Minutes

Meeting of: October 4, 2004

Call of the Meeting: Special Legislative

Members Present: Mr. Brentley, Mrs. Colaizzi,
Mrs. Fink, Mr. Isler,
Mr. McCrea, Mr. Romaniello, Sr.,
and Mr. Taylor

Present 7

Members Absent: Absent 2

The following matters were received and acted upon.

Actions taken are recorded following the reports.
ROLL CALL

A. COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS/FINANCE

1. Healthcare

2. Facilities Item – South Hills

3. Mailing of Homestead Notices – Act 72

4. Accepting Grants – USDA [Roll Call]

B. Budget Matters

1. Transfer of Funds [Roll Call]

New Business
RESOLVED, That the following rates be approved for the 2005 year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RATES 1/1/2005</th>
<th>CURRENT RATES</th>
<th>INCREASES</th>
<th>% INCREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PPO</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Employee</td>
<td>558.01</td>
<td>503.30</td>
<td>54.71</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Child</td>
<td>1,483.12</td>
<td>1,337.71</td>
<td>145.41</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Children</td>
<td>1,696.62</td>
<td>1,530.28</td>
<td>166.34</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband/Wife</td>
<td>1,483.12</td>
<td>1,337.71</td>
<td>145.41</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>1,696.62</td>
<td>1,530.28</td>
<td>166.34</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Board</td>
<td>1,696.62</td>
<td>1,530.28</td>
<td>166.34</td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Employee</td>
<td>467.16</td>
<td>430.84</td>
<td>36.32</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Child</td>
<td>1,241.59</td>
<td>1,145.06</td>
<td>96.53</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Children</td>
<td>1,419.64</td>
<td>1,309.27</td>
<td>110.37</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
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<td>96.53</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,309.27</td>
<td>110.37</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Board</td>
<td>1,419.64</td>
<td>1,309.27</td>
<td>110.37</td>
<td>8.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HMO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Employee</td>
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<td>283.17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1,042.35</td>
<td>862.51</td>
<td>179.84</td>
<td>20.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband/Wife</td>
<td>905.01</td>
<td>748.75</td>
<td>156.26</td>
<td>20.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>179.84</td>
<td>20.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Board</td>
<td>1,042.35</td>
<td>862.51</td>
<td>179.84</td>
<td>20.85%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAJOR MEDICAL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Employee</td>
<td>111.37</td>
<td>54.45</td>
<td>56.92</td>
<td>104.54%</td>
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<td><strong>PRESCRIPTION DRUG</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Employee</td>
<td>204.25</td>
<td>225.48</td>
<td>(21.23)</td>
<td>-9.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Child</td>
<td>206.76</td>
<td>227.99</td>
<td>(21.23)</td>
<td>-9.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent/Children</td>
<td>208.26</td>
<td>229.49</td>
<td>(21.23)</td>
<td>-9.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Husband/Wife</td>
<td>206.76</td>
<td>227.99</td>
<td>(21.23)</td>
<td>-9.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>208.26</td>
<td>229.49</td>
<td>(21.23)</td>
<td>-9.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 4, 2004

TABULATION OF BIDS

Committee on Operations

Directors:

Sealed bids were opened on August 12, 2004. All bids are tabulated and kept on file in the Office of the Director, Facilities Division. These bids were advertised as required by law and comply with the School Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and guidelines set by the Board of Public Education, including the Business Opportunities Program and Substance Abuse policies set by the Board. The recommendations for award are made on the basis of a firm's technical capabilities, expertise, and workload.

(1) SOUTH HILLS REMEDIATION
General Work
085-6300-TBE-4100-710
Demolition of building
Estimate: $4,000,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bid Item</th>
<th>Bid #2</th>
<th>Base Bid</th>
<th>Bid Item #2</th>
<th>Alt #1</th>
<th>Alt #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PDG Environmental</td>
<td>$1,494,200</td>
<td>$2,989,500</td>
<td>($1,169,300)</td>
<td>($158,000)</td>
<td>($168,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precision Environmental</td>
<td>1,701,950</td>
<td>3,176,950</td>
<td>(1,306,350)</td>
<td>(158,100)</td>
<td>(10,550)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macabee Ind.</td>
<td>2,224,190</td>
<td>4,317,914</td>
<td>(1,639,224)</td>
<td>(274,500)</td>
<td>(180,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol Environmental</td>
<td>4,585,500</td>
<td>6,291,036</td>
<td>(1,543,636)</td>
<td>(109,800)</td>
<td>(52,100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REJECT ALL BIDS.

Bid Item #2 -- Delete building demolition
Alt #1 -- Delete roof removal
Alt #2 -- Delete window removal
RESOLVED, That the Board authorize its proper officers to facilitate the mailing of homestead notices in October and December 2004 as required by Act 72, and

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Board authorize its proper officers to collaborate with other Allegheny County school districts, the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Allegheny County as necessary to keep the District’s out-of-pocket costs for file preparation, printing and mailing services as low as possible, and

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Board authorize its proper officers to issue payment for the District’s pro rata share of costs from account line 6072-010-2330-530, estimated cost not to exceed $100,000, and other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the Solicitor and Chief Operations Officer.
GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, Congress, under the 2004 re-authorization of the Child Nutrition Act has included PA as a pilot state to expand the Fresh Fruits & Vegetable program, and

WHEREAS, the USDA has authorized the PA Department of Education to select 25 programs to award within the Commonwealth to expand the use of dried and fresh fruits and vegetables for the school year 2004-05 and may reapply in subsequent years, and

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools is desirous to be recipients of those awards and submitted plans to implement such program for Ft. Pitt Elementary, Carmalt Academy, A. J. Rooney Middle School, CAPA, Woolslair Elementary, Spring Hill Elementary, Burgwin Elementary and ML King Elementary, and

WHEREAS, The PA Department of Education selected Ft. Pitt Elementary, Carmalt Academy, A. J. Rooney Middle School and CAPA and the program shall commence upon approval on a daily basis and that all funding for the program provides cost of product plus 10% of costs for labor and administrative fees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Education recognizes the need for these programs and authorizes its designee to begin implementation. Total cost of this action not to exceed $91,000.00 from account lines 6530-500-3100-631 ($41,500) 6540-500-3100-631 ($41,500) 6530-500-3100-182 ($4,000) and 6540-500-3100-182 ($4,000).
BUSINESS / FINANCE COMMITTEE
October 4, 2004

TRANSFER OF FUNDS
GENERAL FUND

DIRECTORS:

It is recommended that the following transfer be approved:

From Major Object 800
   Budgetary Reserve $100,000

To Major Object 500
   Act 72 $100,000

To facilitate the mailing of Homestead notices in October and December 2004 as required by Act 72 and to issue payment for the District’s pro rata share of costs.

Respectfully submitted,

Floyd McCrea
Chairperson
Business / Finance Committee
# 2004 Appropriations by Major Object

**Adjusted as of October 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Object</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Appropriations</th>
<th>Date of Transfer</th>
<th>Amount of Transfer</th>
<th>Adjusted Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Personal Services- Salaries</td>
<td>$225,719,008</td>
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<td>$225,719,008</td>
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<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>Personal Services- Employee Benefits</td>
<td>65,788,691</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>65,788,691</td>
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<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Purchased Prof. &amp; Tech. Services</td>
<td>74,424,968</td>
<td>04/28/2004</td>
<td>$247,000</td>
<td>75,071,918</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>07/21/2004</td>
<td>$399,950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>Purchased Property Services</td>
<td>7,979,590</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,979,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>Other Purchased Services</td>
<td>59,010,132</td>
<td>10/04/2004</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>59,110,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>21,824,411</td>
<td>04/28/2004</td>
<td>($247,000)</td>
<td>21,177,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>07/21/2004</td>
<td>($399,950)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>Property</td>
<td>7,196,653</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7,196,653</td>
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<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>Other Objects</td>
<td>27,937,833</td>
<td>03/23/2004</td>
<td>($165,000)</td>
<td>27,352,833</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>06/22/2004</td>
<td>($160,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>09/22/2004</td>
<td>($160,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10/04/2004</td>
<td>($100,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>Other Financing Uses</td>
<td>33,281,289</td>
<td>03/23/2004</td>
<td>$165,000</td>
<td>33,766,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>06/22/2004</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>09/22/2004</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Res. for Enc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subtotal:**

$525,662,575

$0

$525,662,575
MR. ISLER: I would like to call the October 4 special legislative meeting, of the Pittsburgh Board of Education, to order.

Would the solicitor please read the roll. Do you have it in front of you, are you able?

MR. WEISS: Yes.

MR. ISLER: Please read the roll.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Dowd?

Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Here.

MR. ISLER: Mr. Matthews?

Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Here.

MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Present.
MR. WEISS: Seven members present.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

The Committee on Business and Finance, there are four items before us.

I would like to hear the final recommendation on why we are accepting the general authorization for health care.

Who is going to speak on that?

MR. FELLERS: Both Mrs. Spolar, and I can --

MR. ISLER: Mrs. Spolar, do you want to come to the table, please.

Thank you.

MR. FELLERS: You did have a memo in your packet, and I will try to summarize what that memo said.

What you have before you is a recommendation to adopt the fully insured health care rates for 2005.

This does not commit us to that plan. It gives us more time to evaluate how we want to fund; whether we want to go fully insured, or self-insured, utilizing both input from Triad, and --

MS. COLAIIRIZI: Mercer.

MR. FELLERS: -- Mercer -- well, no, no --
and more current data from Highmark.

And that issue will come back later.

And you do not need to make your commitment in terms of funding method until December 1st to

Highmark.

But we are saying these rates will be the rates you will use, no matter which of those two options you will apply.

It also involves Mr. Campbell, and getting some things cleared at the bargaining table.

But these are the rates that the committee has looked at. They are consistent with the recommendations that were made to you by Triad USA.

And with that, I will let Mrs. Spolar fill in any of the gaps, that I am sure I created.

MS. SPOLAR: Thank you.

The reason why we are before you tonight to seek adoption of the rates, is so that we might begin our open enrollment process, which we are required by law to do, so that employees can make elections with regard to their healthcare plans for the January 1st plan year.

The rates that we are asking you to adopt tonight, are the rates that would be in effect if the Board remains with its current funding arrangement,
which is a fully insured arrangement.

These are the rates that would go into effect.

We are continuing to explore final aspects of the funding methodology question.

But in order to minimize risks, particularly in the first year, that we would contemplate going to a self-insured arrangement, should that be the case, we have agreed, and our consultants would agree, that to minimize the risk to the Board, and to stabilize budgeting, we would essentially act as if we were fully insured, and remit to Highmark, and deduct from employees, on a fully insured rate basis.

That decision will come within the next few weeks, we will brief the Board on that funding mechanism analysis, and reach some decision with the Board in the coming weeks, on that issue.

The rates would be the same under either of those scenarios, either we remain fully insured, these are the rates, or we go self-insured, but act as if these are the rates, and deduct, in order to minimize our risk.

We will be back to you with that decision, but this will allow us to go ahead and run our open
enrollment.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

Are there any questions about the healthcare issue, to Mrs. Spolar and Mr. Fellers?

Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: Just to clarify something, are these monthly, or annual rates?

MS. SPOLAR: These are monthly rates, ten month monthly rates.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. McCrea.

The other -- there are three other items, under the Committee on Business.

One is the facilities item, which I haven't -- I, personally -- I mean, Mr. Fellers had asked that we pull this, and then come back and talk to us, and I am wondering, Mr. Fellers, even if this does -- is there an urgency in the demolition of that building?

MR. FELLERS: Well, the urgency is the fact that it just has been sitting there so long.

These are good bids, though there are some complications with the bids, at this point. We have been requested on Thursday, by both the potential financier for the project, Paul Liang, of Fortune Bank, and we were requested by the Mount Washington
Community Development Corporation, to only do the remediation, and not take the shell down, which is what is before you here, and would be a million and a half plus.

Because of that complication, we have no problem with rebidding. So I think the recommendation we are making, and it says "Under review" here, so it is to reject all bids, and rebid the item would be your recommendation.

MR. ISLER: Thank you. So that is the recommendation. That is the recommendation to the Board. Since there is a change in what the original bid said, as opposed to what the developer, and the Community Development Corporation are now asking, your recommendation is to reject all bids, and rebid; correct?

MR. FELLERS: That is correct.

MR. ISLER: So we can just pull this from the table tonight?

MR. FELLERS: No, you need to act on it and officially reject it.

MR. ISLER: We need to act on it, and officially reject it. Okay.

MR. FELLERS: It needs to be --
MR. ISLER: Are there any questions on this?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes. But maybe that can be for another time.

I thought we were supposed to get some help, from either the URA, or from somebody, to help demolish this building, and this appears as if we are covering the whole cost of demolishing this, and it has been sitting there for many years, why are we deciding to demolish it now, why aren't we getting some kind of assistance from somebody?

MR. FELLERS: Well, that is part of the reason we would like to put this off, because the original developer kind of fell by the wayside, there is a lot of finger pointing here, I am not going to get into tonight who is right or who is wrong, but we will get some hand money down, to safeguard the interest of the School District on a letter of credit, when we rebid this.

But, yes, it is not our intent to pay the full cost, and just give away a nice parcel of land, for somebody else to develop.

MR. ISLER: So again, on No. 2, the recommendation is we will reject all bids, and rebid it. That is what you will be voting on this evening.
MR. FELLERS: That is correct.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Fellers.

MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes, sir.

MR. TAYLOR: Can you tell the Board, we are just supposed to just vote no on item -- we can just vote no on item A, of Business and Finance?

MR. FELLERS: What we are going to --

MR. ISLER: No.

MR. TAYLOR: I mean, I just want to make sure.

MR. FELLERS: You should vote yes, to the recommendation to reject all bids.

MR. TAYLOR: Okay.

MR. WEISS: You have to vote as if the bid tab said the recommendation is to reject all bids.

MR. ISLER: So that the Board -- do we need -- would it -- is it better -- let's be clear on this, Mr. Weiss, and I think Mr. Taylor's point of clarification, is a good question. We vote yes on the report as a whole, but no, so we are assuming, then --

MS. COLAIIZZI: No, no, no.

MR. ISLER: Hold on.

MS. COLAIIZZI: Just vote yes.

MR. ISLER: Hold on, I want to be clear,
because all this Board tab says, "It is recommended that the award be made to lowest responsible bidder meeting the terms and conditions of bidding as follows: Under review."

MR. WEISS: Well, I mean --

MR. ISLER: So I understand, I want to be clear.

MR. WEISS: The minutes should reflect the fact that the Board tab, for item 2, is reading that the recommendation of the facilities department is to reject all bids.

MR. TAYLOR: But it doesn't say that.

MR. WEISS: So when you are voting, you are voting as if this says rejecting all bids; therefore, you should vote yes on the Report of Business and Finance.

MR. ISLER: Okay.

MR. MCCREA: Mr. Weiss, I don't see that worded. I don't see that worded.

MR. WEISS: Well --

MR. FELLERS: I just gave that, it says "Under review," which you can't vote on. You can't vote.

So I gave you the revised wording, which the stenographer picked up on, and that is what, how
you are voting, and the minutes will show that it was changed to read what your decision is.

MR. ISLER: So we need no, nothing -- nothing then, Mr. Fellers' recommendation that we reject all bids, and rebid.

MR. WEISS: Right.

MR. ISLER: All right. That's No. 2. No. 3, the mailing of the homestead notices, we were told, Mr. Taylor, that whether we want to or not, we must do this, and that is -- also that reflects in the transfer of funds.

MR. TAYLOR: It has to be first class.

MR. ISLER: Yes, it has to be first class, which is why the amount is.

Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler. That's where I was going to go, and I didn't know whether to ask that question now, or when we get to the next section.

The transfer of funds to do this Act 72, it is coming from the budgetary reserve, and I wanted to know why.

Why are we going there?

MR. CAMARDA: It is a $100,000 item that we don't have any ability to transfer to another 500
object code.

So the rules of the accounting systems of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you can transfer within objects, without -- when you have to transfer between objects, you have to get Board approval, and we don't have a hundred thousand dollars in any object code 500 account just to reduce and move that into the appropriate line item, as identified in your resolution, for the approval.

MS. COLAIZZI: Okay. But do we have to go to the budgetary reserve? Can we go to some other number?

MR. CAMARDA: It is not the reserve that is part of our fund balance, that is actually appropriated reserve.

MS. COLAIZZI: I understand that. It is the other reserve.

MR. CAMARDA: What I am saying, is we don't have another fund number to go and take it from. You could hedge and put something --

MS. COLAIZZI: We don't have anything under technology or in --

MR. ISLER: Mrs. Colaizzi, Mr. McCrea, as chair of the committee, would like to speak.

MR. McCREA: If you look at the budget as a
whole, item 500, throughout the budget, and this is my impression, Mr. Camarda says there is not a hundred thousand dollars in excess now in that line anywhere, if you even do lateral transfers of 500 here, 500 there, it won't total to 100,000, so he went to the budgetary reserve as a --

MR. ISLER: Under the rules of the Commonwealth.

MR. CAMARDA: You in essence have it correct, Mr. McCrea.

MR. ISLER: It is the recommendation of the committee chair, to do this, because there is no excess, as of right now, in any line items, so by the rules of the Commonwealth, we have to go outside of the 500, to transfer the funds in.

MS. COLAIZZI: And that was my question, outside of the 500, what other areas was there?

MR. CAMARDA: By the end of the year, I will be able to pick a multitude of line items. And last year, you may remember, you approved the transfer, so we would finish out our 2003 year by trading -- we had a multiline budget transfer, at the end of the year.

Right now we are still only in October, and to hedge and say this one is going to have it left
over, it is sitting there, it's the simplest way to do it, it doesn't affect any of your other management, and that's the process of the ability to come up with a hundred thousand dollars quick.

MR. FELLERS: Remember, this was a function we knew nothing about when we adopted the budget. That is the very reason you have a budgetary reserve, to give you money in case you have something like this, that you have to pick up on.

We would just be guessing, and then have to come back and perhaps reclaim the money later on in the year, if we took it from another line item.

MS. COLAIZZI: Well, I guess that I am thinking back on some other pieces of information, that was handed to us not too long ago, that kind of explained where there was possibly some surpluses, and I didn't understand why you would want to go to the budget area reserve.

MR. CAMARDA: I can identify and pick up some salary lines that we haven't used, you know, but this is the process of -- I would be giving you, you know, ten different lines, or three or four different lines.

You know, within the budget, the size that we have, I could piece together a hundred thousand
dollars. This was just to take it out of a simple, clearly identifiable area, and have the transfer.

MS. COLAIZZI: Well, I guess my point is, Mr. McCrea and Mr. Isler, is that I didn't -- I don't like the budgetary reserve touched, unless we absolutely have no other choice, and I know we have other choices, and I would rather it be pieced together, than this be touched.

So that's my point here.

MR. ISLER: Okay.

MS. COLAIZZI: I mean, I realize we have to do this, but at the same time, I am not comfortable with that being used.

MR. ISLER: So noted, Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

MR. ISLER: Mrs. Fink.

MS. FINK: So, now, again, we have the state telling us we have to do this.

MS. COLAIZZI: Yep.

MS. FINK: And we have to come up with the money to pay for it.

MR. TAYLOR: And have to send it first class.

MS. FINK: Yeah, and that's a hundred thousand dollars that we won't have to spend on kids,
because the state wants this mailed.

And, it never ceases to amaze me.

I mean, we -- okay. That's a lot of money, we are big enough that we can absorb that. What about the little school districts around the state?

You know, this is -- this is absolutely absurd, that we have to do things like this, all 501 of us.

MR. ISLER: So noted, Mrs. Fink. And I think it is a another one of the unfunded mandates that we often talk about, and this is only the first, we have to do this twice.

The last item then is the accepting the grant from the United States Department of Agriculture.

MR. FELLERS: We will postpone that until the regular legislative meeting.

MR. ISLER: Hold on.

MR. TAYLOR: Do we have to postpone this?

MR. ISLER: I mean, I was just -- let me bring this up, I was -- I thought, too, that we were going to postpone this. Mr. McCrea has informed me that he visited, was at the site visit for Fort Pitt, and he thinks it is a very good program, so it is really the acceptance of grant dollars.
I don't know if -- you know, if there is a will to pull it, fine.

I am putting it, I am bringing this, not pulling it, as willingly as I once was, because of Mr. McCrea's comments.

So if there is questions about this, Mr. Taylor, then Mrs. Colaizzi.

MR. TAYLOR: You know, I am a great believer that sometimes things do not come to the Board the right way, we should delay them, or have them pulled from the agenda.

I don't have a problem with this item, but if you feel strongly enough that you don't feel this came the right way, and that we ought to send that message, I certainly will support the item being pulled.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

I -- yes, Dr. Thompson.

DR. THOMPSON: I was part of the Federal Government, that came in and made a big to do of it. It was -- we are one of four -- we have four schools involved in this grant, the state had 20, we had four, we had more grants awarded to us than any other School District.

I was at the ceremony, and that really, it
deals with food, and nutrition, and it actually,
basiclly, we talk about it is a health issue, that we
are going to give these kids and their parents fresh
fruit, and healthy food, free of charge.
And it's going to be -- it is a great
program. I would suggest we go ahead and move
forward.

MR. ISLER: I don't think -- Dr. Thompson,
I want to be very, very clear with you, this Board
doesn't disagree with this.

It is the timely issue of the Board
receiving information.

Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler, you
couldn't of said that any better.
That is my whole point. I don't have any
problem supporting this, I have a problem with the way
this stuff keeps coming up at us, last second, last
time.

If we didn't have a meeting tonight, if we
don't have a legislative meeting tonight, would this
be here?

We didn't have -- we wouldn't have to able
to do this.

MR. ISLER: No, Mrs. Colaizzi, it wouldn't
have been, and I would have had this pulled, except for the fact that Mr. McCrea asked at least that we consider this, and I don't think I am misrepresenting you.

MR. McCREA: Right.

MS. COLAISSI: No. And I am not -- I am not asking you to pull it, I'm making a very clear point --

MR. ISLER: Right. I --

MS. COLAISSI: -- that the next time, I am not voting on anything, is my point.

MR. ISLER: I think we agree with that.

Mr. Romaniello.

MR. ROMANIELLO: Is there any cost to us on this?

MR. ISLER: No, this is money to us, for this program.

MR. McCREA: Okay.

Sometimes, I mean, I agree with what you are saying, but you have to put things in perspective. Is it worth it to make a point, at the detriment of this -- I think this is such a great program, I don't see any reason to not go ahead with it right now.

MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello, it wouldn't
make any difference, really, whether we accepted this now, or later this month.

It is -- I am going on the recommendation of the committee chair, who is saying that it is a good program, let's move it forward.

We admit, everybody will admit, to the -- timely -- untimely nature of receiving this.

So, yes, Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: I do want to make one comment, I do agree that this is not the way it should have come, but if you seen the kids, and you seen the impact that it has, and the fact that they are not just doing -- they are not feeding fresh fruits and vegetables, they were incorporating this into the science program, teaching the children what plants look like, and how things grow.

And again, I agree with everybody here, it should have come in in a better manner, but I don't want to stop it, I think it is here, let's take it, and let's go forward.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. McCrea. I am glad you spoke for yourself, I was a little bit tired of speaking for you.

Mr. Romaniello.

MR. ROMANIELLO: If you are done, I just
have got a --

MR. ISLER: We are only in the discussion of the Committee on Business and Finance, we must go to roll call vote.

MR. ROMANIELLO: Right. I just got one question, I just noticed something on this, on the -- go back to the healthcare.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. McCREA: Mrs. Spolar, the "Both Board," what does that mean? "Both Board."

MS. SPOLAR: That's the --

MR. ROMANIELLO: After --

MS. SPOLAR: That's the rate if both individuals --

MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh.

MS. SPOLAR: -- husband and wife are employed by the Board.

MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh, okay.

MS. SPOLAR: There is basically a rate that reflects that --

MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh, okay.

MS. SPOLAR: -- arrangement.

MR. ROMANIELLO: All right.

And my other comments was just to be, since we have somebody here from the media, how about making
a note of what was discussed that we have to spend
this money, because the state is forcing us to spend
the money, and it's not our doing.

MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello, since you are
not a journalist, if there are no other items to be
discussed, could we have a roll call vote, please,
Mr. Weiss.

We will have a roll call on the Committee
on Business and Finance.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Dowd is absent.

Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Matthews is absent.

Mr. McCrea?

MR. MCCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: The item is approved, 7-0.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

Then the next is a budget matter, which is

a transfer of funds, which was explained to us by

Mr. Camarda.

Hearing no discussion, Mr. Weiss, could we

have a roll call, please.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: No.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: That item is approved 6 to 1.

MR. ISLER: thank you, Mr. Weiss.

Is there any new business to be brought

before the Board?
Hearing --

MR. WEISS: No one would dare to.

MR. ISLER: Hearing -- oh, come on.

Hearing -- even with a small gavel, hearing none, may I have I motion to adjourn.

MR. ROMANIELLO: So move.

MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

MS. FINK: So move.

MR. ISLER: Hearing is adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 7:43 p.m., the Special Legislative Meeting was concluded.)
C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, Eugene C. Forcier, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing twenty-four (24) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Special Legislative Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on Wednesday, January 28, 2004.

Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter