Meeting of: December 3, 2001
Call of the Meeting: Board Organization
Members Present: Mr. Brentley, Mrs. Colaizzi, Mrs. Fink, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Isler, Mr. Matthews Mr. McCrea, Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Wood

Present 9.

Members Absent: Absent 0.

The following matters were received and acted upon.

Actions taken are recorded following the reports.
Election of Officers and Conduct General Business

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION

1. Election of Temporary President
2. Election of Temporary Secretary

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

1. Election of President
2. Election of Vice Presidents

ELECTION OF SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SETTING OF BONDS

ELECTION OF SCHOOL TREASURER AND DEPUTY SCHOOL TREASURER AND SETTING OF BONDS

NEW BUSINESS

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SETTING OF BONDS

RESOLVED, That John W. Thompson, Ph.D. be elected as Secretary of the Board of Public Education in addition to his other duties as Superintendent of Schools, without additional salary, and that bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Stephanie L. Royal, Richard R. Fellers, Peter J. Camarda and Christopher M. Berdnik be elected Assistant Secretaries of the Board of Public Education in addition to their other duties as Acting Solicitor, Chief Operations Officer, Executive Director of Budget Development and Management and Director of Finance, and that bonds for the offices be set at $250,000 each, the bonds to be furnished at the cost of the Board.
RESOLVED, That Richard M. Fees, Treasurer of the City of Pittsburgh, be elected School Treasurer and that bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Linda Kusner be appointed Deputy Treasurer upon recommendation of the Treasurer, the said Deputy to serve as designated by the School Treasurer and in accordance with the Public School Code, bond for the office of Deputy Treasurer to be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2001
5:04 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD ROOM

BEFORE:
JEAN FINK, BOARD PRESIDENT
DARLENE HARRIS, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
JEAN WOOD, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MARK BRENTLEY
THERESA COLAIZZI
WILLIAM ISLER
ALEX MATTHEWS
FLOYD McCREA
RANDALL TAYLOR

ALSO PRESENT:
DR. JOHN W. THOMPSON
DR. DELPHINA BRISCOE
DR. PAULA BUTTERFIELD
MRS. JODY SPOLAR
MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MRS. PAT CRAWFORD
MR. PHIL PARR
MR. RICHARD MASCARI
MS. LORRAINE TYLER
MS. PATRICIA CABREY
DR. DWIGHT E. MOSLEY

REPORTED BY: EUGENE C. FORCIER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY
MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189

ORIGINAL
MR. MATTHEWS: May we please all come together, please.
I would like to call this meeting to order.
May we please stand to salute the flag.
(Salute to the flag.)
MR. MATTHEWS: At this time, we would have the swearing in of the Board members, and at this time I would like to ask our assistant solicitor -- acting solicitor, Stephanie Royal.
MS. ROYAL: Thank you.
I am going to stand.
At this time, were we going to have the administration of the oaths to our newly elected Board members, and we will have the Honorable Kim Berkeley Clark administer the oath to the Board members.
Judge Clark was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas by Governor Tom Ridge in March of 1999. She was elected to a full ten year term in November of 1999.
She currently serves as a judge in the Family Division, Juvenile Section, where she presides over delinquency cases, dependency cases, termination of parental rights cases, protection from abuse hearings, juvenile mental health hearings, and all
other matters involving juveniles and families in Allegheny County.

And so at this time, I would like to present Judge Clark.

Would you please come over.

(Applause.)

JUDGE CLARK: When I talked to Stephanie this morning, she asked me if I wanted to say a few words, and I do think I would like to say a few words, very few, but some words, that I would like to share with the current Board, and the new Board members.

Children are my special passion, and juvenile court has been a very good fit for me, because I have a deep interest in the welfare of our children.

And as such, my words of, I guess advice or wisdom to all of you is, always stay focused on your purpose, and keep the children in mind, whatever you do; that is the most important thing.

As difficult sometimes, you all have to run for office, and that in itself makes your job difficult, because you have a lot of pressure from outside to do things that maybe sometimes aren't what you feel are in the best interest of the children.

But my advice to you is always keep the children in mind, stay focused on the children, and I know that
you will all do a good job.

So with that, I would like the Board members to be sworn in, I think they want you to come up, so they can take pictures, so we have Theresa Colaizzi, Jean Fink, Alex Matthews, Floyd McCrea, and Randall Taylor. If you could all come up. And I guess stand here, in a semicircle. And I guess we will do these in alphabetical order.

That's Okay. And Theresa Colaizzi, would you please come forward, and I am going to ask to you raise your right hand, and repeat after me. (Board member Theresa Colaizzi sworn in.)

JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations. (Applause.)

JUDGE CLARK: Jean Fink, come forward and raise your right hand, and repeat after me. (Board member Jean Fink sworn in.)

JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations. (Applause.)

JUDGE CLARK: Alex Matthews, would you step forward, and raise your right hand. (Board member Alex Matthews sworn in.)

JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations.
1 (Applause.)
2 JUDGE CLARK: Floyd McCrea, would you raise
3 your right hand.
4 (Board member Floyd McCrea sworn in.)
5 JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations.
6 (Applause.)
7 JUDGE CLARK: Randall Taylor, would you
8 raise your right hand.
9 (Board member Randall Taylor sworn in.)
10 JUDGE CLARK: Congratulations.
11 (Applause.)
12 DR. THOMPSON: Congratulations.
13 Thank you, Judge, very much.
14 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, very much. Good
15 luck to all of you.
16 (Applause.)
17 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you very much,
18 Judge Clark, for that wonderful welcoming into the
19 School District once again.
20 Welcome all new Board members, and welcome
21 those who were already on the Board, and are now
22 serving again.
23 At this time may we have a roll call,
24 please.
25 MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley.
MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Present.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Present.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Here.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Here.

MS. ROYAL: All nine members of the board of directors are present.

MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

Moving on to the business at hand, the Board reorganization meeting.

At this time we would need to have an acting president, who will preside over the elections.

We need a motion, please.
Yes, Bill, Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: I would like to nominate Mr. Matthews, as the acting president.

MR. MATTHEWS: Okay. Yes. Is there a second?

MR. BRENTLEY: Second.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: And I would nominate Mrs. Colaizzi.

MR. MATTHEWS: Okay.

MS. FINK: I will second.

MR. MATTHEWS: It has been moved and seconded.

Any others?

So at this time, we would like to have a vote.

Roll call, please.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Mr. Matthews.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Mrs. Colaizzi.
MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Mr. Matthews.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Matthews.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Matthews.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. ROYAL: Five votes in favor of Mrs. Colaizzi, she would be the temporary president for this meeting.

MS. COLAIZZI: I need to have a motion for a nomination for the temporary secretary, please. Is there a motion there?

Mrs. Fink.

MS. FINK: I move Jean Wood be temporary secretary.

MS. COLAIZZI: Do I need a second?

MS. ROYAL: Yes.

MS. COLAIZZI: I need a second.

MS. HARRIS: Second.

MS. COLAIZZI: Any other nominations?

We will have a roll call vote, now.
MS. FINK: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Mrs. Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Mrs. Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Six votes in favor of

Mrs. Wood, three abstentions, Mrs. Wood is the

temporary secretary.

MS. COLAIZZI: At this time, we will need

nominations for the office of presidency.

MS. HARRIS: I would like to nominate
Jean Fink.

MS. COLAIZZI: And do I need a second?

May I have a second for that, please.

MR. McCREA: I will second.

MS. COLAIZZI: Any more nominations?

No more nominations.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. MATTHEWS: I'm sorry.

MR. BRENTLEY: I would like to nominate Alex Matthews.

MR. MATTHEWS: I decline.

MS. COLAIZZI: We only have one nomination, then, it would be Mrs. Fink.

Roll call, please.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Jean Fink.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Jean Fink.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Jean Fink.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?
MR. MATTHEWS: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Jean Fink.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Jean Fink.

MS. ROYAL: Five votes in favor of Mrs. Fink for the president, I believe she is the president of the Board. I just have to check my --

(Applause.)

MS. COLAIZZI: I would like to know if we have any nominations for first vice president.

Mrs. Wood.

MS. WOOD: I nominate Darlene Harris.

MS. COLAIZZI: Anybody second that, please?

MS. FINK: (indicating.)

MS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink seconded that.

Any more nominations?

No more nominations.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Harris.
MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Mrs. Harris.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Darlene Harris.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Mrs. Harris.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Mrs. Harris.

MS. ROYAL: Five votes in favor of

Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Harris has been elected the first

vice president.

(Applause.)

MS. COLAIIZZI: I would like to take

nominations now for second vice president.

Mrs. Harris.

MS. HARRIS: Randall Taylor.

MR. TAYLOR: I decline.

MS. COLAIIZZI: Is there any other

nominations?
Mrs. Fink.

MS. FINK: I nominate Mrs. Wood.

MS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Wood.

Any more nominations.

Nominations are closed.

We have to take roll call.

MR. McCREA: I second.

MS. ROYAL: All right. The nomination for Mrs. Wood, for second vice president.

Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Miss Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Abstain.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.
MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Jean Wood.

MS. ROYAL: Six votes in favor of Mrs. Wood, she will be the new second vice president.

(Applause.)

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink, please come up here.

MS. FINK: We will now have the election of the secretary and assistant secretaries and the setting of bonds.

(Mrs. Fink read from prepared material.)

MS. ROYAL: Roll call vote?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?
MR. McCREA: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Nine votes in favor of the
resolution for the election of secretary, and
assistant secretaries, the motion passes.

MS. FINK: We will now have the election of
the school treasurer, and deputy school treasurer and
setting the bonds.

(Mrs. Fink read from prepared material.)

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mrs. Harris?

MS. HARRIS: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Matthews?

MR. MATTHEWS: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. McCrea?
MR. McCREA: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. BRENTLEY: Mrs. Wood?

MS. WOOD: Yes.

MS. ROYAL: Nine votes in favor of the election of school treasurer and deputy school treasurer and the setting of bonds.

MS. FINK: Do we have any other new business to come before this Board?

MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the new officers, but I would particularly at this time, like to congratulate the old officers, and the former majority on the Board, made up of Maggie Schmidt, Mr. William Isler, Mark Brentley, Alex Matthews, Randall Taylor and Evelyn Neiser, and I would like to state permanently, on the record, that we have left this District in excellent financial, and excellent educational condition.

I am very proud of what we have done in this District, for the last two years. Implemented the last two years are new School to Career Program, a new technology plan, a new alternative education plan, a new School Code of Conduct, more stringent
attendance requirements, and other innovations that have left this District where it should be. And I believe that the educational components of what we are trying to do at the School District, has been enhanced by the diligent work of six people, who put truly, in every words, put the District forward.

I think the last couple of years have seen some performances by elected officials, and members of the public, that have not been the most honorable things that we have seen. But we have seen some people come to this District, who have done something, I find remarkable, in my many years of observing politics, and community and public service in this city.

We moved this District forward, and right now, no one in this District is concerned about their jobs, no one is concerned about how they can make their meager budget stretch.

Right now we have people in this District who are focused on education, and that is something that we have to keep people focused on, and one way that we do that, is through sound fiscal policies.

And again I want to congratulate the people last year, who voted to do what I thought was one of
the most difficult political things to do, which was to raise taxes, and close schools going into an election year, and we paid the price for that, we paid the political price for it, and we went through many personal hardships, and financial hardships, also, of the people who voted in the majority.

But for what we have done, for the children of this District, which is why we are here, I am extremely proud, and I would have paid and gone through anything we have gone through.

I gladly turn over the reins of the majority, to the new majority, knowing that we turn over a District that is sound financially, sound educationally, and moving forward.

So if no one else congratulates those six people, I want to let Randall Taylor here tonight congratulate you.

Thank you, very much.

(Applause.)

MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you.

I want to expand on the comments that my colleague has made.

Let me also say, that what he was describing is a term called leadership, and which I implore, and ask each of the officers, to do due
diligence in the office that you now hold. And, holding the title of leadership, means that sometimes you have got to put away your personal indifferences. You have got to put away what you believe is your little personal issue, and do what's right for the District.

This year, this past couple of years, have been a challenging one, ones that we had to put away our personal differences, and make the decision that is best for the School District, and for the children of Pittsburgh, and I would hope that the other officers, the new officers, and the new Board members, do the same thing.

You know, these children are precious, and they are the only commodity that we have left in Pennsylvania, and so we have to put away our personal differences, we have to put away our personal agendas, and start looking at the District as a whole, and I am looking to the officers to provide that continued leadership.

We have done that, and we want this District to continue on to the right path.

What Mr. Taylor indicated, is very true, and I just hope that it continues so that the success of these children, are emulated, in the roles of the
officers that are standing before us today.

MS. FINK: Thank you.

DR. THOMPSON: Madam President, may I speak, please?

MS. FINK: Sure.

DR. THOMPSON: Thank you.

On behalf of the 40,000 boys and girls, and the 5,500 employees, we want to congratulate the new Board, coming on in leadership.

We also want to thank the old Board, old leadership majority, for the support that we received over the last year and a half, in implementing a world class School District.

The staff is committed, and we stand ready to move forward, in this philosophical approach to providing a world class education for all of our students; for all of our students, one child at a time, and leaving no child behind.

So we stand ready, committed to continue that journey, and we congratulate you once again, the past majority, and the new majority, to take the reins, and lead us forward.

Thank you, and congratulations again.

(Applause.)

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.
MS. FINK: I have a statement I would like to read.

But, Mr. Brentley, you go right ahead.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

I just would like to say again, what was said earlier, I just want to take the time to thank the Honorable Mr. Alex Matthews, for his leadership over the last two years, along with Mr. Taylor, and Mrs. Neiser, at making up the executive committee.

You know, what's important, what I was able to get out of your leadership, Mr. Matthews, is you have taught us, and you often mentioned the phrase, of thinking outside the box, the world is bigger than just my District, "Oh, just me; oh, just take care of my own."

And I think that's really important, so all -- I just want to thank you for that, but I think the bigger picture here, through your leadership, you were able to teach, especially me, the importance of not competing with our staff, but working with our staff.

We are all in the same team.

So I just want to say thank you so much for the leadership, Mr. Matthews, I am still calling you Mr. President.
Thank you, sir.

MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you very much.

MS. FINK: Okay.

I have a statement I want to read.

(Ms. Fink read from prepared material.)

MS. FINK: Thank you, very much.

(Applause.)

MS. FINK: There were two brief announcements, that I need to make, before we adjourn.

We don't usually make committee assignments right away, but because we have to pass the budget on the 19th of this month, I believe, I am appointing Darlene Harris as chair of the Business and Finance Committee, with Floyd McCrea as her co-chair -- or vice chair, I'm sorry, and that takes effect immediately.

And also, until we get the rest of the committees named, which will happen by the end of the week, we are going to cancel all meetings for this week.

May I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. HARRIS: I make a Motion.

MS. FINK: Okay. Second?

MS. COLAIIZZI: Second.

MS. FINK: Okay.
Meeting's adjourned.

(Applause.)

(Thereupon, at 5:32 p.m., the Reorganization Meeting was concluded.)
I, Eugene C. Forcier, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing twenty-three (23) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Reorganizational Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on Monday, December 3, 2001.

Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter