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

MINUTES

Meeting of: October 6, 2009

Call of the Meeting: Special Legislative Meeting

Members Present: Theresa Colaizzi, Jean Fink, Sherry Hazuda, Thomas Sumpter and Dr. Dara Ware Allen

Members Absent: Mark Brentley, William Isler, Floyd McCrea, and Randall Taylor

The following matters were received and acted upon.

Actions taken are recorded following the reports.
ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1. See attached resolution for FUNDING FOR THE MEASURES OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING (MET) PROJECT.

Roll Call
FUNDING FOR THE MEASURES OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING (MET) PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools has been invited to submit a grant to participate in a two-year research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a fair and reliable measure of effective teaching called The Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) project; and

WHEREAS, the MET project is wholly separate from the District’s continuing discussions with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation related to the funding of the District’s Plan for Empowering Effective Teachers; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools regularly participates in research projects that contribute to improving PreK-12 education; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools recognizes that the MET project will help educators and policymakers identify and support good teaching by improving the quality of information available about teacher practice; and

WHEREAS, the MET project seeks to include multiple measures of teacher effectiveness that are both test and non-test based and will study an array of data, which may include but are not limited to, supplemental student assessments, student feedback, videotaped classroom observations, teacher feedback on the learning environment and teachers’ ability to recognize and diagnose student misperceptions; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools will work collaboratively with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers to recruit 120 to 160 teachers in select subject areas in grades 4 through 9 who have consented to participate in the study; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the submission of a grant in the amount of $621,167 for the District to participate in a two-year research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a fair and reliable measure of effective teaching through a project called The Measures of Effective Teaching (MET). The MET project is informed by the real work of real teachers in real classrooms. It goes beyond the exclusive use of student assessments as a proxy for effectiveness and is geared toward developing a set of measures that together serve as an accurate indicator of a teacher’s impact on student achievement. Funds are to support incentives for schools and teachers that participate in the MET project as well as a District project manager to coordinate the MET research activities. The operating period shall run from November 1, 2009 from December 31, 2011.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the District will recruit up to 160 eligible teachers in select subject areas in grades 4 through 9 to voluntary participate in the research project along with their school. If fewer than 160 teachers participate, the grant amount will be adjusted accordingly.
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009
5:39 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BOARD COMMITTEE ROOM

BEFORE:

THERESA COLAIZZI, BOARD PRESIDENT
THOMAS SUMPTER, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
DARA WARE ALLEN
JEAN FINK
SHERRY HAZUDA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
WILLIAM ISLER
FLOYD MCCREA

ALSO PRESENT:
MR. MARK ROOSEVELT
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET
MS. JOCelyn KRAMEr
MR. CHRISTOPHER BERDNIK
MS. LISA FISCHETTI

REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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ORIGINAL
MS. COLAIZZI: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the October 6, 2009 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education Special Legislative Meeting.

Would everyone please rise, so we may salute the flag.

(Flag saluted.)

MS. COLAIZZI: If I could please ask everyone to make sure that you have your cell phones and pages either on vibrate or off.

Before we begin this evening's meeting, I would like to send our condolences to our friend and colleague, Mr. Skip McCrea. Mr. McCrea's mother, Mildred McCrea, passed away earlier today. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Now, if I could ask everyone to Mr. Weiss -- or no. I'm sorry. Jocelyn, may we --

MR. ROOSEVELT: Jocelyn Weiss.

MS. COLAIZZI: May we please have a roll call.

MS. KRAMER: Dr. Dara Ware Allen?

DR. ALLEN: Present.

MS. KRAMER: Mr. Mark A. Brentley?

Mrs. Jean Fink?
The only item on the agenda this evening is funding for the Measures of Effective Teaching or MET Project. There is a resolution I would like to read.

Whereas, the Pittsburgh Public Schools has been invited to submit a grant to participate in a two-year research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a fair and reliable measure of effective called The Measures of effective Teaching or otherwise known as MET Project;

And, Whereas, the MET project is wholly separate from the District's continuing discussions with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation related to the funding of the District's Plan for Empowering Effective Teachers;

And, Whereas, Pittsburgh Public Schools
regularly participates in research projects that contribute to the improving of Pre-K through 12 education;

And, Whereas, Pittsburgh Public Schools recognize that the MET Project will help educators and policymakers identify and support good teaching by improving the quality of information available about teacher practice;

And, Whereas, the MET Project seeks to include multiple measures of teacher effectiveness that are both test and non-test based and will study an array of data, which may include but are not limited to, supplemental student assessments, student feedback, videotaped classroom observations, teacher feedback on learning environment and teachers' ability to recognize and diagnose student misperceptions;

And, Whereas, Pittsburgh Public Schools will work collaboratively with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers to recruit 120 to 160 teachers in select subject areas in Grades 4 through 9 who have consented to participate in the study;

And, Now Therefore be it Resolved, that the Board of Education authorizes the submission of a grant proposal in the amount of $621,167 for the District to participate in the two-year research
projected funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a fair and reliable measure of effective teaching through a project called The Measures of Effective Teachers. The MET Project is informed by the real work of teachers in the real classrooms. It goes beyond the exclusive use of student assessments as a proxy for effectiveness and is geared toward developing a set of measures that together serve as an accurate indicator of a teacher's impact on student achievement. Funds are to support incentives for schools and teachers that participate in the MET Project as well as a District project manager to coordinate the MET research activities. The operating period shall run from November 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011;

Resolved, Further, that the District will recruit up to 160 eligible teachers in select subject areas in Grades 4 through 9 to voluntarily participate in the research project along with their school. If fewer than 160 teachers participate, the grant amount will be adjusted accordingly.

Are there any comments or questions? We'll start with you, Mr. Sumpter.

MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi. Just a question on the first sentence where
it says, now, Therefore, that the Board of Education
authorizes the submission or acceptance?

MR. ROOSEVELT: Submission.
MR. SUMPTER: Thank you.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?
MS. HAZUDA: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?
MRS. FINK: I'm good.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Dr. Allen?
DR. ALLEN: How does this connect with the Rise initiative?

DR. LANE: This really is separate from the Rise initiative. Although, they are probably going to be some intersections around the kinds of things we look at in Rise and the kinds of things looked at here, but they're two separate initiatives.

MS. COLAIZZI: Do you have anymore questions, Dr. Allen?

DR. ALLEN: NO.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Seeing none, may we have a roll call, please.

MS. KRAMER: Dr. Ware Allen?
DR. ALLEN: Yes.
MS. KRAMER: Mrs. Fink?
MRS. FINK: Yes.
MS. KRAMER: Ms. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MS. KRAMER: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MS. KRAMER: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

All right. Thank you.

Having no more business at this time, the Special Legislative session is adjourned, and thank you.

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(Thereupon, at 5:49 p.m., the Special Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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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, Administration Building, Board Room, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter