

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** December 1, 2008

**Call of the Meeting:** Election of Officers

**Members Present:** Heather Arnet, Mark Brentley, Theresa Colaizzi,  
Jean Fink, Sherry Hazuda, William Isler, Floyd  
McCrea, Thomas Sumpter, and Randall Taylor

**Via Phone:**

**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 1, 2008**

**AGENDA**

**ROLL CALL**

**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 School Treasurer and 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, Paul F. Gill, 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 SCHOOL TREASURER AND  
DEPUTY SCHOOL TREASURER  
AND SETTING OF BOND**

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2008  
7:35 P.M.  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD ROOM

- - -

BEFORE:

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

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ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT                    DR. LINDA LANE  
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET                MR. LAWRENCE BERGIE  
MR. IRA WEISS                         MR. PETER J. CAMARDA  
MR. PAUL GILL                         MR. DERRICK LOPEZ  
MS. LISA FISCHETTI                    DR. JERRI LIPPERT  
DR. BARBARA RUDIAK                    DR. JEANNINE FRENCH  
MS. CAROL BARONE-MARTIN

- - -

REPORTED BY: EUGENE C. FORCIER  
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

- - -

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PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
412-281-0189

- - -

 ORIGINAL

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 September 1st,  
4 2008 Pittsburgh Board of Education meeting to order.

5 Would you all please rise, so that we may  
6 salute the flag.

7 (Salute to the flag.)

8 MR. ISLER: This evening is the annual  
9 Board election of officers, and any other business  
10 that is to be brought before the Board this evening.

11 The first order of business is that we have  
12 to elect a temporary president and a temporary  
13 secretary.

14 Is there a motion on the floor for the  
15 temporary president?

16 Oh, I'm sorry, Mr. Weiss, you want to call  
17 the roll first.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

19 MS. ARNET: Present.

20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

21 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

22 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

23 MS. COLAIZZI: Here.

24 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

25 MS FINK: Here.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda.  
2 MS. HAZUDA: Here.  
3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?  
4 MR. ISLER: Present.  
5 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?  
6 MR. McCREA: Here.  
7 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?  
8 MR. SUMPTER: Present.  
9 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?  
10 MR TAYLOR: Here.  
11 MR. WEISS: All members present.  
12 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.  
13 We will go now to the temporary  
14 reorganization for the election of the temporary  
15 president.  
16 Is there a motion for a temporary  
17 president?  
18 Mrs. Colaizzi.  
19 MS. COLAIZZI: Mr. McCrea.  
20 MR. ISLER: Mr. McCrea has been nominated  
21 to be temporary president.  
22 Is there a second?  
23 MR. TAYLOR: Second.  
24 MR. ISLER: It has been moved and seconded.  
25 Are there any other nominations?

1           Hearing none, all in favor, please signify  
2 by saying aye.

3           (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

4           MR. ISLER: Opposed?

5           (No response.)

6           MR. ISLER: Mr. McCrea, if you would come  
7 up and take the seat, you can run the election for the  
8 temporary secretary.

9           MR. McCREA: Thank you.

10          We just do roll call vote, for temporary --  
11 make nominations for temporary secretary, or --

12          MR. ISLER: Yes.

13          MR. WEISS: Nominations.

14          MR. ISLER: Okay. I just wanted to make  
15 sure.

16          I will ask for nominations for temporary  
17 secretary, then.

18          MR. SUMPTER: I move that Ira Weiss be  
19 nominated as temporary secretary.

20          MR. ISLER: Second.

21          MR. McCREA: Any other nominations?

22          Hearing none, we will just -- Mr. Weiss, we  
23 do a vote?

24          MR. WEISS: All those in favor?

25          (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)



1           MR. WEISS: You need to ask for nominations  
2 for president.

3           MR. McCREA: All right. At this point we  
4 would like to ask for nomination for president.

5           Mrs. Hazuda. Sorry.

6           MS. ARNET: That's all right.

7           MR. McCREA: Mrs. Arnet.

8           MS. ARNET: I could like to nominate  
9 Mrs. Colaizzi.

10          MR. WEISS: There is no second needed.

11          MR. McCREA: We don't need a second?

12          MR. WEISS: You don't need one.

13          MR. McCREA: Are there any other  
14 nominations?

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

17          MR. WEISS: Just move the nomination be  
18 closed.

19          MR. McCREA: Oh, we vote for -- the  
20 nomination closed then.

21          All right.

22          MR. BRENTLEY: Mr. Weiss, is it appropriate  
23 to make some comments, before we vote?

24          MR. WEISS: I can't hear you.

25          MR. ISLER: Make any comments.

1 MR. BRENTLEY: Make comments before the  
2 vote.

3 MR. WEISS: We should close nominations.  
4 Is there a motion to close nominations?

5 MS. ARNET: Yes.

6 MR. ISLER: So move.

7 MR. SUMPTER: Second.

8 MR. McCREA: So moved and seconded.

9 All right. At this point we will close  
10 nominations by a voice vote?

11 MR. WEISS: Yes.

12 MR. McCREA: All those in favor, aye.

13 (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

14 MR. McCREA: Okay.

15 At this point, Mr. Brentley, you are  
16 recognized.

17 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

18 I just want to make some comments, and that  
19 is, with the incoming new leadership here of the  
20 Board, I will ask again that we would strongly  
21 consider shifting the Board's focus from  
22 Mark Roosevelt to the students.

23 We still have a lot of students who have  
24 been left out of some of the initiatives.

25 I have mentioned from time and time again,

1 of some examples of schools there in the Hill  
2 District, you have entire communities, through the  
3 right sizing programs, that I believe we have  
4 victimized, and I am asking for those parents, who  
5 have -- who are screaming out for help, that we slow  
6 this process down, that we take the focus off of  
7 Mark Roosevelt, and put the focus on the children, on  
8 the schools, and on the parents who love this  
9 District, who want to be a part of this District.

10                 Secondly, I want to ask again, to the new  
11 leadership, that we consider equity.

12                 As you know, for the last three years, four  
13 years, the previous administration, if you were from  
14 certain communities, you pretty much got whatever you  
15 wanted, and if you disagreed with this administration,  
16 you didn't. Your community did not receive it.

17                 Examples again I shared, right there in the  
18 Hill District, the experiment that's taking place  
19 there, one example is the Milliones School, handful of  
20 students, capacity of 900 students, what kind of  
21 experience is that for our students.

22                 But nevertheless, there are other schools,  
23 other buildings, Colfax, we use as an example,  
24 beautiful addition, beautiful school, great things  
25 added in that school, and to that community.

1           And I believe that we should be spending  
2 dollars based upon the need, not necessarily of this  
3 political might of a particular representative, or  
4 because he or she may have the support of the  
5 majority.

6           There are a lot of students in a lot of  
7 communities who need, and I am asking of this new  
8 leadership again, consider the importance of equity.

9           Another example of the equity, a perfect  
10 example is in the East End community, we are still  
11 just hitting and missing in that community, and for  
12 those middle school students, there are some schools  
13 don't have an opportunity to have a swimming pool, and  
14 that's outrageous for a great School District like  
15 Pittsburgh here.

16           And then finally, I am asking, and begging  
17 again, that we slow this entire process down. Slow it  
18 down.

19           Yes, I know what's printed in the paper is  
20 one thing, but what really happens in the schools is  
21 something different, and so I'm asking that this new  
22 leadership would please slow this process down, allow  
23 all stakeholders to be a part.

24           And then most important thing, too, is to  
25 keep in mind that while some of us may not be totally

1 happy about the direction of this administration,  
2 nevertheless we are elected officials, we have a  
3 voice, and I would hope under the new leadership that  
4 we would never, ever re-visit an attempt to censor, or  
5 just to silence a Board member, either in writing,  
6 through a policy, or even as was happening in a  
7 meeting last year, where actually the microphone was  
8 turned off.

9           In other words, to tell that Board member  
10 that he or she no longer has a voice for that  
11 community.

12           That is not the democratic way.

13           And that is simply trying to take away the  
14 responsibilities of that particular elected official.

15           So I am asking under the new leadership if  
16 they would consider those things, start off on a good  
17 foot, and please allow everyone to be considered equal  
18 here at this table.

19           Thank you.

20           MR. McCREA: Thank you.

21           Any over comments?

22           Mrs. Taylor.

23           MR TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr. McCrea.

24           I just wanted to be able to state publicly,  
25 that I won't be supporting any of the candidates,

1 I will be abstaining for the vice president, I have no  
2 idea who is running for the vice president positions,  
3 and no one has asked for my support, and I think that  
4 if no one had asked for my support, I think that's  
5 legitimate that I don't give support to someone who  
6 didn't ask for it.

7 I had a conversation with Mrs. Colaizzi  
8 about a week ago, and I had expressed my interest to  
9 talk more in-depth about her priorities, and where she  
10 hoped to lead the Board in the future, and maybe with  
11 elections, and the like, we were not able to have that  
12 further in-depth discussion.

13 But I look forward to having that.

14 I share some of the concerns that  
15 Mr. Brentley has raised, and I would just hope that  
16 the new leadership of the Board will particularly look  
17 very seriously at the equity questions that I  
18 passionately want to see resolved, and particularly in  
19 the community that I represent, in the East End, where  
20 we have middle school age children in elementary  
21 school buildings.

22 We have talked about that over and over  
23 again, about the lack of adequate lunches that these  
24 students, 13 and 14-year olds, who have to eat  
25 elementary school box lunches, and also the lack of

1 gymnasiums, swimming pools, as Mr. Brentley said, and  
2 even a basic playground for 13 and sometimes 14-year  
3 olds to run around in.

4 I think that that's an issue that needs to  
5 be addressed in the East End.

6 Also in the Hill District, we have the same  
7 situations. In some instances, we have students that  
8 have to be bused to gymnasium facilities, so that they  
9 can participant in the extracurricular activities that  
10 other schools and other children take for granted.

11 So I would hope though those particular --  
12 there are other issues, but I would hope that those  
13 particular issues are looked at by the new leadership  
14 of this Board.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. McCREA: Any other comment?

17 Mrs. Arnet.

18 MS. ARNET: Thank you.

19 To my colleagues, and as a parent of a  
20 student in the District, I fully acknowledge that we  
21 have many more challenges and opportunities ahead of  
22 us, until we fully realize Excellence for All.

23 But I did want to use this opportunity to  
24 thank Mr. Isler for his years of service.

25 As we are voting for a transition, a new

1 leadership, I want to thank and acknowledge the leader  
2 that we have had, and remind us all of what has  
3 happened under his tenure and this Board's tenure  
4 under that leadership, over the last several years.

5           As mostly a citizen of this community, and  
6 a non School Board member, I was proud to watch our  
7 District regain the confidence of the community, watch  
8 as foundations and government reinvested in our  
9 students, and in our District, to see the idea, the  
10 concept, and then the realization of the Pittsburgh  
11 Promise, which will allow children to go to college  
12 whose parents never had that dream, the new CAPA  
13 building, the securing of a new Superintendent,  
14 financial restabing for the District, and the  
15 balancing and reduction of our deficit, consistent  
16 curriculum development, and professional development  
17 for teachers and principals.

18           There is so much good work that has been  
19 accomplished over these last several years, and it  
20 certainly has been a collective effort of everyone at  
21 this Board table, most especially usually not  
22 including me, since I am a new member at this table,  
23 but all of you, the Superintendent, all of the staff,  
24 and our now former President Isler.

25           So thank you, Mr. Isler, for your time, and



1 I will be proud to continue as a colleague with you,  
2 and I welcome our new leadership, and want to  
3 acknowledge Mrs. Colaizzi's work, especially in  
4 negotiations, and she has put a lot of time and  
5 resources, and love and energy into this District, and  
6 I look forward to seeing how her Board leadership will  
7 be coming in the future.

8           So thank you, both.

9           MR. McCREA: Thank you.

10          Any -- Mr. Sumpter.

11          MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mr. McCrea.

12                 This will be the -- my third anniversary as  
13 being on the Board, the completion of my third year,  
14 and when I came to the Board there is two things to  
15 really keep in mind, one is the achievement of the  
16 students, and the other is governance of this Board.

17                 And, in regard to that, the first year  
18 being on the Board, we were able to understand and  
19 establish goals for the Board, collective goals that  
20 we all agreed upon; the majority of the Board agreed  
21 upon.

22                 Also, having core beliefs and commitment  
23 statements developed for the Board.

24                 If you review the commitment statements,  
25 and the core beliefs that we have established, you

1 will find that there are areas of academic  
2 achievement, safety, equity, support and encouraging  
3 increased community, public, family engagement with  
4 the District.

5           This forms the basis upon which all of our  
6 decisions should be made, so that we don't run into a  
7 situation where it's one Board member winning out over  
8 others, based on where they are located, or the  
9 communities they serve, or whatever; that we, as a  
10 collective Board, govern in a sensible manner, such  
11 that the concerns that are raised by Board members  
12 around this table will be realized and addressed,  
13 because we do have a framework in which to address  
14 that.

15           So I would encourage each of the Board  
16 members, and all of the staff, and people throughout  
17 the District, to really look at what we proposed as  
18 our goals, what we have adopted, what our core beliefs  
19 are, and what our commitment statements are, and the  
20 test of this Board will be how accountable, and how  
21 true we stay to those statements, and govern all of  
22 our decisions within that context.

23           MR. McCREA: Thank you.

24           Any other comments?

25           I want to echo Mrs. Arnet's comment about

1 thanking Mr. Isler, I think job well done.

2                   It is scary sitting at this end of the  
3 table.

4                   At this point, roll call vote for the  
5 president.

6                   Thank you.

7                   MR. WEISS: This is the vote for  
8 Mrs. Colaizzi. Just indicate her name.

9                   Mrs. Arnet?

10                  MS. ARNET: Yes.

11                  MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

12                  MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

13                  MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

14                  MS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Colaizzi.

15                  MR. WEISS: Yes. Mrs. Colaizzi. Okay.

16                  Mrs. Fink?

17                  MS. FINK: Mrs. Colaizzi.

18                  MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

19                  MS. HAZUDA: Abstain.

20                  MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

21                  MR. ISLER: Mrs. Colaizzi.

22                  MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

23                  MR. MCCREA: Mrs. Colaizzi.

24                  MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

25                  MR. SUMPTER: Mrs. Colaizzi.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

2 MR TAYLOR: Abstain.

3 MR. WEISS: That's six for Mrs. Colaizzi,  
4 three abstentions, Mrs. Colaizzi is elected.

5 MR. McCREA: Thank you.

6 And congratulations to Mrs. Colaizzi.

7 At this point we will take nominations for  
8 the first vice president.

9 Mrs. Hazuda.

10 MS. HAZUDA: I would like to nominate  
11 Tom Sumpter.

12 MR. McCREA: Thank you. We don't need a  
13 second.

14 Is there any other nominations?

15 I like it that way.

16 Any -- well, we have to close nominations  
17 for first vice president then.

18 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.

19 MR. ISLER: So move.

20 MR. McCREA: By voice vote, all those in  
21 favor say aye.

22 (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

23 MR. McCREA: All right. At this point, any  
24 comments?

25 Mr. Brentley.

1 MR. BRENTLEY: No, I'm sorry, this is the  
2 vote now?

3 MR. McCREA: We are getting ready for the  
4 roll call vote for the first vice president.

5 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

6 MS. ARNET: Yes, Mr. Sumpter.

7 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

8 MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

9 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

10 MS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Sumpter.

11 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

12 MS FINK: Mr. Sumpter.

13 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

14 MS. HAZUDA: Mr. Sumpter.

15 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

16 MR. ISLER: Mr. Sumpter.

17 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

18 MR. McCREA: Mr. Sumpter.

19 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

20 MR TAYLOR: Abstain.

21 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

22 MR. SUMPTER: Mr. Sumpter.

23 MR. WEISS: The order is different. I am  
24 easily confused.

25 Mr. Sumpter is elected, 6-3.

1           MR. McCREA: Thank you, and congratulations  
2 to Mr. Sumpster.

3           MS. ARNET: 7-2, actually.

4           MR. McCREA: 7-2, yes.

5           MR. WEISS: Yes. I'm sorry, you are right.

6           MR. McCREA: At this point, we will take  
7 nominations for second vice president.

8           MS FINK: I would like to nominate  
9 Mr. Isler.

10          MR. McCREA: Mrs. Fink nominated  
11 Mr. Isler.

12          MS. HAZUDA: Second.

13          MR. ISLER: We didn't need a second.

14          Are there any other nominations?

15          I will close nominations by a voice vote.

16          All those in favor, say aye.

17          (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

18          MR. McCREA: Thank you.

19          Now, any comments?

20          And now we will have a roll call vote for  
21 second vice president.

22          MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?

23          MS. ARNET: Mr. Isler.

24          MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

25          MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

1 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?  
2 MS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Isler.  
3 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?  
4 MS. FINK: Mr. Isler.  
5 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?  
6 MS. HAZUDA: Mr. Isler?  
7 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?  
8 MR. ISLER: Mr. Isler.  
9 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?  
10 MR. MCCREA: Mr. Isler.  
11 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?  
12 MR. SUMPTER: Mr. Isler.  
13 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?  
14 MR. TAYLOR: Abstain.  
15 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler is elected, 7 to 2.  
16 At this point do we do the secretary, or do  
17 you -- all right. I have to do it.  
18 All right.  
19 We need to elect the secretary for the  
20 District, and that would be Mr. Roosevelt.  
21 Do we nominate him, or --  
22 MR. WEISS: Well, the Superintendent is  
23 statutorily the secretary. There is a resolution in  
24 your packet, which also appoints various assistants  
25 for the purposes of document signing, and so forth, so

1 the -- the motion would be to approve the election of  
2 the secretary and assistant secretaries.

3 MR. ISLER: Mr. McCrea, can you read it for  
4 us.

5 MR. McCREA: Okay.

6 The motion then is:

7 (Mr. McCrea read from prepared material.)

8 MR. McCREA: That being the resolution, is  
9 there a motion to accept?

10 MR. ISLER: So move.

11 MS. COLAIZZI: Second

12 MR. ISLER: Motion to -- we now do a roll  
13 call vote, or --

14 MR. WEISS: Yes, roll call vote.

15 MR. McCREA: Roll call vote.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

17 MR. McCREA: Mrs. Arnet.

18 MR. WEISS: Well, it wasn't here. I'm  
19 sorry.

20 MS. ARNET: That's okay.

21 Yes.

22 MR. WEISS: I will write it in here.

23 Mr. Brentley?

24 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

25 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?



1 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

3 MS FINK: Yes.

4 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

5 MR. ISLER: Yes.

6 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

7 MR. McCREA: Yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

9 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

11 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

13 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: My office gave me an old roll

15 sheet, from prior boards, so I'm --

16 MR. ISLER: Always something else, isn't

17 there.

18 MR. WEISS: That's right, it was my fault

19 for not reading it first.

20 The motion is carried.

21 MR. McCREA: Thank you.

22 At this point I will read the motion for

23 the election of the school treasurer, and deputy

24 school treasurer, and setting the bond.

25 (Mr. McCrea read from prepared material.)

1 MR. McCREA: Is there a motion to approve?  
2 MS. COLAIZZI: So move.  
3 MR. ISLER: Second.  
4 MR. McCREA: It is moved and seconded.  
5 Roll call rote.  
6 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Arnet?  
7 MS. ARNET: Yes.  
8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?  
9 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.  
10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Colaizzi?  
11 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.  
12 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?  
13 MS FINK: Yes.  
14 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda.  
15 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.  
16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?  
17 MR. ISLER: Yes.  
18 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?  
19 MR. McCREA: Yes.  
20 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?  
21 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.  
22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?  
23 MR TAYLOR: Yes.  
24 MR. WEISS: Nine in favor.  
25 MR. McCREA: Thank you.

1           At this point I believe I get to turn it  
2 over to Mrs. Colaizzi.

3           MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

4           Thank you.

5           I would like to thank my colleagues, for  
6 this honor. I am humbled to have the opportunity to  
7 serve as president in the upcoming year.

8           I would have had big shoes to fill to begin  
9 with, but now it's with a cast and a boot, and I thank  
10 Mr. Isler as well.

11           For the past five years, Mr. Isler has  
12 served as a true parliamentarian. Under his Board  
13 leadership, this Board and this District have made  
14 great strides forward.

15           Today, we are stronger financially, and our  
16 academic initiatives are showing promise.

17           Many thanks to him, my colleagues,  
18 Superintendent Mr. Roosevelt, and of course, the whole  
19 staff, for what we have done together, and for what we  
20 must continue to ensure Excellence for All.

21           I came to this Board seven years ago, after  
22 three years of sitting in the background, attending  
23 Board meetings as a parent, who was, and still is,  
24 passionate about public education.

25           Although I had been watching, and learning

1 for quite some time, I recognized that the learning  
2 process never stops.

3           In public service, there is nothing that  
4 can prepare you for the road that lies ahead, and  
5 regardless of your experiences.

6           In changing roles from a parent, who was on  
7 the outside looking in, to a Board member with the  
8 opportunity to get behind the scenes, I quickly  
9 learned that nothing is as it seems.

10           Things are simpler when you are on the  
11 outside looking in.

12           They are more complex, as you begin -- as  
13 you go behind the scenes, and you realize how much  
14 there is to learn.

15           I have learned that there is a myriad of  
16 regulations, procedures, practices, that must be  
17 considered in every turn.

18           Almost everything is interrelated, so one  
19 decision over here creates a domino effect over here.

20           And you must be very knowledgeable and  
21 thoughtful in your deliberations and policy making.

22           As one of my colleagues once said, being a  
23 School Board member is one of the most important jobs  
24 you can have.

25           When I started on this Board, it felt like

1 I was climbing a very, very steep mountain to the top.

2           The top of that mountain doesn't seem so  
3 far away these days.

4           It's taken time for me to come to realize  
5 that I am not climbing this mountain alone. I am  
6 joined by other Board members, who are trying to do  
7 the same thing.

8           We have a common goal, is to get to top of  
9 that mountain, and able to scream, "We are the  
10 greatest School District in this land."

11           I want it to be understood right here, and  
12 right now, that we are committed to help each other  
13 climb this mountain for our youth, and their precious  
14 lives, so that they may receive the greatest gift that  
15 no one can take away from them, the gift of  
16 knowledge.

17           And once we provide them with this gift,  
18 our work is not done.

19           We must lead them with the understanding  
20 that they are responsible for continuing this climb up  
21 an even higher and steeper mountain, by sharing and  
22 growing that knowledge to the next generation, and so  
23 on.

24           This is more doable now than ever before.  
25 With our continued progress in helping students and

1 families plan and prepare, and the Pittsburgh Promise  
2 there to help pay for education after high school, the  
3 mountain top is within reach for more children of  
4 Pittsburgh.

5 I strongly believe, and I hope that  
6 everyone will agree, that when I say that the gift of  
7 knowledge is one that should not only be cherished,  
8 but one that will always keep giving.

9 Tonight, I commit to all of you that I will  
10 chair this Board with the spirit of optimism and  
11 collaboration.

12 For me and my Board colleagues, this means  
13 working to improve our own practices.

14 We must try harder to be positive and more  
15 professional in our discussions, and we must do more  
16 to stay focused on the big picture, and what's in the  
17 best interest of this District, and all of our  
18 children.

19 I am looking forward to working with  
20 everyone to continue to achieve our goals, and our  
21 commitments.

22 I promise to dream big, and work hard, for  
23 that is how we will achieve Excellence for All.

24 I want to thank you.

25 And at this time I would like to remind the

1 Board that we have a Board training session  
2 immediately after this meeting, if we could give it a  
3 few minutes before we go into the other room, that  
4 would be great.

5 Can I have a motion to adjourn the meeting.

6 MR. ISLER: So move.

7 MR. TAYLOR: Second.

8 MS. COLAIZZI: It has been moved and  
9 seconded.

10 This meeting is adjourned.

11 - - -

12 (Thereupon, at 6:00 p.m., the Legislative  
13 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 one twenty-seven (27) pages are a true and correct transcript of my stenotypy notes taken of the Election of Officers Meeting, held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on Monday, December 1, 2008.



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Eugene C. Forcier, Court Reporter

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