

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

MINUTES

Meeting of: December 4, 2006

Call of the Meeting: Reorganization Meeting

Members Present: Mr. Brentley, Mrs. Colaizzi, Dr. Dowd,
Mrs. Fink, Mr. Isler, Mr. McCrea, Mr.
Sumpter, Jr. and Mr. Taylor

Via Telephone: Mr. Romaniello, Sr.

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

December 4, 2006

AGENDA

Election of Officers and Conduct General Business

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Election of Temporary President | Roll Call |
| 2. | Election of Temporary Secretary | Roll Call |

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Election of President | Roll Call |
| 2. | Election of Vice Presidents | Roll Call |

ELECTION OF SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SETTING OF BONDS	Roll Call
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ELECTION OF SCHOOL TREASURER AND ASSISTANT SCHOOL TREASURER AND SETTING OF BONDS	Roll Call
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NEW BUSINESS	Roll Call
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We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SETTING OF BONDS**

RESOLVED, That Mark Roosevelt, 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 Ira Weiss, Esquire, 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 Solicitor, Chief Operations Officer, Chief of Budget Development and Management Services 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.

ELECTION OF SCHOOL TREASURER AND SETTING OF BOND

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, That Margaret Lanier be elected Assistant School Treasurer and that bond for the office be set at \$250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006
7:10 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- - -

BEFORE:

- PATRICK DOWD
- WILLIAM ISLER, BOARD PRESIDENT
- RANDALL TAYLOR, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
- THERESA COLAIZZI, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
- MARK BRENTLEY
- JEAN FINK
- (via telephone) DANIEL ROMANIELLO, SR.
- FLOYD McCREA
- THOMAS SUMPTER

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ALSO PRESENT:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| MR. MARK ROOSEVELT | MS. LISA FISCHETTI |
| MR. PETER J. CAMARDA | MR. FRANK CHESTER |
| MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS | MR. BILL JOHNS |
| MR. DWIGHT LAUFMAN | MR. IRA WEISS |

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REPORTED BY: LANCE E. HANNAFORD
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189

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

2 MR. ISLER: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen.

4 I would like to call the December 4th, 2006
5 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education reorganization
6 meeting to order.

7 Would you all please rise so we may salute
8 the flag?

9 (Pledge of allegiance.)

10 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

11 Mr. Weiss, could you please call the roll?

12 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

13 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

14 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

15 MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

17 MR. DOWD: Present.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

19 MS. FINK: Here.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

21 MR. ISLER: Present.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

23 MR. MCCREA: Here.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

25 MR. ROMANIELLO: Here.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

2 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

4 MR. TAYLOR: Here.

5 MR. WEISS: All members present.

6 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

7 At this point, Mr. Weiss, I would like to
8 turn the meeting over to you.

9 MR. WEISS: At this point, we will require
10 a nomination for temporary president to conduct the
11 reorganization balloting.

12 Do I hear a nomination for temporary
13 president?

14 MS. FINK: I would like to nominate
15 Mr. McCrea.

16 MR. TAYLOR: Second.

17 MR. WEISS: Seconded for Mr. McCrea to
18 serve as temporary president. Any further
19 nominations?

20 Is there a motion to close nominations?

21 MS. COLAIZZI: So moved.

22 MR. DOWD: Second.

23 MR. WEISS: All in favor, say aye

24 (Chorus of ayes.)

25 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea, you are temporary

1 president.

2 You will conduct the election process for
3 president of the board.

4 If you want to assume the chair.

5 MR. McCREA: Vote for all officers
6 including president, first and second vice-presidents,
7 the secretary and four assistant secretaries, the
8 school treasurer, deputy school treasurer will be
9 accomplished by roll call vote.

10 The board will vote for officers in the
11 order listed above.

12 Should I take nominations now?

13 MR. WEISS: I would call for nominations
14 for president.

15 Nominations do not require a second.

16 MR. McCREA: Very well.

17 Do we have nominations for president?

18 Ms. Colaizzi?

19 MS. COLAIZZI: I would like to nominate
20 Mr. Isler, please.

21 MR. McCREA: Any other nominations?

22 Hearing none, we will take roll call vote.

23 MR. WEISS: Ask that nominations be closed.

24 MR. McCREA: Who would like to make a
25 motion to close nominations?

1 MR. DOWD: So moved.

2 MS. FINK: Second.

3 MR. McCREA: We will have roll call vote.

4 MR. WEISS: All in favor of closing

5 nominations, signify by saying aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 MR. WEISS: At this time, we would have a
8 vote for Mr. Isler for president.

9 Mr. Brentley?

10 MR. BRENTLEY: No.

11 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

12 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

13 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

14 MR. DOWD: Yes.

15 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

16 MRS. FINK: Yes.

17 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

18 MR. ISLER: Yes.

19 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

20 MR. McCREA: Yes.

21 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

22 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

23 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

24 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

25 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler is elected by eight
3 to one vote.

4 MR. McCREA: At this time we take
5 nominations for first vice-president.

6 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler can now assume the
7 chair, since he is now president.

8 MR. ISLER: I would like to thank my fellow
9 board members.

10 And now we will entertain a motion for the
11 first vice-president position.

12 Mr. Sumpter.

13 MR. SUMPTER: I would like to nominate
14 Randall Taylor first vice-president.

15 MR. ISLER: Nomination for Mr. Taylor first
16 vice-president.

17 Another nomination?

18 MR. BRENTLEY: Would it be appropriate to
19 share comments before we take this next vote, a few
20 comments I wanted to share?

21 MR. ISLER: Mr. Weiss, do you want to wait
22 until we get through the whole procedure?

23 MR. WEISS: It would be better to wait
24 until we get through.

25 Then we will have comments.

1 MR. ISLER: Any other nominations?
2 Motion to close nominations.
3 MR. DOWD: So moved.
4 MS. COLAIZZI: Second.
5 MR. ISLER: All in favor?
6 (Chorus of ayes.)
7 MR. ISLER: Mr. Weiss, please call roll.
8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?
9 MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.
10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?
11 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.
12 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?
13 MR. DOWD: Yes.
14 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?
15 MS. FINK: Yes.
16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?
17 MR. ISLER: Yes.
18 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?
19 MR. MCCREA: Yes.
20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?
21 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.
22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?
23 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.
24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?
25 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor is elected with
2 eight yes and one abstention.

3 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

4 We will now entertain a motion for second
5 vice-president.

6 Do we have a motion for second
7 vice-president?

8 Mrs. Fink?

9 MS. FINK: I would like to nominate Theresa
10 Colaizzi.

11 MR. ISLER: There is a nomination on the
12 floor for Mrs. Colaizzi for second vice-president.
13 Any other nominations?

14 Do we have a motion to close nominations?

15 MR. McCREA: So moved.

16 MR. DOWD: Second.

17 MR. ISLER: All those in favor to close
18 nominations, signify by saying aye.

19 (Chorus of ayes.)

20 MR. ISLER: Mr. Weiss, please proceed with
21 roll call.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

23 MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

24 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

25 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

2 MR. DOWD: Yes.

3 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

4 MS. FINK: Yes.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

6 MR. ISLER: Yes.

7 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

8 MR. McCREA: Yes.

9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

10 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

12 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

13 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

14 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

15 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi is elected eight
16 zero one.

17 MR. ISLER: We now have election for
18 secretaries and assistant secretaries for setting the
19 bonds.

20 I would like to read a resolution and then
21 we will go for a motion.

22 Resolved that Mark Roosevelt be elected
23 secretary of the board of public education in addition
24 to his other duties as superintendent of schools
25 without additional salary, and bond for office be set

1 at 250,000 dollars, the bond to be furnished at the
2 cost of the board.

3 Further resolved, that Ira Weiss, Esquire,
4 Richard Fellers, Peter J. Camarda and Christopher M.
5 Berdnik be assistant secretaries of the board of
6 public education in addition to their other duties as
7 solicitor, chief operations officer, chief of budget
8 development and management services and director of
9 finance, and bonds for these offices be set at 250,000
10 dollars each, the bonds to be furnished at the cost of
11 of the board.

12 At this point we have motions to elect
13 secretaries and assistant secretaries and setting of
14 bonds.

15 Is there a motion to approve?

16 MR. DOWD: So moved.

17 MS. COLAIZZI: Second.

18 MR. ISLER: Would you please call the roll,
19 Mr. Weiss?

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

21 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

22 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

23 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

25 MR. DOWD: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

2 MS. FINK: Yes.

3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

4 MR. ISLER: Yes.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

6 MR. McCREA: Yes.

7 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

8 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

10 MR. SUMPSTER: Yes.

11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

12 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

13 MR. WEISS: Approved unanimously.

14 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

15 We move to election of school treasurer and
16 setting of the bond.

17 Resolved, Richard M. Fees, treasurer of the
18 city of Pittsburgh, be elected school treasurer, and
19 bond for the office be set at 250,000 dollars, the
20 bond to be furnished at the cost of the board.

21 Further resolved, Margaret Lanier be
22 elected assistant school treasurer, and that bond for
23 the office be set at 250,000 dollars, and the bond to
24 be furnished at the cost to the board.

25 Motion to approve?

1 MS. COLAIZZI: Moved.

2 MR. DOWD: Second.

3 MR. ISLER: There is a motion that has been
4 seconded.

5 Mr. Weiss, roll call vote on the election
6 of school treasurer and assistant school treasurer and
7 setting of bond.

8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

9 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

11 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

13 MR. DOWD: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

15 MS. FINK: Yes.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

17 MR. ISLER: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

19 MR. MCCREA: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

21 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

23 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

25 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Approved unanimously.

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

3 That concludes official business. Any new
4 business to come before the board at this time?
5 Mr. Brentley?

6 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

7 Mr. President, I just wanted to take a
8 moment to clarify my vote this evening.

9 Mr. President, I have shared with you many
10 times my concern in terms of the lack of the
11 leadership of this board not addressing the serious
12 issues that are out there, primarily in the poorer
13 neighborhoods, particularly the African-American
14 community.

15 My vote today is never anything personal.

16 But it is always the lack of the leadership
17 in areas that is needed the most.

18 So I once again am disappointed in the past
19 leadership in the past year of your leadership team
20 and the lack of addressing those issues.

21 I can think of four, primarily four
22 schools, that I think received a raw deal in the right
23 sizing plan. And raw is really an understatement.

24 Because it is a very, very bad situation.

25 For the Beltzhoover community, the Hazelwood

1 community, the East End for the Reizenstein school as
2 well as the Milliones situation.

3 I don't think that those neighborhoods
4 deserved the treatment that we gave them under your
5 leadership.

6 I think they should have been prioritized.

7 And the only thing left for me to do as a
8 board member is to show that through my vote.

9 My challenge again to you, sir, is to
10 please prioritize, set those communities first.

11 They need help.

12 And because it is not reported in the news
13 doesn't mean there is nothing wrong going on in those
14 communities.

15 This is the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

16 And we should be serving all students.

17 My second point, sir, is that also in terms
18 of leadership here, I believe that you have a very,
19 very powerful position.

20 You sit in a very, very powerful seat.

21 And I think setting an example is very
22 important.

23 When organizing and talking about even
24 something so important as this reorganization meeting,
25 it would be helpful to talk to you, sir.

1 And what happens, unfortunately the issue
2 of race is even played here in this board.

3 You may talk or share with other board
4 members.

5 But I have rarely had an opportunity to sit
6 down with you as the president, with other
7 African-American board members, to say, "How can I
8 help? What do you need?"

9 "And where should I be on this particular
10 issue?"

11 And to me, I just think that closes the
12 door to certain members and to certain communities.

13 Yes.

14 It is always helpful at the last minute for
15 another African-American board member, "Hey, I have to
16 talk to you in the hallway," minutes before we go on
17 and talk about what deals are made.

18 And that is helpful.

19 But it would mean much more coming from the
20 president, knowing that he is concerned about the
21 issues. And that he is willing to include others in
22 to the leadership position.

23 So those are my two major reasons. I would
24 ask again, please find a way to prioritize and to
25 bring all of those children and all of those parents

1 back in to the fold.

2 Those ones we left behind.

3 They need your assistance.

4 They need your help.

5 They need your leadership.

6 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.

7 MR. ISLER: Mr. Taylor.

8 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

9 I always look at the reorganization as the
10 closing of one board and the beginning of a new one.

11 I would certainly say that I have been
12 disappointed by the performance of the board in the
13 last year.

14 And I am not just referring to differences
15 that we may have had on policies or decisions that
16 were made.

17 Because those differences are always going
18 to occur.

19 First of all, I have to chastise myself as
20 the first vice-president, as a member of the
21 collective committee for not working for leadership to
22 come from the executive committee, which I have always
23 believed in a strong executive committee.

24 Not necessarily a strong president, but a
25 strong executive committee.

1 I have always worked to do that.

2 I certainly did not do that this year as
3 far as trying to bring the kind of leadership I think
4 should come from executive committee.

5 That is a criticism of myself, of my
6 shortcomings in this past year.

7 But I really do want to say to my fellow
8 board members, I do believe that the lack of this
9 board of asking questions, which is our basic
10 fundamental responsibility here to ask questions.

11 I feel that this board has failed to do
12 that.

13 And in that failure, they have failed not
14 only this board in your responsibilities.

15 I believe you failed our superintendent,
16 administration.

17 I think you failed our taxpayers and the
18 public.

19 I think most importantly, you failed our
20 students.

21 And for those who disagree with me, it is
22 not hard to go back in the minutes and see board
23 members who raise questions, sometimes aggressively to
24 this past year, where there were very few questions
25 raised.

1 It is important to support our
2 superintendent.

3 If anyone looks at my votes for the last
4 year, you may have seen statements where I questioned
5 this or I questioned that.

6 But I believe ultimately, particularly when
7 it comes to questions of education, we have to yield
8 to the recommendation of our superintendent and
9 administration.

10 We may not think it is the best.

11 But I do think if people look at my votes,
12 I have supported all of the education initiatives. I
13 talked about the cost.

14 I supported every single one of Mark
15 Roosevelt's appointments.

16 Though I may have questioned some.

17 But I do think it is important.

18 And when the question of school closings
19 was raised, and I pointed at that meeting often, not
20 to talk about the pros and cons of it, but the fact
21 that it was the most major initiative that probably
22 took place in the history of the district, the school
23 closings were the largest amount of schools closing in
24 any urban school district over a period of the last
25 few years.

1 And this board raised virtually no
2 questions about that plan.

3 We only had one public meeting to discuss
4 it as a board.

5 So that to me, that is a dereliction of our
6 duty.

7 We are not supposed to -- even if you want
8 to support your superintendent, which you are supposed
9 to, you should ask questions, and you should ask those
10 questions publicly, so that the public knows some of
11 the issues on their board representative's mind.

12 It also helps other board members to see
13 things and hear things that we may not have thought
14 about.

15 That helps us to be strong as a board.

16 So I hope in this upcoming year, I am not
17 telling anybody to change their support for anyone
18 around this table.

19 But you must ask questions.

20 That is our job is to ask questions.

21 I don't feel we did that in the past year.

22 My hope, and I will do everything in my
23 power to encourage people to do that.

24 And to be -- and hopefully work to make
25 executive committee be the body that I feel that it

1 should be.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. ISLER: Mrs. Colaizzi.

4 MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

5 Actually, I am not wanting to bring up
6 anything that had to do with this evening's elections
7 or anything of that sort. When we come in here, a lot
8 of times we vote in legislative hearing. We also
9 celebrate what our children accomplish throughout the
10 district. And some of our teachers accomplish.

11 All sorts of accomplishments.

12 But we never, ever give each other any
13 credit for anything we have done or any accomplishment
14 that we have ever made.

15 And sometimes that is one of the important
16 things that we need to recognize.

17 And I am taking quite a joy in doing this
18 this evening.

19 Because it is Bill's 60th birthday this
20 evening.

21 We should recognize him for that.

22 If anyone wants to see the cake in the
23 board office, Jean made that for him. It is in the
24 shape of a gavel.

25 If it were broken, it would be more

1 appropriate. And it wasn't.

2 But everyone here has given you a card.

3 Happy birthday, Mr. Isler.

4 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 (Sing Happy Birthday.)

7 MR. DOWD: How old is he?

8 MS. COLAIZZI: 60.

9 MR. ISLER: I seriously want to thank you
10 all.

11 I want to especially thank Mrs. Colaizzi
12 for clarifying it is 60.

13 Mr. Brentley turned the six upside down in
14 to a nine. It is not 90.

15 It is only 60.

16 I want to thank you all.

17 If there is no other business, I would like
18 to -- yes, Mr. Romaniello.

19 I was hoping to beat you.

20 MR. ROMANIELLO: I would just like to say
21 congratulations to you and the executive committee.

22 The fact that everybody was re-elected without
23 opposition or anything shows your course and
24 leadership is pointing us in the right direction.

25 Thank you for your work. And happy

1 birthday.

2 I wish I was there to give you a big kiss.

3 MR. ISLER: I am very happy you are not
4 here.

5 I think as has been said, there is a lot of
6 work for this board to do. I look forward to a very,
7 very good '08. I think there is a tremendous amount
8 of work to do. When I say '08, I mean to get us
9 through '07 and get in to '08.

10 I am looking forward to it.

11 MR. ROMANIELLO: Congratulations to the
12 executive committee.

13 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

14 There is no other business before the board
15 could we have a motion to adjourn?

16 MR. DOWD: So moved.

17 MS. COLAIZZI: Second.

18 MR. ISLER: All those in favor, signify by
19 saying aye.

20 (Chorus of ayes.)

21 MR. ISLER: Meeting adjourned.

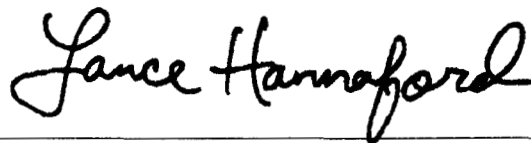
22 Thank you very much. The board still has a
23 meeting.

24 (Thereupon, at 7:30 p.m., the Reorganization
25 Meeting was concluded.)

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

I, Lance E. Hannaford, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing twenty-two (22) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Reorganization Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on Monday, December 4, 2006.



Lance E. Hannaford, Court Reporter

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