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.
AGENDA

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

BEFORE:

PATRICK LOWD
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

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT
MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS
MR. DWIGHT LAUTMAN

MS. LISA FISCHETTI
MR. FRANK CHESTER
MR. BILL JOHNS
MR. IRA WEISS

REPORTED BY: LANCE E. HANNAFORD
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY
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PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189

ORIGINAL

RIGINAL
MR. ISLER: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

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

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

(Pledge of allegiance.)

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

Mr. Weiss, could you please call the roll?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Here.

MR. WEISS: All members present.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

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

Do I hear a nomination for temporary president?

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

MR. TAYLOR: Second.

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

Is there a motion to close nominations?

MS. COLAIuzzi: So moved.

MR. DOWD: Second.

MR. WEISS: All in favor, say aye (Chorus of ayes.)

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?
MR. DOWD: So moved.

MS. FINK: Second.

MR. McCREA: We will have roll call vote.

MR. WEISS: All in favor of closing nominations, signify by saying aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

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

Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: No.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?
MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Sumpter.

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

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

Another nomination?

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

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

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

Then we will have comments.
MR. ISLER: Any other nominations?

Motion to close nominations.

MR. DOWD: So moved.

MS. COLAIZZI: Second.

MR. ISLER: All in favor?

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. ISLER: Mr. Weiss, please call roll.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor is elected with eight yes and one abstention.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

Do we have a motion for second vice-president?

Mrs. Fink?

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

MR. ISLER: There is a nomination on the floor for Mrs. Colaizzi for second vice-president.

Any other nominations?

Do we have a motion to close nominations?

MR. McCREA: So moved.

MR. DOWD: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

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

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

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

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

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

Resolved that Mark Roosevelt be elected secretary of the board of public education in addition to his other duties as superintendent of schools without additional salary, and bond for office be set
at 250,000 dollars, the bond to be furnished at the
cost of the board.

Further resolved, that Ira Weiss, Esquire, Richard Fellers, Peter J. Camarda and Christopher M. Berdnik be 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 bonds for these offices be set at 250,000 dollars each, the bonds to be furnished at the cost of the board.

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

Is there a motion to approve?

MR. DOWD: So moved.

MS. COLAIIZZI: Second.

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

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?
MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?
MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?
MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?
MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?
MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?
MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Approved unanimously.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

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

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

Motion to approve?
MS. COLAIZZI: Moved.

MR. DOWD: Second.

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

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

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

MR. DOWD: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Approved unanimously.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

That concludes official business. Any new business to come before the board at this time?

Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

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

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

My vote today is never anything personal. But it is always the lack of the leadership in areas that is needed the most.

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

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

Because it is a very, very bad situation.

For the Beltzhoover community, the Hazelwood
community, the East End for the Reizenstein school as well as the Milliones situation.

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

I think they should have been prioritized. And the only thing left for me to do as a board member is to show that through my vote. My challenge again to you, sir, is to please prioritize, set those communities first.

They need help. And because it is not reported in the news doesn't mean there is nothing wrong going on in those communities.

This is the Pittsburgh Public Schools. And we should be serving all students.

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

You sit in a very, very powerful seat. And I think setting an example is very important.

When organizing and talking about even something so important as this reorganization meeting, it would be helpful to talk to you, sir.
And what happens, unfortunately the issue of race is even played here in this board. You may talk or share with other board members. But I have rarely had an opportunity to sit down with you as the president, with other African-American board members, to say, "How can I help? What do you need?"

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

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

It is always helpful at the last minute for another African-American board member, "Hey, I have to talk to you in the hallway," minutes before we go on and talk about what deals are made. And that is helpful. But it would mean much more coming from the president, knowing that he is concerned about the issues. And that he is willing to include others in to the leadership position.

So those are my two major reasons. I would ask again, please find a way to prioritize and to bring all of those children and all of those parents
back in to the fold.
Those ones we left behind.
They need your assistance.
They need your help.
They need your leadership.
MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.
MR. ISLER: Mr. Taylor.
MR. TAYLOR: Yes.
I always look at the reorganization as the closing of one board and the beginning of a new one.
I would certainly say that I have been disappointed by the performance of the board in the last year.
And I am not just referring to differences that we may have had on policies or decisions that were made.
Because those differences are always going to occur.
First of all, I have to chastise myself as the first vice-president, as a member of the collective committee for not working for leadership to come from the executive committee, which I have always believed in a strong executive committee.
Not necessarily a strong president, but a strong executive committee.
I have always worked to do that.
I certainly did not do that this year as far as trying to bring the kind of leadership I think should come from executive committee.
That is a criticism of myself, of my shortcomings in this past year.
But I really do want to say to my fellow board members, I do believe that the lack of this board of asking questions, which is our basic fundamental responsibility here to ask questions.
I feel that this board has failed to do that.
And in that failure, they have failed not only this board in your responsibilities.
I believe you failed our superintendent, administration.
I think you failed our taxpayers and the public.
I think most importantly, you failed our students.
And for those who disagree with me, it is not hard to go back in the minutes and see board members who raise questions, sometimes aggressively to this past year, where there were very few questions raised.
It is important to support our superintendent.

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

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

We may not think it is the best.

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

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

Though I may have questioned some.

But I do think it is important.

And when the question of school closings was raised, and I pointed at that meeting often, not to talk about the pros and cons of it, but the fact that it was the most major initiative that probably took place in the history of the district, the school closings were the largest amount of schools closing in any urban school district over a period of the last few years.
And this board raised virtually no
questions about that plan. We only had one public meeting to discuss
it as a board. So that to me, that is a dereliction of our
duty. We are not supposed to -- even if you want
to support your superintendent, which you are supposed
to, you should ask questions, and you should ask those
questions publicly, so that the public knows some of
the issues on their board representative's mind. It also helps other board members to see
things and hear things that we may not have thought
about. That helps us to be strong as a board. So I hope in this upcoming year, I am not
telling anybody to change their support for anyone
around this table. But you must ask questions. That is our job is to ask questions. I don't feel we did that in the past year. My hope, and I will do everything in my
power to encourage people to do that. And to be -- and hopefully work to make
executive committee be the body that I feel that it
should be.

Thank you.

MR. ISLER: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

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

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

And sometimes that is one of the important things that we need to recognize. And I am taking quite a joy in doing this this evening.

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

We should recognize him for that.

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

If it were broken, it would be more
appropriate. And it wasn't.

But everyone here has given you a card.

Happy birthday, Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Sing Happy Birthday.)

MR. DOWD: How old is he?

MS. COLAIazzi: 60.

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

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

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

It is only 60.

I want to thank you all.

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

I was hoping to beat you.

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

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

Thank you for your work. And happy
birthday.

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

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

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

I am looking forward to it.

MR. ROMANIELLO: Congratulations to the executive committee.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

MR. DOWD: So moved.

MS. COLAIZZI: Second.

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

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. ISLER: Meeting adjourned.

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

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

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