

**THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
*OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA*

**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.**

# **THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213  
Administration Building  
341 South Bellefield Avenue**

## **SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

**October 4, 2004**

### **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 Cal]**

#### **New Business**

**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS/FINANCE**  
**October 4, 2004**

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION**

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

	<b>RATES</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>		
	<b>1/1/2005</b>	<b>RATES</b>	<b>INCREASES</b>	<b>% INCREASE</b>
<b>PPO</b>				
Single Employee	558.01	503.30	54.71	10.87%
Parent/Child	1,483.12	1,337.71	145.41	10.87%
Parent/Children	1,696.62	1,530.28	166.34	10.87%
Husband/Wife	1,483.12	1,337.71	145.41	10.87%
Family	1,696.62	1,530.28	166.34	10.87%
Both Board	1,696.62	1,530.28	166.34	10.87%
<b>POS</b>				
Single Employee	467.16	430.84	36.32	8.43%
Parent/Child	1,241.59	1,145.06	96.53	8.43%
Parent/Children	1,419.64	1,309.27	110.37	8.43%
Husband/Wife	1,241.59	1,145.06	96.53	8.43%
Family	1,419.64	1,309.27	110.37	8.43%
Both Board	1,419.64	1,309.27	110.37	8.43%
<b>HMO</b>				
Single Employee	342.14	283.17	58.97	20.82%
Parent/Child	905.01	748.75	156.26	20.87%
Parent/Children	1,042.35	862.51	179.84	20.85%
Husband/Wife	905.01	748.75	156.26	20.87%
Family	1,042.35	862.51	179.84	20.85%
Both Board	1,042.35	862.51	179.84	20.85%
<b>MAJOR MEDICAL</b>				
Single Employee	111.37	54.45	56.92	104.54%
<b>PRESCRIPTION DRUG</b>				
Single Employee	204.25	225.48	(21.23)	-9.42%
Parent/Child	206.76	227.99	(21.23)	-9.31%
Parent/Children	208.26	229.49	(21.23)	-9.25%
Husband/Wife	206.76	227.99	(21.23)	-9.31%
Family	208.26	229.49	(21.23)	-9.25%

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

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

**REJECT ALL BIDS.**

Bid Item #2 -- Delete building demolition

Alt #1 -- Delete roof removal

Alt #2 -- Delete window removal

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS/FINANCE  
October 4, 2004

**GENERAL AUTHORIZATION**

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.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS/FINANCE

October 4, 2004

**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:**

<b>From Major Object 800</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Budgetary Reserve</b>	
<b>To Major Object 500</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Act 72</b>	

**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**

<u>MAJOR OBJECT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>DATE OF TRANSFER</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF TRANSFER</u>	<u>ADJUSTED BUDGET</u>
100	Personal Services-Salaries	\$225,719,008			\$225,719,008
200	Personal Services-Employee Benefits	65,788,691			65,788,691
300	Purchased Prof. & Tech. Services	74,424,968	04/28/2004 07/21/2004	\$247,000 \$399,950	75,071,918
400	Purchased Property Services	7,979,590			7,979,590
500	Other Purchased Services	59,010,132	10/04/2004	\$100,000	59,110,132
600	Supplies	21,824,411	04/28/2004 07/21/2004	(\$247,000) (\$399,950)	21,177,461
700	Property	7,196,653			7,196,653
800	Other Objects	27,937,833	03/23/2004 06/22/2004 09/22/2004 10/04/2004	(\$165,000) (\$160,000) (\$160,000) (\$100,000)	27,352,833
900	Other Financing Uses	33,281,289	03/23/2004 06/22/2004 09/22/2004	\$165,000 \$160,000 \$160,000	33,766,289
	Res. for Enc.	2,500,000			2,500,000
		<u>\$525,662,575</u>		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$525,662,575</u>



1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 - - -

3 PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
 4 SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
 5 MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2004  
 6 7:24 P.M.

7 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

8 - - -

9 BEFORE:

10 WILLIAM ISLER, BOARD PRESIDENT  
 11 RANDALL TAYLOR, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
 12 JEAN FINK, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
 13 MARK BRENTLEY  
 14 THERESA COLAIZZI  
 15 FLOYD McCREA  
 16 DANIEL ROMANIELLO, SR.

17 - - -

18 MEMBERS ABSENT:

19 PATRICK DOWD  
 20 ALEX MATTHEWS

21 ALSO PRESENT:

22 DR. JOHN W. THOMPSON	DR. ANDREW KING
23 MRS. JODY SPOLAR	MR. IRA WEISS
24 MR. PETER J. CAMARDA	MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS
MRS. PAT CRAWFORD	MR. PHIL PARR
25 MR. ELBERT YAWORSKY	MR. C. M. BERDNIK

26 - - -

27 REPORTED BY: EUGENE C. FORCIER  
 28 PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

29 - - -

30 COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY  
 31 MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.  
 32 PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
 33 412-281-0189

34 - - -

35 ORIGINAL

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 MR. ISLER: I would like to call the  
3 October 4 special legislative meeting, of the  
4 Pittsburgh Board of Education, to order.

5 Would the solicitor please read the roll.

6 Do you have it in front of you, are you  
7 able?

8 MR. WEISS: Yes.

9 MR. ISLER: Please read the roll.

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

11 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

13 MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

14 MR. WEISS: Dr. Dowd?

15 Mrs. Fink?

16 MS. FINK: Here.

17 MR. ISLER: Mr. Matthews?

18 Mr. McCrea?

19 MR. McCREA: Here.

20 MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello?

21 MR. ROMANIELLO: Here.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Here.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

25 MR. ISLER: Present.

1 MR. WEISS: Seven members present.

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

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

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

8 Who is going to speak on that?

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

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

13 Thank you.

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

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

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

24 MS. COLAIZZI: Mercer.

25 MR. FELLERS: -- Mercer -- well, no, no --

1 and more current data from Highmark.

2 And that issue will come back later.

3 And you do not need to make your commitment  
4 in terms of funding method until December 1st to  
5 Highmark.

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

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

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

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

16 MS. SPOLAR: Thank you.

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

23 The rates that we are asking you to adopt  
24 tonight, are the rates that would be in effect if the  
25 Board remains with its current funding arrangement,

1 which is a fully insured arrangement.

2           These are the rates that would go into  
3 effect.

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

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

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

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

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

1 enrollment.

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

5 Mr. McCrea.

6 MR. MCCREA: Just to clarify something, are  
7 these monthly, or annual rates?

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

10 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. McCrea.

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

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

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

21 These are good bids, though there are some  
22 complications with the bids, at this point. We have  
23 been requested on Thursday, by both the potential  
24 financier for the project, Paul Liang, of Fortune  
25 Bank, and we were requested by the Mount Washington

1 Community Development Corporation, to only do the  
2 remediation, and not take the shell down, which is  
3 what is before you here, and would be a million and a  
4 half plus.

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

10           MR. ISLER: Thank you. So that is the  
11 recommendation.

12           That is the recommendation to the Board.  
13 Since there is a change in what the original bid said,  
14 as opposed to what the developer, and the Community  
15 Development Corporation are now asking, your  
16 recommendation is to reject all bids, and rebid;  
17 correct?

18           MR. FELLERS: That is correct.

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

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

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

25           MR. FELLERS: It needs to be --

1           MR. ISLER: Are there any questions on  
2 this?

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

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

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

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

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



1 MR. FELLERS: That is correct.

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Fellers.

3 MR. TAYLOR: Mr. Isler?

4 MR. ISLER: Yes, sir.

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

8 MR. FELLERS: What we are going to --

9 MR. ISLER: No.

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

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

14 MR. TAYLOR: Okay.

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

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

22 MS. COLAIZZI: No, no, no.

23 MR. ISLER: Hold on.

24 MS. COLAIZZI: Just vote yes.

25 MR. ISLER: Hold on, I want to be clear,

1 because all this Board tab says, "It is recommended  
2 that the award be made to lowest responsible bidder  
3 meeting the terms and conditions of bidding as  
4 follows: Under review."

5 MR. WEISS: Well, I mean --

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

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

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

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

17 MR. ISLER: Okay.

18 MR. McCREA: Mr. Weiss, I don't see that  
19 worded. I don't see that worded.

20 MR. WEISS: Well --

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

24 So I gave you the revised wording, which  
25 the stenographer picked up on, and that is what, how

1 you are voting, and the minutes will show that it was  
2 changed to read what your decision is.

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

6 MR. WEISS: Right.

7 MR. ISLER: All right. That's No. 2.

8 No. 3, the mailing of the homestead  
9 notices, we were told, Mr. Taylor, that whether we  
10 want to or not, we must do this, and that is -- also  
11 that reflects in the transfer of funds.

12 MR. TAYLOR: It has to be first class.

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

15 Mrs. Colaizzi.

16 MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler.

17 That's where I was going to go, and I  
18 didn't know whether to ask that question now, or when  
19 we get to the next section.

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

23 Why are we going there?

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

1 object code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           MR. MCCREA: If you look at the budget as a

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

7 MR. ISLER: Under the rules of the  
8 Commonwealth.

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

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

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

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

24 Right now we are still only in October, and  
25 to hedge and say this one is going to have it left

1 over, it is sitting there, it's the simplest way to do  
2 it, it doesn't affect any of your other management,  
3 and that's the process of the ability to come up with  
4 a hundred thousand dollars quick.

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

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

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

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

24 You know, within the budget, the size that  
25 we have, I could piece together a hundred thousand

1 dollars. This was just to take it out of a simple,  
2 clearly identifiable area, and have the transfer.

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

9 So that's my point here.

10 MR. ISLER: Okay.

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

14 MR. ISLER: So noted, Mrs. Colaizzi.

15 MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

16 MR. ISLER: Mrs. Fink.

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

19 MS. COLAIZZI: Yep.

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

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

24 MS. FINK: Yeah, and that's a hundred  
25 thousand dollars that we won't have to spend on kids,

1 because the state wants this mailed.

2                   And, it never ceases to amaze me.

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

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

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

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

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

18                   MR. ISLER: Hold on.

19                   MR. TAYLOR: Do we have to postpone this?

20                   MR. ISLER: I mean, I was just -- let me  
21 bring this up, I was -- I thought, too, that we were  
22 going to postpone this. Mr. McCrea has informed me  
23 that he visited, was at the site visit for Fort Pitt,  
24 and he thinks it is a very good program, so it is  
25 really the acceptance of grant dollars.



1 I don't know if -- you know, if there is a  
2 will to pull it, fine.

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

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

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

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

17 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

18 I -- yes, Dr. Thompson.

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

25 I was at the ceremony, and that really, it

1 deals with food, and nutrition, and it actually,  
2 basically, we talk about it is a health issue, that we  
3 are going to give these kids and their parents fresh  
4 fruit, and healthy food, free of charge.

5           And it's going to be -- it is a great  
6 program. I would suggest we go ahead and move  
7 forward.

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

11           It is the timely issue of the Board  
12 receiving information.

13           Mrs. Colaizzi.

14           MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler, you  
15 couldn't of said that any better.

16           That is my whole point. I don't have any  
17 problem supporting this, I have a problem with the way  
18 this stuff keeps coming up at us, last second, last  
19 time.

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

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

25           MR. ISLER: No, Mrs. Colaizzi, it wouldn't

1 have been, and I would have had this pulled, except  
2 for the fact that Mr. McCrea asked at least that we  
3 consider this, and I don't think I am misrepresenting  
4 you.

5 MR. McCREA: Right.

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

9 MR. ISLER: Right. I --

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

12 MR. ISLER: I think we agree with that.

13 Mr. Romaniello.

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

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

18 MR. McCREA: Okay.

19 Sometimes, I mean, I agree with what you  
20 are saying, but you have to put things in perspective.

21 Is it worth it to make a point, at the  
22 detriment of this -- I think this is such a great  
23 program, I don't see any reason to not go ahead with  
24 it right now.

25 MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello, it wouldn't

1 make any difference, really, whether we accepted this  
2 now, or later this month.

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

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

8           So, yes, Mr. McCrea.

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

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

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

24           Mr. Romaniello.

25           MR. ROMANIELLO: If you are done, I just

1 have got a --

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

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

8 MR. ISLER: Yes.

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

11 MS. SPOLAR: That's the --

12 MR. ROMANIELLO: After --

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

15 MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh.

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

18 MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh, okay.

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

21 MR. ROMANIELLO: Oh, okay.

22 MS. SPOLAR: -- arrangement.

23 MR. ROMANIELLO: All right.

24 And my other comments was just to be, since  
25 we have somebody here from the media, how about making

1 a note of what was discussed that we have to spend  
2 this money, because the state is forcing us to spend  
3 the money, and it's not our doing.

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

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

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

11 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

13 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Dr. Dowd is absent.

15 Mrs. Fink?

16 MS. FINK: Yes.

17 MR. WEISS: Mr. Matthews is absent.

18 Mr. McCrea?

19 MR. McCREA: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

21 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

23 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

25 MR. ISLER: Yes.

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

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

3 Then the next is a budget matter, which is  
4 a transfer of funds, which was explained to us by  
5 Mr. Camarda.

6 Hearing no discussion, Mr. Weiss, could we  
7 have a roll call, please.

8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

9 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

11 MS. COLAIZZI: No.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

13 MS. FINK: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

15 MR. McCREA: Yes.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

17 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

19 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

21 MR. ISLER: Yes.

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

23 MR. ISLER: thank you, Mr. Weiss.

24 Is there any new business to be brought  
25 before the Board?

1           Hearing --

2           MR. WEISS: No one would dare to.

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

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

6           MR. ROMANIELLO: So move.

7           MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

8           MS. FINK: So move.

9           MR. ISLER: Hearing is adjourned.

10                                 - - -

11                         (Thereupon, at 7:43 p.m., the Special  
12 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

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

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