

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** December 13, 2006

**Call of the Meeting:** Special Legislative Meeting

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

**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**

**December 13, 2006**

**ROLL CALL**

**A. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**District Empowerment Plan**

**[Roll Call]**

**B. COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL**

**[Roll Call]**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**[Roll Call]**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**Legislative Meeting**  
**December 13, 2006**

Whereas that in accordance with the Public School Code of 1949 as amended, 24 P.S. 17-1703-B(e)(1), on August 15, 2006, the Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh formed an Empowerment Team comprised of 11 key stakeholders charged with drafting a District Empowerment Plan (also serving as the No Child Left Behind District Improvement Plan); and

Whereas, in accordance with the Public School Code of 1949 as amended, 24 P.S. 17-1703-B(e)(1), the Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh held a public hearing on November 20, 2006, for the District Empowerment Plan, and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh received a formal presentation of the District Empowerment Plan from the Empowerment Team at the Board of Directors' Education Committee held on December 4, 2006;

Whereas, in accordance with the amendments to Article XVII-B by Act 114 of 2006 and the District's status as a Commonwealth Partnership School District and the powers delineated under 24 P.S. sec. 17-1704-B (3), the District certifies that it meets the requirements set forth so that the following provision shall be deemed part of the Empowerment Plan (also serving as the No Child Left Behind District Improvement Plan): District shall employ an Executive Director for Research, Assessment and Accountability.

Therefore, be it so resolved that the Board of Directors of the School District of Pittsburgh approves the District Empowerment Plan and its submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PA DOE) with the inclusion of the provisions of this resolution. This plan has been formed in accordance with the Public School Code of 1949 as amended, 24 P.S. 17-1703-B(e)(1) and includes the Pittsburgh Board of Education's goals, the District's reform agenda—*Excellence for All*, and the following priorities for the School District of Pittsburgh as stipulated by the PA DOE:

- improving academic performance;
- improving financial stability;
- implementing and completing plans for a realignment reducing excess capacity;
- increasing the level of achievement of African American students;
- providing efficient and effective management of special education programs.

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas Sumpter, Chairperson  
Committee on Education

**Section 7: Statement of Assurance**  
**District Strategic Plan**

We (the undersigned) hereby certify that the district improvement plan for the School District of Pittsburgh has been duly reviewed and endorsed by our district staff and board of school directors as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and further certify that the Pittsburgh Board of Education has formally approved this plan at a special legislative session held on December 13, 2006.

We further certify that a copy of the district improvement plan is on file at the Pittsburgh Board of Education, located at 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mark Roosevelt, Superintendent of Schools, December 13, 2006

\_\_\_\_\_, William Isler, President, Board of School Directors, December 13, 2006

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 13, 2006

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Dr. Linda Lane be hired as Deputy Superintendent for the District for a three year term commencing January 16, 2007 and ending January 15, 2010 at an annual base salary of one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000.000) with eligibility for performance bonus not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for the second year and fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for the third year; that Dr. Lane be reimbursed up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for moving expenses and that she be eligible during the employment term for the benefits provided by the District to administrators pursuant to the administrators compensation plan.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that Dr. Lane shall take responsibility for obtaining an assistant superintendent commission under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and that the terms of employment for Dr. Lane shall include recognition of her rights as set forth and signed off by the District and Dr. Lane on or before December 30, 2006 in a contract approved as to form by the Acting Solicitor for the District.

Duly adopted by the Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh  
December 13, 2006.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006  
6:13 P.M.  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT                      MRS. JODY SPOLAR  
MR. IRA WEISS                            MR. PETER J. CAMARDA  
MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS                MR. DWIGHT LAUFMAN  
MS. PATRICIA A. FISHER                MS. LISA FISCHETTI  
DR. KAYE CUPPLES                        MR. BILL JOHNS  
DR. BARBARA RUDIAK                     MR. FRANK F. CHESTER  
DR. JERRI LIPPERT

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REPORTED BY: EUGENE C. FORCIER  
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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

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RIGINAL

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

2 MR. ISLER: Good evening, ladies and  
3 gentlemen, I would like to call this special  
4 legislative meeting of the Pittsburgh Board of Public  
5 Education to order.

6 If you will all please rise, so we may  
7 salute the flag.

8 (Salute to the flag.)

9 MR. ISLER: I want to thank everybody for  
10 being here. This is a special legislative session.

11 I just want to consult with the solicitor,  
12 it was duly advertised on time?

13 MR. WEISS: It was duly advertised.

14 MR. ISLER: Thank you, sir.

15 Would you please take the roll.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

17 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

19 MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

21 MR. DOWD: Present.

22 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

23 MS. FINK: Here.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

25 MR. MCCREA: Here.

1 MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello?

2 MR. ROMANIELLO: Here

3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

4 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

6 Mr. Isler?

7 MR. ISLER: Present.

8 MR. WEISS: Eight members present.

9 MR. ISLER: Thank you, sir.

10 I would like to go to the first item on the  
11 agenda, it is from the Committee on Education.

12 It appears, I think it would be good if  
13 maybe, Mr. Superintendent, we can do one of two  
14 things, either read the resolution, or you may want to  
15 make some comments about why we are doing this.

16 And, what the report entails.

17 MR. ROOSEVELT: The report is from the  
18 committee, necessitated by the state making us a  
19 Commonwealth Partnership District.

20 It is a consolidated plan for our District  
21 improvement plan, our corrective action plan, and our  
22 empowerment plan, as required under this new status.

23 It is a comprehensive plan for improving  
24 student achievement in the Pittsburgh Public Schools,  
25 with individual strategies outlined as to how we



1 intend to get there.

2           As you well know, it was worked on very  
3 hard and long, the chair of the committee, Dr. Martin,  
4 presented it to the Board at a meeting, either last  
5 week, or the week before.

6           And it is before you tonight for your  
7 approval.

8           MR. ISLER: Thank, Mr. Superintendent.

9           And, just to inform the public, it is, and  
10 will appear on our website?

11           MR. ROOSEVELT: It is already on the  
12 website, and has been for some time, and will remain  
13 on the website, so the people can access it.

14           MR. ISLER: Thank you.

15           If I can just go briefly then, there is a  
16 whereas that we are required to do this by School  
17 Code; that we did have an empowerment team, that  
18 presented to the Board of Directors on December 4th;  
19 that we did hold a public hearing on November 20th,  
20 and it is resolved, that:

21           (Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

22           MR. ISLER: And it has been presented by  
23 our chairman, the Education Committee, Mr. Thomas  
24 Sumpter.

25           Are there any questions?

1           Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we please  
2 have a roll call vote on the first Committee On  
3 Education report.

4           Thank you.

5           MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

6           MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

7           MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

8           MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

9           MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

10          MR. DOWD: Yes.

11          MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

12          MS. FINK: Yes.

13          MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

14          MR. MCCREA: Yes.

15          MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

16          MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

17          MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

18          MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

19          MR. WEISS: MR. Isler?

20          MR. ISLER: Yes.

21          MR. WEISS: Eight in favor, one absent.

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

23                 The second item on this evening's agenda is  
24 a Committee on Personnel. It is the Human Resources  
25 Report of the Superintendent, it is before us.

1           It is for the hiring of Dr. Linda Lane as  
2 Deputy Superintendent for the District.

3           Are there any questions?

4           If so, I prefer that Mr. Chester, our  
5 director of human resources, respond.

6           Mr. Brentley.

7           MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

8           Not actually a question, Mr. President,  
9 just a comment.

10           Mr. President, I will be voting no for this  
11 item, not no on the individual, because I know nothing  
12 about her, but once again, no on the process.

13           Mr. President, I am a member of the Board  
14 of Directors. It is my job, my responsibility to  
15 hire, fire, promote and demote, and to set policy,  
16 evaluate policy and create policy.

17           As you know, this information was just  
18 given to us minutes ago. It's helpful to have a  
19 discussion before we make such a major decision.

20           It's helpful to take this process through  
21 the same process used on hiring other employees, and  
22 that is, it's given to us at a human resource meeting.

23           There are opportunities for discussions,  
24 there are opportunities for two or three days, to  
25 get -- to contact individuals for additional

1 information.

2 It was not given here.

3 And, also, we have to be very, very  
4 mindful, sir, of what we are facing in this District.

5 I'm a Board member again, who have yet to  
6 receive a full explanation of our past Deputy  
7 Superintendent, and the circumstances around her  
8 departure.

9 So, I also believe that with the hiring of  
10 this position, we are almost paying for this position  
11 twice. If we paid the past Deputy Superintendent, and  
12 now we are hiring another, at what point do we talk  
13 about are we -- are we paying for this thing twice,  
14 and how can we do some things a little differently.

15 So, it will be difficult for me. I have  
16 yet to meet her, I just found out reading this today  
17 as this program is being broadcast, just finding out  
18 today who this candidate will be coming before us.

19 So I will be voting no, and I will ask  
20 again for the administration to please keep in mind  
21 our responsibilities as directors, and allow us some  
22 time to talk about, possibly make suggestions on who  
23 the candidate would be, and more importantly, have  
24 enough time that we will be able to say, "Okay. We  
25 understand this, we feel comfortable; have we made the

1 changes, so that we won't get into the problems that  
2 we made before."

3           Finally, it is also my understanding,  
4 Mr. President, that this position will be under a  
5 contractual agreement, and it would have been helpful  
6 to me to talk about the pros and cons of this  
7 position, contractual versus just an employee.

8           A contract that we have not, I have not  
9 seen, and I will speak for myself, we don't know what  
10 the terms are in the contract.

11           We did not -- I did not know the terms of  
12 the contract of the past Deputy Superintendent, which  
13 caused some disturbance here in the city on how that  
14 was settled.

15           So, it is difficult to do, but I will be  
16 voting no, and I will ask again, please, allow us to  
17 do our job as Board members, and inform us in time so  
18 that we can also share, and feel comfortable when we  
19 sit at this table, and vote on such a very, very  
20 important position.

21           Thank you.

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

23           Mrs. Colaizzi.

24           MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

25           I just want to comment more or less for the

1 record.

2           We did have a personnel meeting on Monday  
3 evening, we did have this discussion of this  
4 individual. The only thing that was omitted at the  
5 time, was the person's name. But we were given just  
6 about every other detail that was necessary for us to  
7 make a sound decision at this point in time.

8           We were given specific information, such as  
9 the qualifications of this individual.

10           We were given very clear information on the  
11 contract. Mr. Weiss was in the room with us, made it  
12 very clear what the contract was.

13           We were told we were allowed to see the  
14 contract if we wanted to see it.

15           We were even given the opportunity, that if  
16 any time this afternoon we wished to see this early  
17 enough, so that we could have discussion with the  
18 Superintendent, we were given that opportunity on  
19 Monday.

20           And, Mr. Brentley, you were in the room at  
21 the time.

22           We were also -- we did see the contract  
23 from the past, and we have always done a contract for  
24 the deputy Superintendent. This is nothing different  
25 than in the past.

1           We do that for a reason. It is so that it  
2 does not become an employee of this District, it is so  
3 that it is a contract.

4           I just wanted to set that straight, for the  
5 record.

6           I think that it is extremely important that  
7 all points are brought to the table, and we are clear,  
8 so that the public sees all sides of everything.

9           Thank you.

10          MR. ISLER: Thank you.

11          Any other questions?

12          Mr. Weiss, could we -- Mr. Weiss, could we  
13 have a roll call vote, please.

14          MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

15          MR. BRENTLEY: No.

16          MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

17          MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

18          MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

19          MR. DOWD: Yes.

20          MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

21          MS. FINK: Yes.

22          MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

23          MR. McCREA: Yes.

24          MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

25          MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

2 MR. SUMPSTER: Yes.

3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

4 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

6 MR. ISLER: Yes.

7 MR. WEISS: Approved 8 to 1.

8 And that completes the items,

9 Mr. President.

10 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

11 may we have a motion to adjourn?

12 MR. ROMANIELLO: Move.

13 MR. ISLER: Second?

14 MR. McCREA: Second.

15 MR. ISLER: Thank you. Meeting adjourned.

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18 (Thereupon, at 8:14 p.m., the Special

19 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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

2 I, Eugene C. Forcier, the undersigned, do hereby  
3 certify that the foregoing eleven (11) pages are a  
4 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 Committee Room, on Wednesday,  
8 December 13, 2006.

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Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter

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