

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.

THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213

Administration Building

341 South Bellefield Avenue

October 6, 2009

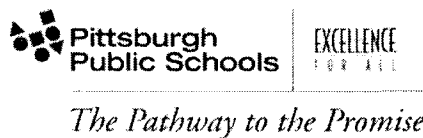
**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Roll Call



We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

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.

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

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

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

8 (Flag saluted.)

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

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

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

19 MR. ROOSEVELT: Jocelyn Weiss.

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

22 MS. KRAMER: Dr. Dara Ware Allen?

23 DR. ALLEN: Present.

24 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Mark A. Brentley?

25 Mrs. Jean Fink?

1 MRS. FINK: Here.

2 MS. KRAMER: Ms. Sherry Hazuda?

3 MS. HAZUDA: Here.

4 MS. KRAMER: Mr. William H. Isler?

5 Mr. Floyd McCrea?

6 Mr. Thomas Sumpster?

7 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

8 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Randall Taylor?

9 Mrs. Theresa Colaizzi.

10 MS. COLAIZZI: Present. Thank you.

11 The only item on the agenda this evening is
12 funding for the Measures of Effective Teaching or MET
13 Project. There is a resolution I would like to read.

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

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

25 And, Whereas, Pittsburgh Public Schools

1 regularly participates in research projects that
2 contribute to the improving of Pre-K through 12
3 education;

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

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

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

22 And, Now Therefore be it Resolved, that the
23 Board of Education authorizes the submission of a
24 grant proposal in the amount of \$621,167 for the
25 District to participate in the two-year research

1 projected funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates
2 Foundation to develop a fair and reliable measure of
3 effective teaching through a project called The
4 Measures of Effective Teachers. The MET Project is
5 informed by the real work of teachers in the real
6 classrooms. It goes beyond the exclusive use of
7 student assessments as a proxy for effectiveness and
8 is geared toward developing a set of measures that
9 together serve as an accurate indicator of a teacher's
10 impact on student achievement. Funds are to support
11 incentives for schools and teachers that participate
12 in the MET Project as well as a District project
13 manager to coordinate the MET research activities.
14 The operating period shall run from November 1, 2009
15 to December 31, 2011;

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

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

24 MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.

25 Just a question on the first sentence where

1 it says, now, Therefore, that the Board of Education
2 authorizes the submission or acceptance?

3 MR. ROOSEVELT: Submission.

4 MR. SUMPTER: Thank you.

5 MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?

6 MS. HAZUDA: No.

7 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?

8 MRS. FINK: I'm good.

9 MRS. COLAIZZI: Dr. Allen?

10 DR. ALLEN: How does this connect with the
11 Rise initiative?

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

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

19 DR. ALLEN: NO.

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

22 MS. KRAMER: Dr. Ware Allen?

23 DR. ALLEN: Yes.

24 MS. KRAMER: Mrs. Fink?

25 MRS. FINK: Yes.

1 MS. KRAMER: Ms. Hazuda?

2 MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

3 MS. KRAMER: Mr. Sumpster?

4 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

5 MS. KRAMER: Mrs. Colaizzi?

6 MS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

7 All right. Thank you.

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

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12 (Thereupon, at 5:49 p.m., the Special
13 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, Administration Building, Board Room, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Melissa L. Fenster

Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter

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