

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** December 3, 2007

**Call of the Meeting:** Board Organization

**Members Present:** Mrs. Arnet, Mr. Brentley, Mrs. Colaizzi,  
Mrs. Hazuda, Mr. Isler, Mr. McCrea and  
Mr. Sumpter

**Via Telephone:** Mrs. Fink

**Members Absent:** 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**

**December 3, 2007**

**AGENDA**

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS – *The Honorable Joseph James  
Judge of the Common Pleas  
Court of Allegheny County*

**District 2 – Mrs. Heather Arnet  
District 4 – Mr. William Isler  
District 6 – Mrs. Sherry Hazuda  
District 8 – Mr. Mark Brentley**

**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       | <b>Roll Call</b> |
| 2. Election of Vice Presidents | <b>Roll Call</b> |

<b>Election of Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries and Setting of Bonds</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>
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<b>Election of Acting School Treasurer and and Setting of Bonds</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>
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<b>Election of School Controller and Deputy School Controller and Setting of Bonds</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>
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<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>
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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, Christopher M. Berdnik and Peter J. Camarda be elected Assistant Secretaries of the Board of Public Education in addition to their other duties as Solicitor, Chief Operations Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Director of Budget Development and Management Services 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 ACTING SCHOOL TREASURER  
AND SETTING OF BOND**

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

**ELECTION OF SCHOOL CONTROLLER  
AND DEPUTY SCHOOL CONTROLLER  
AND SETTING OF BONDS**

**RESOLVED**, That Michael Lamb having been elected Controller of the City of Pittsburgh as certified by the Allegheny County Bureau of Elections on November 6, 2007 for a four year term from the first Monday in January 2008 to the first Monday in January 2012, now be elected Controller of the School District of Pittsburgh for the same term and at an annual salary of \$19,700.00, in accordance with the provisions of the Public School code of 1949 as amended.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, That Ronald Schmeiser be appointed Deputy School Controller for the same term as the School Controller set forth above.

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, That statutory faithful performance bonds of \$25,000 for the School Controller and \$10,000 for the Deputy School Controller respectively be furnished by recognized bonding companies at the cost of the School District.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
ORGANIZATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007  
6:08 P.M.  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD ROOM

- - -

BEFORE:

WILLIAM ISLER, BOARD PRESIDENT  
THERESA COLAIZZI, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
THOMAS SUMPTER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
HEATHER ARNET  
MARK BRENTLEY  
JEAN FINK  
SHERRY HAZUDA  
FLOYD McCREA

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MEMBERS ABSENT:

RANDALL TAYLOR

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT	DR. LINDA LANE
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET	MR. LAWRENCE BERGIE
MR. IRA WEISS	MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MR. RICHARD R. FELLERS	MS. LYNN TURNQUIST
MR. DWIGHT LAUFMAN	DR. DERRICK LOPEZ
MR. FRANK G. CHESTER	MS. LISA FISCHETTI
DR. BARBARA RUDIAK	MR. HOWARD BULLARD
DR. J. KAYE CUPPLES	DR. CHRISTIANNA OTUWA
MR. CHRIS BERDNIK	

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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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ORIGINAL

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

2 MR. WEISS: Good evening. This is the  
3 organization meeting of the Board of school directors  
4 of the Pittsburgh School District.

5 It's a required meeting under the School  
6 Code, and it is an important evening, and newly  
7 elected Board members and reelected members are sworn  
8 in.

9 We are fortunate to have the Honorable  
10 Judge James, who is the President Judge of the Court  
11 of Common Pleas, and I am proud to say a friend of  
12 mine for over 40 years.

13 Judge James is no stranger to the  
14 District. As he will tell you, he has raised a  
15 family, and all of his children are graduates of the  
16 city schools.

17 So with that, Judge James.

18 HON. JAMES: Thank you, Ira.

19 Looking at the two of us, you wouldn't  
20 believe that we first met each other in a gym class, a  
21 phys. ed. class.

22 (Laughter.)

23 HON. JAMES: And we bonded immediately,  
24 since neither one of us were very good athletes.

25 Thank you.

1 I first of all would like to thank the  
2 Board, and thank Ira, and Bill Isler for inviting me.

3 I often, I have been here a number of  
4 times, and I am the proud father of three graduates of  
5 Pittsburgh Public Schools.

6 My wife and I still live in the city, even  
7 though the three boys have gone on, and moved  
8 away from us.

9 However, I have invested in the Pittsburgh  
10 Board, and Pittsburgh Schools, and I think that it is  
11 the cornerstone, and the backbone of our community.

12 And those of you who are being sworn in  
13 and, the rest of you, should know I was just retained,  
14 and campaigned this past fall, judges are retained  
15 every ten years, and I traveled throughout Allegheny  
16 County, and you should know that the community, the  
17 community not just the City of Pittsburgh, the  
18 community of Western Pennsylvania, is watching what  
19 you do here on a weekly basis.

20 And that we firmly believe that the  
21 strength of our community, and our ability to rebound  
22 economically, and to compete in the economic world,  
23 takes place right here, in what you do here.

24 You have our assets. You have our young  
25 people. And you are training them, and educating



1 them.

2                   We are watching as you struggle; the  
3 difficulties, the problems of economics, the problems  
4 of changing the way you deliver education.

5                   And we watch and hope that your discourse  
6 is civil, that your decisions are judicious, and  
7 listen to what goes on, and you reorganize this  
8 District to continue to produce the wonderful students  
9 that I have had the opportunity to meet.

10                   Every year I visit your seniors, I go to  
11 every high school, from CAPA to the Alternative  
12 Education Center, and I speak to the seniors, and  
13 register them all to vote, self-serving, that makes  
14 them jurors in my jury pool, and I get to talk to  
15 these wonderful young men and women.

16                   And you have wonderful assets.

17                   So as you continue to -- and it is a  
18 difficult challenge.

19                   I read about it every day, and I am  
20 intently interested in how you deal with these really  
21 hard problems.

22                   So I hope that the discourse is civil, the  
23 decisions are judicious, and that you follow this  
24 trail, and continue to provide quality education.

25                   Because we need good students, we need

1 bright young people, so that we can attract the jobs,  
2 so that maybe my children don't live in Washington,  
3 DC, and Colorado, and come back here and find jobs.

4                   So keep up the good work, and remember, the  
5 whole community is watching you and, quite frankly,  
6 counting on you.

7                   So with that, I will get off my soapbox,  
8 and swear these good people in.

9                   If you will please step forward.

10                   Raise your right hands.

11                   (School Board Directors sworn in.)

12                   HON. JAMES: Congratulations to all of you.

13                   (Applause.)

14                   MR. ISLER: Good evening, ladies and  
15 gentlemen, I would like to call the December 3rd, 2007  
16 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education reorganization  
17 meeting to order.

18                   Mr. Weiss, could we please have a roll  
19 call.

20                   MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

21                   MS. ARNET: Present.

22                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

23                   MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

24                   MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

25                   MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

2 MS. FINK: Here.

3 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

4 MS. HAZUDA: Here.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

6 MR. ISLER: Present.

7 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

8 MR. MCCREA: Here.

9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

10 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

12 There are eight members present.

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

14 We would like to welcome the two new Board  
15 members, Heather Arnet and Sherry Hazuda.

16 At this time, we need to elect a temporary  
17 president of the Board so that we can proceed with the  
18 election.

19 I would like to entertain a motion for  
20 temporary president of the Board.

21 Mrs. Colaizzi.

22 MS. COLAIZZI: I would like to nominate  
23 Mr. McCrea, please.

24 MR. ISLER: Mr. McCrea has been nominated.

25 Are there any other nominations?

1                   Hearing none, we will consider them closed.

2                   Mr. Weiss, could we have a roll call please  
3 on the nomination for Mr. McCrea to serve as the  
4 temporary president.

5                   MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

6                   MS. ARNET: I agree.

7                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

8                   MS. ARNET: Yes.

9                   MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

10                  MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

11                  MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

12                  MS. FINK: Yes.

13                  MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

14                  MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

15                  MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

16                  MR. ISLER: Yes.

17                  MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

18                  MR. MCCREA: Yes.

19                  MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

20                  MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

21                  MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea should assume the  
22 chair.

23                  MR. ISLER: Thank you.

24                  (Applause.)

25                  MR. ISLER: Thank you.

1 MR. McCREA: Thank you.

2 At this time I would like to call for  
3 nominations for president.

4 Mrs. Colaizzi.

5 MS. COLAIZZI: I would like to nominate  
6 Mr. Isler.

7 MR. WEISS: There is no second.

8 MR. McCREA: There is no second necessary.  
9 Are there any other nominations?

10 Then we will close the nominations and,  
11 Mr. Weiss, may we have a roll call vote, please.

12 MR. BRENTLEY: Question, point of  
13 clarification, Mr. Weiss, is it appropriate at all to  
14 share comments prior to our vote?

15 MR. WEISS: If you would like to make a  
16 comment, you can.

17 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes, I would, Mr. Chair, if  
18 that's okay.

19 MR. McCREA: Go ahead, Mr. Brentley.

20 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

21 I just want to take a second to explain my  
22 vote with our president, who will be reelected, I'm  
23 sure.

24 I have shared my concerns, over the years,  
25 about the speed of the District, how we are moving,

1 how we are locking out, and leaving hundreds, possibly  
2 thousands of students, and allowing our administration  
3 to move forward on quite a few initiatives, with no  
4 accountability.

5           Mr. Acting President, and Mr. Isler, I will  
6 be not supporting your candidacy, sir, because I  
7 believe we are still moving so, so fast.

8           It's painful. We are hurting a lot of  
9 people, and I'm still asking, begging in some cases,  
10 that we slow the process down, and allow everyone to  
11 have access to fair quality education.

12           So I just want to take a second to explain  
13 my vote.

14           Thank you, so much, Mr. President, thank  
15 you, Mr. Weiss.

16           MR. McCREA: Thank you, for your opinion.

17           Are there any other comments?

18           Very well, Mr. Weiss.

19           MR. WEISS: We will call the roll and just  
20 indicate a vote yes is for Mr. Isler, and no is  
21 negative.

22           Mrs. Arnet?

23           MS. ARNET: Yes.

24           MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

25           MR. BRENTLEY: No.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.  
2 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.  
3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Fink?  
4 MS. FINK: Yes.  
5 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?  
6 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.  
7 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?  
8 MR. ISLER: Yes.  
9 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?  
10 MR. McCREA: Yes.  
11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?  
12 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.  
13 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler is elected  
14 president.  
15 MR. McCREA: He gets the seat again.  
16 MR. ISLER: I would like to thank my fellow  
17 Board members.  
18 We will proceed with the meeting.  
19 We have the election of the first vice  
20 president and the second vice president.  
21 We will begin with the first vice  
22 president.  
23 Is there a nomination from the floor, for  
24 first vice president?  
25 Mr. McCrea.

1 MR. McCREA: I would like to nominate  
2 Mrs. Colaizzi.

3 MR. ISLER: Mrs. Colaizzi has been  
4 nominated for first vice president.

5 Are there any other nominations coming  
6 before the Board at this time?

7 Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we have a  
8 roll call vote, please.

9 MR. WEISS: And a yes vote will be for  
10 Mrs. Colaizzi, a no vote will be against it.

11 Mrs. Arnet?

12 MS. ARNET: Yes.

13 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

14 MR. BRENTLEY: No.

15 MR. WEISS: Mr. Colaizzi?

16 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

17 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

18 MS. FINK: Yes.

19 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

20 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

21 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

22 MR. ISLER: Yes.

23 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

24 MR. McCREA: Yes.

25 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?



1 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi is elected first  
3 vice president.

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

5 Congratulations, Mrs. Colaizzi.

6 We will now proceed to the election of the  
7 second vice president.

8 Is there a nomination?

9 Mrs. Arnet.

10 MS. ARNET: I would like to nominate  
11 Mr. Sumpter.

12 MR. ISLER: Mr. Sumpter has been nominated  
13 for second vice president.

14 Any other nominations from the floor?

15 Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we please  
16 have a roll call vote.

17 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

18 MS. ARNET: Yes.

19 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

20 MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

21 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

22 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

23 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

24 MS. FINK: Yes.

25 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

1 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

3 MR. ISLER: Yes.

4 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

5 MR. McCREA: Yes.

6 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

7 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster has been elected  
9 second vice president.

10 MR. ISLER: Congratulations, Mr. Sumpster.

11 We will proceed with the election of  
12 secretaries, assistant secretaries and the setting of  
13 bonds.

14 We have a resolution that is on your second  
15 page, that I will read into the record. And then we  
16 will have a roll call vote.

17 (Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

18 MR. ISLER: Are there any questions  
19 concerning this resolution?

20 We move to accept?

21 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

22 MR. McCREA: Second.

23 MR. ISLER: Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll  
24 call vote, please.

25 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

1 MS. ARNET: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

3 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

4 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

5 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

6 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

7 MS. FINK: Yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

9 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

11 MR. ISLER: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

13 MR. MCCREA: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

15 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

16 MR. WEISS: The election is approved.

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

18 We have another resolution for the election

19 of school controller and deputy school controller and

20 the setting of bonds.

21 Again, I will read the resolution into the

22 record.

23 I believe I missed one, Mr. Weiss.

24 Yes, sir, it is the treasurer first.

25 The election of the acting school treasurer

1 and the setting of bond.

2 (Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

3 MR. ISLER: Do we have a motion to accept?

4 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

5 MR. ISLER: And a second?

6 MR. McCREA: Second.

7 MR. ISLER: It has been moved and  
8 seconded.

9 Is there any questions or concerns about  
10 this?

11 Mr. Brentley.

12 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

13 Just point of clarification.

14 Mr. Weiss, this is a little different from  
15 what we normally vote on; can you explain that?

16 MR. WEISS: Well, Margaret Lanier is the  
17 acting treasurer, the city has not appointed a  
18 permanent treasurer yet, when it does do that we will  
19 have to have subsequent action to appoint that person.

20 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. Now, this on --

21 MR. WEISS: This proceeds with the prior  
22 treasurer, he retired.

23 MR. BRENTLEY: So this is that place.

24 MR. WEISS: yes.

25 MR. BRENTLEY: Thank you, very much.

1 MR. ISLER: Any other questions?

2 Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, could we have a  
3 roll call vote, please.

4 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

5 MS. ARNET: Yes.

6 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

7 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

9 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

11 MS. FINK: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

13 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

15 MR. ISLER: Yes?

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

17 MR. MCCREA: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

19 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: The election is approved.

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

22 We will move to the election of school  
23 controller and deputy school controller and setting of  
24 bonds.

25 (Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

1 MR. ISLER: Do we have a motion to  
2 approve?

3 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

4 MR. McCREA: Second.

5 MR. ISLER: It has been moved and seconded.  
6 Is there any questions concerning this  
7 resolution?

8 Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll  
9 call vote, please.

10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

11 MS. ARNET: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

13 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

15 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

16 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

17 MS. FINK: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

19 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

21 MR. ISLER: Yes.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

23 MR. McCREA: Yes.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

25 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: The motion is approved.

2 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

3 Mr. Weiss, at this point I think all of the  
4 formal business of the Board is completed, sir?

5 MR. WEISS: The call of the meeting was  
6 organization, that has been completed.

7 MR. ISLER: Is there any business?

8 Mrs. Fink, we wish you a healthy recovery.

9 MS. FINK: Thank you.

10 MR. ISLER: Look forward to seeing you back  
11 here at the table.

12 If there is no other business at this time,  
13 motion to adjourn.

14 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

15 MR. ISLER: Second?

16 MR. McCREA: Second.

17 MR. ISLER: Thank you, ladies and  
18 gentlemen.

19 (Applause.)

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21 (Thereupon, at 6:25 p.m., the Legislative  
22 Meeting was concluded.)

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

I, Eugene C. Forcier, the undersigned, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing eighteen (18) pages are a  
true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes  
taken of the Organization Meeting held in the  
Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration  
Building, Board Room, on Monday, December 3, 2007.



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Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter

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