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.
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
2. Election of Vice Presidents

Election of Secretaries and Assistant
Secretaries and Setting of Bonds

Election of Acting School Treasurer and
and Setting of Bonds

Election of School Controller
and Deputy School Controller
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, 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.
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.
MR. WEISS: Good evening. This is the organization meeting of the Board of school directors of the Pittsburgh School District.

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

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

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

So with that, Judge James.

HON. JAMES: Thank you, Ira.

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

(Laughter.)

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

Thank you.
I first of all would like to thank the Board, and thank Ira, and Bill Isler for inviting me. I often, I have been here a number of times, and I am the proud father of three graduates of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

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

However, I have invested in the Pittsburgh Board, and Pittsburgh Schools, and I think that it is the cornerstone, and the backbone of our community. And those of you who are being sworn in and, the rest of you, should know I was just retained, and campaigned this past fall, judges are retained every ten years, and I traveled throughout Allegheny County, and you should know that the community, the community not just the City of Pittsburgh, the community of Western Pennsylvania, is watching what you do here on a weekly basis.

And that we firmly believe that the strength of our community, and our ability to rebound economically, and to compete in the economic world, takes place right here, in what you do here. You have our assets. You have our young people. And you are training them, and educating
them.

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

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

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

And you have wonderful assets.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you will please step forward.

Raise your right hands.

(School Board Directors sworn in.)

HON. JAMES: Congratulations to all of you.

(Applause.)

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

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

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?
MS. FINK: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?
MS. HAZUDA: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?
MR. ISLER: Present.
MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?
MR. McCREA: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?
MR. SUMPTER: Present.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

There are eight members present.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

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

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

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

Mrs. Colaizzi.

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

MR. ISLER: Mr. McCrea has been nominated.
Are there any other nominations?
Hearing none, we will consider them closed.

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

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?
MS. ARNET: I agree.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?
MS. ARNET: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?
MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?
MS. FINK: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?
MS. HAZUDA: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?
MR. ISLER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?
MR. MCCREA: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?
MR. SUMPTER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea should assume the chair.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. ISLER: Thank you.
MR. McCREA: Thank you.

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

Mrs. Colaizzi.

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

MR. WEISS: There is no second.

MR. McCREA: There is no second necessary.

Are there any other nominations?

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

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

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

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

MR. McCREA: Go ahead, Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

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

I have shared my concerns, over the years,
about the speed of the District, how we are moving,
how we are locking out, and leaving hundreds, possibly
thousands of students, and allowing our administration
to move forward on quite a few initiatives, with no
accountability.

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

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

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

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

MR. McCREA: Thank you, for your opinion.
Are there any other comments?
Very well, Mr. Weiss.

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

Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: No.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler is elected president.

MR. McCREA: He gets the seat again.

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

We will proceed with the meeting.

We have the election of the first vice president and the second vice president.

We will begin with the first vice president.

Is there a nomination from the floor, for first vice president?

Mr. McCrea.
MR. McCREA: I would like to nominate Mrs. Colaizzi.

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: No.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

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

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

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss. Congratulations, Mrs. Colaizzi.

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

Is there a nomination?

Mrs. Arnet.

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

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

Any other nominations from the floor?

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

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?
Mr. Isler?

Mr. McCrea?

Mr. Sumpter?

Mr. Sumpter has been elected second vice president.

Mr. Isler: Congratulations, Mr. Sumpter.

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

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

(Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

Mr. Isler: Are there any questions concerning this resolution?

We move to accept?

Ms. Colaizzi: So move.

Mr. McCrea: Second.

Mr. Isler: Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll call vote, please.

Mr. Weiss: Mrs. Arnet?
MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: The election is approved.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

We have another resolution for the election of school controller and deputy school controller and the setting of bonds.

Again, I will read the resolution into the record.

I believe I missed one, Mr. Weiss.

Yes, sir, it is the treasurer first.

The election of the acting school treasurer
and the setting of bond.

(Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)

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

MS. COLAIIZZI: So move.

MR. ISLER: And a second?

MR. McCREA: Second.

MR. ISLER: It has been moved and seconded.

Is there any questions or concerns about this?

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

Just point of clarification.

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

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

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

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

MR. BRENTLEY: So this is that place.

MR. WEISS: yes.

MR. BRENTLEY: Thank you, very much.
MR. ISLER: Any other questions?

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

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRETLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes?

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. MCCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: The election is approved.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

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

(Mr. Isler read from prepared material.)
MR. ISLER: Do we have a motion to approve?

MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

MR. McCREA: Second.

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

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

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

MS. ARNET: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: The motion is approved.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

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

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

MR. ISLER: Is there any business?

Mrs. Fink, we wish you a healthy recovery.

MS. FINK: Thank you.

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

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

MS. COLAIIZZI: So move.

MR. ISLER: Second?

MR. McCREA: Second.

MR. ISLER: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

(Appause.)

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

Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter