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD:

I. Miscellaneous

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

- C...L.Zimmerman...AIU...Literacy Workshop, 10/27, 12/1, 2/23, 4/20
- C...B.Harewicz...August Wilson Ctr...Spec. Ed./Decrease Drop-Out Rates...11/4
- C...MBVeri...USC HS...Intro to Future Prob Solving Comp/ SH Area Gifted Consort. Mtg...11/12
- C...M.Smoller...USC HS...SH Area Gifted Consort Mtg...11/12
- FT...N.Milsom/R.Gevaudan...Heinz Field...Guided tour/marketing tips...10/26
- FT...F.Zebrasky/L.Rowley...Janoski's Farm...Tour /Applying skills...10.26
- FT...C.Badger...Soldiers & Sailors Hall...Demos by respected chemists/presentation...11/17
- FT...J.Rupert...Robinson Twp...Target/Oliver Garden-Community interaction...11/18
- FT...M.Ferro...Nevillewood...Rotary Christmas program...12/16
- FT...M.Berlingeri...McKeever Environ.Ctr...Hands-on Biology...5/11-13
- C...Kozy, Parson, Garland...Carnegie Science Center...Math Collaborative...10/28

(Miscellaneous Item #1010-01 REVISED) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Conference and Field Trip Requests

II. Finance

Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director Walkowiak, to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2010 as submitted;

September 2010 Treasurer's Report

September 2010 bills in the amount of \$2,210,711.36 as submitted;

September 2010 Bills

Borough of Carnegie Real Estate Tax Refunds for October 2010 as presented; (Finance Item #1010-01)

Carnegie RE Tax Refunds – October 2010

The Carnegie Earned Income Tax Audit Report for the year 2009 as presented; (Finance Item #1010-02)

Carnegie EIT Audit Report – 2009

The Athletic Fund Report for September 2010 as submitted; (Finance Item #1010-03)

Athletic Fund Report – September 2010

And the Activities Fund Report for September 2010 as submitted. (Finance Item #1010-04) **By a ROLL CALL VOTE, the motion carried 8-0.**

Activities Fund Report – September 2010

III. Personnel

Director Schell moved, seconded by Director Tassaro, 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

- Emily Kelley – Elementary, K-6
- Jillian Knoll – Elementary, K-6
- Nancy Stadler – Art, K-12
- Andrea Sevacco – Cafeteria/Lunchroom/Playground Aide (Personnel Item #1010-01)

The following after-school tutors at the elementary schools for an After-School Tutoring Program, three afternoons per week, at the teacher's per diem rate:

Elementary After-School Tutors

- Jeanine Butts – Carnegie
- Renee Carter – Carnegie
- Will share the positions at Crafton: Tracy Alex, Jessica Bigler, Noreen Kelly, Nina Kovanis, James Nagorski, Anna Theys (Personnel Item #1010-02)

And to approve Nancy McMullen for the recalled position of an aide at the junior-senior high school, to be funded with stimulus monies; (Personnel Item #1010-03) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Nancy McMullen –Aide at JSHS

IV. Student Activities

Director Walkowiak moved, seconded by Director Tassaro, to approve the Student Transportation of America (STA) drivers for the 2010-2011 school year as presented; (Student Activities Item #1010-01)

STA List of Drivers

And the Roenigk Van Transportation drivers for the 2010-2011 school year as presented. (Student Activities Item #1010-02) **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Roenigk Van Drivers

Director Hughan asked if all drivers submit their clearances and Dr.

Panza responded that it is a requirement, as well as a copy of their driving record. President Brown noted that STA was fortunate to hire many of the former drivers (from the prior contracted transportation company) and the company has located its base in Carnegie.

V. Policy

Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director DiPietro, to approve the first reading of Policies 210 and 210.1 – Use of Medications and Possession / Use of Emergency Medications as presented; (Policy Item #1010-01)

*Prior to voting, Director Walkowiak commented on page one of Policy 210 that indicated that “verbal permission” is all that is required for distribution of Tylenol. Director Schell noted several places where the word “guardian” should be included with “parent.” Solicitor Gleason recommended the policies be tabled so they can be further reviewed by his office; therefore: **Director McCartney moved, seconded by Director Hughan, to TABLE the motion, pending further review. By a voice vote, the motion to table carried 8-0.***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: *Director Walkowiak stated that since the beginning of the Feasibility Study, the one thing he has earnestly struggled with is the finances. Going on, he commented that before he could make a firm decision, he needed to be satisfied in his own mind that the district could afford a building or renovation project. To accomplish this, he generated an Excel spreadsheet with projections and the best estimates, and arrived at the conclusion that there is a sufficient fund balance to make payments on a proposed project – based on the precept that the projects stays within its projected costs and considering the PSER projections. Mr. Christy said the current \$10.5 million fund balance will increase to \$12.1 because the district is currently debt free. Director Walkowiak said that project costs all appear to fit into the picture, although there are some concerns or economic unknowns. He mentioned health care cost increases, funding cuts and more unfunded mandates, in addition to the questioning whether the high school facility can withstand no major renovations within the 20 year period to pay off the debt. Unforeseen capital improvements for the high school could be of equal concern, Director Walkowiak added.*

Director Tassaro asked Dr. Panza to enumerate the benefits of consolidation. Dr. Panza called attention to many aspects, some of which included more attention and “fairer” distribution of students with special needs, safety, security, energy savings and efficiency, space for every classroom and expanded partnerships within the communities. He cited a situation where an organization offered to donate winter coats to one school but a lesser amount to the other, suggesting a consolidation would bring a sense of equality. Director Tassaro asked if bussing and tardiness might be a problem, given that some families may not have transportation should their child miss the bus. Dr. Panza said that situation occurs presently.

NEW BUSINESS: *None*

Policies 210 and 210.1 – First Reading - **TABLED**

OPEN FORUM: *Rev. Ed Bowen, a resident of Greentree and pastor of Crafton United Presbyterian Church, came forward to ask Dr. Panza about which organization he was referencing regarding the winter coats. Dr. Panza stated it was his church. Rev. Bowen said “amazing” and soon after, left the meeting.*

Megan Schriver, of Crafton, came forward to say that from a kid’s perspective, the children are proud of their communities and schools. She mentioned her son as an example, saying that he offered to collect hundreds of cereal box tops to save his school. Mrs. Schriver pleaded for the board to consider renovation and to use this as example to children that we are not a part of today’s “throw away society.”

James Bloom, Mayor of Crafton, asserted that closing the neighborhood schools will hurt the identity of the communities. He asked the board to take into account how this might affect the children in the schools, as they need to maintain their identity to their neighborhood.

Crafton resident Lorianne Holt asked where the \$30 million figure to renovate came from. Dr. Panza said it was presented in Option 1 of the facility study and Kimball arrived at that figure based on their experience. Director Schell said the board is dealing with a skeleton of plans right now, so the decision is difficult, adding that this is the process the board must follow. Director DiPietro said that wish lists for new or renovated buildings were generated from the public meetings when residents were asked to offer input. President Brown said there are many misconceptions among residents. In an effort to answer some of the questions, the “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) section of the website has been updated with pages of questions and subsequent answers.

Betsy Martin, of Crafton, asked where playing fields would be relocated if the school was built on the athletic field site. President Brown said some discussion has already taken place with CIT. The district could possibly enter into a lease agreement with CIT to use one or several of its fields, or the Seventh Avenue field in Carnegie could be considered. Another option would be to shift fields at the high school.

Crafton resident Mary Luxbacher said she teaches in the Mt. Lebanon School District and her husband is at Peters. She said they chose Carlynton for their girls because it is a good school, adding that a building does not make a good school. She said her girls did very well at Carlynton and they have gone on to be successful. Agreeing with Mayor Bloom, she commented that children do maintain an identity with their school and asked if the building project could be a referendum to be voted upon by the community.

David Roussos, a Crafton resident and former school board member, stated that you do not need to build a new building to consolidate. The option of K-3 and 4-6 should be considered as well, he suggested. He went on to say he has great respect for Director Walkowiak, but does not understand his analysis that the district can afford this project. Director Walkowiak said he was speaking on the premise of no tax increase within the next six years. Mr. Roussos said that taking on more debt will be a hardship to the communities. Director Walkowiak said he took over two months to gather his information before coming to his conclusion. Mr. Roussos said he has yet to hear a conversation that addresses “What is the best way to spend the money.” Mr. Roussos stated that during his tenure on the

board, cuts to programs and teachers did occur. Dr. Panza said that since he has been superintendent, that has not happened, and more programs and teachers have been hired.

Director DiPietro again referenced the wish list compiled at the public meetings. Director Schell countered by stating the list was a “pie in the sky” of what everyone would like, but it did not necessarily indicate what could be done from a realistic standpoint.

Mr. Roussos suggested that a voting referendum might be the best option, to which President Brown stated the school board would not be doing a referendum. Solicitor Gleason stated the reasons why, citing it is not required under the given circumstances, at least one that would allow the voters to make a final decision.

Carnegie Mayor Jack Kobistek came forward, apologizing for “switching gears,” but calling attention to the recent threats of child luring in Carnegie and surrounding neighborhoods. He thanked Dr. Panza and Carnegie teachers, as well as the Carnegie Boys and Girls Club for their quick action by getting the word out and escorting children from the school to the after school program at the club. He also thanked the public officials in Carnegie for their immediate attention to the situation. In closing, Mr. Kobistek called attention to an article in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review that featured the Carnegie Boys and Girls Club and its after-school tutoring program for children. He mentioned that the club is part of the valuable partnership in Carnegie with the school.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments or business to discuss, Director Hughan moved, seconded by Director McCartney, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm. **By a voice vote, the motion carried 8-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kirby Christy, Board Secretary

Michale Herrmann, Recording Secretary