

# Special Legislative Meeting

September 19, 2007

# THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213  
Administration Building  
341 South Bellefield Avenue

## SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

September 19, 2007

### ROLL CALL

#### A. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1. **Acceptance of \$79,425 from the Fund for Excellence to support an external evaluation of the District's elementary (K-5) math curricula—Harcourt Mathematics and Everyday Mathematics** [Roll Call]
  
2. **Authorization to enter into a contract with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. to conduct an evaluation of the District's Elementary (K-5) math curricula – Harcourt Mathematics and Everyday Mathematics for an amount not to exceed \$79,425 from account line 1300-05H-2813-330.** [Roll Call]

### NEW BUSINESS

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

**PITTSBURGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION #1**

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION: September 19, 2007**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pittsburgh Board of Education approve the acceptance of \$79,425 from The Fund for Excellence to support an external evaluation of the District's elementary (K-5) math curricula —Harcourt Mathematics and Everyday Mathematics. The funding period shall be from September 19, 2007, through December 31, 2007. The purpose of the evaluation is to assist the District in determining which curriculum is best suited to addressing the needs of District students, particularly with regard to closing the racial achievement gap. This evaluation also assists the District in fulfilling the terms of the Conciliation Agreement the District signed on September 27, 2006 with the Advocates for African American Students.

**PITTSBURGH BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION #2**

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION: September 19, 2007**

**RESOLVED**, that the Pittsburgh Board of Education authorize the District's proper officers to execute a contract with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., as the external evaluator to conduct an evaluation of the District's elementary (K-5) math curricula—Harcourt Mathematics and Everyday Mathematics for an amount not to exceed \$79,425 over the time period of September 19, 2007 through December 31, 2007. The principal investigators for Mathematica on this work will be Dr. Brian Gill, Dr. T. Kevin Booker, and Dr. Catherine Awsumb Nelson. This contract will be charged to account line 1300-05H-2813-330, which is funded by a grant award from the Fund for Excellence.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2007  
6:06 P.M.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

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BEFORE:

WILLIAM ISLER, BOARD PRESIDENT  
MARK BRENTLEY  
DANIEL ROMANIELLO, SR.  
THOMAS SUMPTER  
THERESA COLAIZZI  
PATRICK DOWD  
FLOYD McCREA

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MEMBERS ABSENT:

RANDALL TAYLOR  
JEAN FINK

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT	MR. LAWRENCE BERGIE
MR. IRA WEISS	MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS	MS. DEBBIE RESNICK
MR. FRANK G. CHESTER	DR. J. KAYE CUPPLES
MR. HOWARD BULLARD	DR. PAULA PONCELET
MR. CHRIS BERDNIK	MS. LISA FISCHETTI
MR. DERRICK LOPEZ	

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REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER  
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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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 the  
4 September 19, 2007 Pittsburgh Board of Public  
5 Education Special Legislative Meeting to order. Thank  
6 you. We only have two items this evening.

7 Before we begin, I would like Mr. Weiss to  
8 please call the roll.

9 Mr. Weiss?

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

11 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

12 MR. WEISS: Ms. Colaizzi?

13 MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

14 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

15 MR. DOWD: Present.

16 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink is absent.

17 Mr. McCrea?

18 MR. MCCREA: Here.

19 MR. WEISS: Mr. Romaniello?

20 MR. ROMANIELLO: Here.

21 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

22 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

23 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor, absent.

24 Mr. Isler?

25 MR. ISLER: Present.

1 MR. WEISS: Seven members present.

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

3 We have two items for the Committee on  
4 Education. They both are before us. One is the  
5 acceptance of \$79,425 from the Fund for Excellence to  
6 support an external evaluation for the district's  
7 elementary K-5 math curriculum, Harcourt Mathematics,  
8 and Everyday Mathematics.

9 The second is the authorization to enter  
10 into a contract with Mathematica Policy Research to  
11 conduct the evaluation for the district's K-5 math  
12 curriculum, and that cost is the same as the  
13 acceptance of the grant, \$79,425, so these funds are  
14 coming from the foundation community to support the  
15 ongoing work of Excellence for All.

16 Correct, Mr. Roosevelt?

17 MR. ROOSEVELT: Correct.

18 MR. ISLER: Just to deviate, if it's okay  
19 with you, Mr. Sumpter, since these are coming out of  
20 your committee, if there are any questions, we will  
21 take those now or comments?

22 Mr. Brentley?

23 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes, just a question. The  
24 two items here are related?

25 MR. ISLER: Yes, sir.

1           MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. The process used for  
2 identifying the company to provide the evaluation for  
3 the K-5, how did we come about this company, and what  
4 was the process used?

5           MR. ISLER: Dr. Poncelet?

6           DR. PONCELET: Yes. Mathematica is one of  
7 the pre-eminent research organizations in the country,  
8 and they do have considerable credibility and history  
9 in evaluating school programs, especially mathematics  
10 programs. Mr. Brian Gill, who was with Rand in  
11 Pittsburgh, is now associated with Mathematica Policy  
12 Research Organization, and we believe that that  
13 organization will serve us well.

14           MR. BRENTLEY: Is there a reason why we  
15 were unable to either go through our MBE/WBE policy or  
16 put out a request for bids from other companies? How  
17 do we come about this company? They were --

18                   How do we come up with this company?

19           DR. PONCELET: Based on the reputation of  
20 the company.

21           MR. BRENTLEY: There were no requests for  
22 bids or it was not put out for other companies to put  
23 in a bid or --

24           DR. PONCELET: No, it was not put out for  
25 bid.



1                   MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. Mr. President, I will  
2 not be supporting these two items. I'm trying to  
3 encourage our staff, as well as my colleagues that we  
4 included or find a way to open up our process when  
5 giving contracts for foods and services to the  
6 women/minority business community.

7                   To not even to consider them is somewhat of  
8 an insult. We do have quite a few service providers  
9 in the city, probably even nationally had this bid  
10 been put out nationally or at least given other  
11 companies an opportunity. So I will not be supporting  
12 this; and, once again, I'll ask my colleagues to  
13 please keep in mind that we find a way to open this  
14 process when giving contracts out.

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

16                  Mr. Romaniello?

17                  MR. ROMANIELLO: I just have a question.

18                  Can we vote on both of these at the same  
19 time or --

20                  MR. ISLER: Yes, we can. We can take it as  
21 a committee on the whole.

22                  MR. WEISS: It's like a report.

23                  MR. ISLER: It's like the agenda. We're  
24 just role calling.

25                  Any other questions or comments?

1 (No response.)

2 Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we have a  
3 role call vote please on the Committee on Education,  
4 which are the two items that I mentioned earlier.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

6 MR. BRENTLEY: No.

7 MR. WEISS: Ms. Colaizzi?

8 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Dowd?

10 MR. DOWD: Yes.

11 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

12 MR. McCREA: Yes.

13 MR. WEISS: Romaniello?

14 MR. ROMANIELLO: Yes.

15 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

16 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

17 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

18 MR. ISLER: Yes.

19 MR. WEISS: It's approved six to one, with  
20 two absent.

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

22 At this time, there's no other formal  
23 business to come before this legislative meeting.

24 MR. DOWD: Motion to adjourn.

25 MR. ISLER: Can we have a motion to

1 adjourn.

2 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes, so moved.

3 MR. ISLER: Let me be clear here folks  
4 before we go. The only two items we had were in the  
5 purple folder. What else is coming around are some  
6 updated items for Agenda Review, so we don't confuse  
7 the two.

8 Motion to adjourn?

9 MR. DOWD: Moved.

10 MS. COLAIZZI: Moved and second.

11 MR. ISLER: Meeting adjourned.

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13 (Thereupon, at 6:08 p.m., the Special  
14 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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

I, Melissa L. Fenster, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing seven (7) 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, Board Committee Room, on Wednesday, September 19, 2007.

  
Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter

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