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.
ROLL CALL

A. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
   District Empowerment Plan [Roll Call]

B. COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL [Roll Call]

NEW BUSINESS [Roll Call]

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
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
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 ($160,000.00) 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 FURTHER 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.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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

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

REPORTED BY: EUGENE C. FORCIER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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

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

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

(Salute to the flag.)

MR. ISLER: I want to thank everybody for being here. This is a special legislative session. I just want to consult with the solicitor, it was duly advertised on time?

MR. WEISS: It was duly advertised.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, sir.

Would you please take 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. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Here.
MR. ISLER: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Here

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Present.

MR. WEISS: Eight members present.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, sir.

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

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

And, what the report entails.

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

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

It is a comprehensive plan for improving student achievement in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, 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?
Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we please have a roll call vote on the first Committee On Education report.

Thank you.

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. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Eight in favor, one absent.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

The second item on this evening's agenda is a Committee on Personnel. It is the Human Resources Report of the Superintendent, it is before us.
It is for the hiring of Dr. Linda Lane as Deputy Superintendent for the District.

Are there any questions?

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

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

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

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

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

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

It's helpful to take this process through the same process used on hiring other employees, and that is, it's given to us at a human resource meeting. There are opportunities for discussions, there are opportunities for two or three days, to get -- to contact individuals for additional
information.

It was not given here.

And, also, we have to be very, very mindful, sir, of what we are facing in this District. I'm a Board member again, who have yet to receive a full explanation of our past Deputy Superintendent, and the circumstances around her departure.

So, I also believe that with the hiring of this position, we are almost paying for this position twice. If we paid the past Deputy Superintendent, and now we are hiring another, at what point do we talk about are we -- are we paying for this thing twice, and how can we do some things a little differently. So, it will be difficult for me. I have yet to meet her, I just found out reading this today as this program is being broadcast, just finding out today who this candidate will be coming before us.

So I will be voting no, and I will ask again for the administration to please keep in mind our responsibilities as directors, and allow us some time to talk about, possibly make suggestions on who the candidate would be, and more importantly, have enough time that we will be able to say, "Okay. We understand this, we feel comfortable; have we made the
changes, so that we won't get into the problems that
we made before."

Finally, it is also my understanding,
Mr. President, that this position will be under a
contractual agreement, and it would have been helpful
to me to talk about the pros and cons of this
position, contractual versus just an employee.
A contract that we have not, I have not
seen, and I will speak for myself, we don't know what
the terms are in the contract.
We did not -- I did not know the terms of
the contract of the past Deputy Superintendent, which
caused some disturbance here in the city on how that
was settled.
So, it is difficult to do, but I will be
voting no, and I will ask again, please, allow us to
do our job as Board members, and inform us in time so
that we can also share, and feel comfortable when we
sit at this table, and vote on such a very, very
important position.
Thank you.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.
Mrs. Colaizzi.
MS. COLAIIZZI: Thank you.
I just want to comment more or less for the
We did have a personnel meeting on Monday evening, we did have this discussion of this individual. The only thing that was omitted at the time, was the person's name. But we were given just about every other detail that was necessary for us to make a sound decision at this point in time.

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

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

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

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

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

We were also -- we did see the contract from the past, and we have always done a contract for the deputy Superintendent. This is nothing different than in the past.
We do that for a reason. It is so that it
does not become an employee of this District, it is so
that it is a contract.
I just wanted to set that straight, for the
record.
I think that it is extremely important that
all points are brought to the table, and we are clear,
so that the public sees all sides of everything.
Thank you.
MR. ISLER: Thank you.
Any other questions?
Mr. Weiss, could we -- Mr. Weiss, could we
have a roll call vote, please.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?
MR. BRENTLEY: No.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?
MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?
MR. DOWD: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?
MS. FINK: 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?
MR. ISLER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Approved 8 to 1.
And that completes the items,
Mr. President.
MR. ISLER: Thank you.
may we have a motion to adjourn?
MR. ROMANIELLO: Move.
MR. ISLER: Second?
MR. McCREA: Second.
MR. ISLER: Thank you. Meeting adjourned.
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(Thereupon, at 8:14 p.m., the Special Legislative Meeting was concluded.)
I, Eugene C. Forcier, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing eleven (11) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Special Legislative Meeting, held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Committee Room, on Wednesday, December 13, 2006.

Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter