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

MINUTES

Meeting of: November 18, 2009

Call of the Meeting: Special Legislative Meeting

Members Present: Mark Brentley, Theresa Colaizzi, Jean Fink, Sherry Hazuda, William Isler, Floyd McCrea, Randall Taylor, Thomas Sumpter and Dr. Dara Ware Allen

Member Absent:

The following matters were received and acted upon.

Actions taken are recorded following the reports.
ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1. INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING GRANT ACCEPTANCE

2. GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO LAUNCH THE PLAN FOR EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS IN THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3. LAUNCH EVENT TO SUPPORT THE PLAN FOR EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS IN THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Roll Call
Resolution #1

INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING GRANT ACCEPTANCE

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools in April 2009 was among a select group of school districts nationwide invited to submit a proposal by July 31, 2009 to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for consideration for the Foundation’s Intensive Partnership to Empower Effective Teachers program; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education at its April 29, 2009 Legislative Meeting authorized the District to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accept support in the form of technical assistance for the development of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the planning process for the development of the proposal was done in collaboration with the leadership of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) and stakeholder input was obtained through surveys sent to teachers and principals, briefings with our Board members, and sessions with an Internal Advisory Group of teachers and principals and an External Advisory Group of civic and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the proposal planning process resulted in a plan called Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the plan serves as the next building block in the District’s vision of Excellence for All by building upon the core elements that the District has already put into place to improve student achievement, including improving school leadership, designing and implementing a rigorous new PreK-12 core curriculum, expanding and improving professional development, strengthening early childhood offerings, and using data to improve student learning; and

WHEREAS, the vision behind the plan is to empower teachers as effective leaders to do whatever it takes to foster a culture of striving, resilience, and college-readiness so that over 80 percent of all students complete a post-secondary degree or workforce certification; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools, working with the PFT identified three strategic priorities in the plan to improve student outcomes: 1) increase the number of highly effective teachers; 2) increase the exposure of high-need students to highly effective teachers; 3) and ensure all teachers work in learning environments that support their ability to be effective; and
WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools is one of four districts that has been selected as an Intensive Partnership Site with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the implementation of work detailed in the plan **Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools**;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a grant in the amount of up to $40,000,000 to support the **Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools** plan, which the District submitted on July 31, 2009 to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for consideration for the Foundations' Intensive Partnerships to Empower Effective Teachers program. This grant funding will support the District’s plan to dramatically improve student achievement and college-readiness rates by making changes in policies and practices to ensure that all students have an effective teacher throughout their academic career. The District understands the value of contributing to the body of educational research that would benefit other school districts as well as public and private educational entities and agrees to participate in knowledge sharing to be made available and accessible at a reasonable cost, including allow third-party testing organizations, such as ACT and the College Board, to release to the Foundation certain data aggregated to the school level or higher.

Key priorities for this work include:

1. developing a meaningful measure of teacher effectiveness;
2. increasing the overall number of effective teachers;
3. providing increased pay and greater roles and responsibilities for teachers who earn tenure; and
4. concentrating effective teachers where they are most needed.

The operating period shall run from November 19, 2009 to June 30, 2016.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Board of Education directs the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to pay the grant funds to the District’s Fiscal Agent, The Pittsburgh Foundation, which will maintain and retain financial records and disburse grant funds to or on behalf of the District solely for the purposes of the plan for **Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools** and in such manner as the District directs. The District and its Fiscal Agent will maintain adequate records regarding grant expenditures, provide the agreed upon narrative and financial reports to the Foundation, and participate in meetings with Foundation personnel as the Foundation may reasonably request from time to time.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Board authorizes the Solicitor and the District's appropriate officers to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pittsburgh Foundation for the term November 19, 2009 through June 30, 2016 for an amount not to exceed $60,000.
Resolution #2

GRANT ACCEPTANCE FOR COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO LAUNCH THE PLAN FOR EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS IN THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools is being considered by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for an Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant; and

WHEREAS, the Intensive Partnership to Empower Effective Teachers grant would fund the plan called Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide an additional grant of $60,000 to support the public announcement and activities to support the launch of the plan contingent upon the School District of Pittsburgh being awarded the Intensive Partnership to Empower Effective Teachers grant; and

WHEREAS, the $60,000 grant must be used before December 31, 2009 to pay for public relations support, room rental, audio/visual support and other similar expenses directly related to the public announcement and launch; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a $60,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide communications support for the public announcement and launch activities for the plan – Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, contingent upon the full execution by all parties of the Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant. The operating period is November 19, 2009 through December 31, 2009.
Resolution #3

LAUNCH EVENT TO SUPPORT THE PLAN FOR

EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS IN THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Pittsburgh Public Schools is being considered by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for an Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant; and

WHEREAS, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide an additional grant of $60,000 to support the public announcement and launch of the Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant upon the School District of Pittsburgh being awarded the Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant; and

WHEREAS, the 60,000 grant must be used before December 31, 2009 to pay for public relations support, room rental, audio/visual support and other similar expenses directly related to the public announcement and launch; and

WHEREAS, as part of its launch effort, the Pittsburgh Public Schools will host a reception for all of its employees and on Monday, December 14, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh in the Music Hall Foyer and Hall of Architecture; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools recognizes the public launch will build excitement and awareness for the work that is funded by the Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation among Pittsburgh Public Schools employees as well as City of Pittsburgh community stakeholders that the District may choose to invite; and

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh Public Schools will continue to work collaboratively with the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers on the coordination and planning of the public announcement and other launch activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to make the necessary arrangements with the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh (4400 Forbes Avenue) in order to host a reception for Pittsburgh Public Schools employees as well as key community leaders to launch the work related to the Intensive Partnership for Effective Teaching grant. The reception at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh is planned for Monday, December 14, 2009 for a total cost not to exceed $60,000.00, which will be paid per the account fund lines as follows. The rental fee for the space of up to $3,380.00 will be paid to the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh from line item 1500-21N-2823-441; the cost of up to $350.00 for the staging will be paid to All Occasions from line item 1500-21N-2823-449; the cost of up to $8,700.00 for labor and equipment for audio/visual (including lighting, projection screens, and video) will be paid to Three Rivers Entertainment from line item 1500-21N-2823-449; the cost of up to $47,570.00 for food and beverage at the reception will be paid to Parkhurst Dining Services from line item 1500-21N-2823-635.
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009
6:04 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

BEFORE:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. MARK ROOSEVELT
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET
MR. IRA WEISS
MR. VIDYA PATIL
MR. FRANK G. CHESTER
MS. LISA FISCHETTI
DR. LINDA LANE
MR. LAWRENCE BERGIE
MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
MR. CHRISTOPHER BERDNIK
MS. CAROL BARONE-MARTIN

REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY
MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189
MRS. COLAIZZI: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the November 18, 2009 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education Special Legislative Meeting.

Would everyone please rise to salute the flag.

(Flag saluted.)

MRS. COLAIZZI: This a historical moment for the Pittsburgh Public Schools. All the work we have done over the last four years has laid ground work for us to aggressively pursue our work to maximize teacher effectiveness.

We would not be here today without the support of our local foundations and businesses, UPMC and the community wide-commitment to the Pittsburgh Promise. Because of everything we have accomplished together, we now have the support of the world's largest foundation as we strive to dramatically improve the life prospects of our Pittsburgh's children.

We should all be very proud together as we get ready to accept a $40 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation. This is a very proud moment for this Board. We should all be very, very
proud.

Many times they tell us that we have thankless jobs. I have to admit that this had to be one of those moments that this is the most thankful time of our lives.

Now, if I could ask everyone to please turn off all your cell phones or please put them on vibrate.

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

MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

DR. ALLEN: Present.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MRS. FINK: Here.

MR. WEISS: Ms. 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 three resolutions before us this evening submitted by the Committee on Education that is all related. I will read each Resolution and provide an opportunity for comments on each. We will then have one roll call to vote on the entire report, and let me begin with Resolution No. 1.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a grant in the amount of up to 40 million dollars to support the Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public School plan, which the District submitted on July 31, 2009 to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for consideration for the Foundation's intensive partnerships to Empowering Effective Teachers Program. This grant funding will support the District plan to dramatically improve student achievement and college-readiness rates by making and policies and practices to ensure that all students have an effective teacher throughout their academic career.
The District understands the value of contributing to the body of educational research that would benefit other school districts, as well as public and private educational entities and agrees to participate in knowledge sharing to be made available and accessible at a reasonable cost, including allowing a third-party testing organization, such as ACT and the College Board, to release the Foundation certain data aggregated to the school level or higher.

Key priorities for this work include:

One, developing meaningful measures of teacher effectiveness; two, increasing the overall number of effective teachers; three, providing increased pay and greater roles and responsibilities for teachers to earn tenure; and, four, concentrating effective teachers where they are most needed.

The operating period shall run from November 19, 2009 until June 30, 2016.

Resolved further, that the Board of Education of Directors directs the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to pay the grant funds to the District's physical agent, the Pittsburgh Foundation, which maintain and retain financial records and disburse grant funds to or on behalf of the District
for the purpose of the plan for Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and in such manner as the District directs.

The Districts and its physical agent will maintain adequate records regarding grant expenditures, provide the agreed upon narrative and financial reports to the Foundation and participate in meetings with Foundation personnel as the Foundation may reasonably request from time to time.

Resolved further, that the Board authorizes the Solicitor and the District's appropriate officers to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Pittsburgh Foundation for the term of November 19, 2009 through June 30, 2016 for an amount not to exceed $60,000.

Are there any questions? Dr. Allen?

We're going to vote on all three of the resolutions together, and I apologize. I read two resolutions at the same time, so forgive me. I'll read the third one, and then I'll allow everybody to go back and make their comments an all you have to do is comment on which Resolution. No. I'm sorry. I did not. I did read just the first one.

MR. SUMPTER: You only read one.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Yeah. I only did read the
Dr. Allen, do you have any questions or comments?

DR. ALLEN: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRETLEY: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?

MRS. FINK: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: No.

MRS. COLAIZZI: There are no questions. I will then move onto the second Resolution. Please allow me to read the second resolution.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a $60,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide communication support for the public.
announcement and launch activities for the plan,
Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public
Schools, contingent upon the full execution by all
parties of the intensive partnership for effective
teaching grant. The operating period is November 19,
2009 through December 31, 2009.

Are there any questions or comments?
Dr. Allen?

DR. ALLEN: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?
MR. BRENTLEY: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?
MRS. FINK: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?
MS. HAZUDA: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. McCrea?
MR. McCREA: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Taylor?
MR. TAYLOR: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Isler?
MR. ISLER: No, ma'am.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Sumpter?
MR. SUMPTER: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Seeing none, I will move
onto the third Resolution.
Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to make the necessary arrangements with the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh in order to host a reception for the Pittsburgh Public Schools employees, as well as key community leaders to launch the work related to the intensive partnership for effective teaching grant. The reception at the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh is planned for Monday, December 14, 2009 for a total cost not to exceed $60,000 which will be paid per the account fund line as follows.

The rental fee for the space of up to $3,380 will be paid to the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-411; the cost of up $350 for the staging will be paid to All Occasions from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-449; the cost of up to $8,700 for the labor and equipment for audio/visual, including lighting, projection screens and video, will be paid to Three Rivers Entertainment from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-449; the cost of up to $47,570 for food and beverages at the reception will be paid to Parkhurst Dining Services from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-635.

Are there any questions on this Resolution?

Dr. Allen?
DR. ALLEN: No.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?
MR. BRENTLEY: That's the third one, the final?
MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes, sir, it is.
MR. BRENTLEY: Yes. I would like to make a few comments. This is, of course, concerning the acceptance.

Today, Ms. President and members here, I am -- somewhat have mixed feelings. It's always great when your district is recognized nationally, and it's even a bigger recognition to receive such large dollars.

I have been unsuccessful over the last three years or so encouraging my colleagues and encouraging the staff to go back and to address some of the issues that exist in this District. My fear is now because of this wonderful, wonderful grant and wonderful couple and their history that all of those issues will now be left unanswered or left where no one will address them. We know many of the issues.

I've raised questions before and, Mark, I want to encourage you again because I don't know any other way of trying to get you and the staff to go back and to help those that need the help, and we know
about this EP program. We know about those issues
with the Right-Sizing program. We know about the
problems with the ALAs.

Just yesterday we had an issue with a
demonstration here at the site, and the issue wasn't
about money. It was about equity. I think it's
something we can easily do, Mark, and I don't know
what else to do. I've tried at every meeting, I've
tried and tried. I'm trying to point out to you the
importance that all is not well, especially, for those
students who need it. I've tried to point out that
some of those very, very students who have come out or
their parents have contacted us they need us the
most.

And so this evening while I'm happy about
the grant, I will respectfully abstain from this vote,
but I will plead with this Administration, I will
plead with my colleagues that there are a lot of folks
that need our help. We know what the problems are.
Please let's not get caught up in this moment. Let's
go back. Let's go back and address the issues. Let's
go back and right size the Right-Sizing. Let's go
back and re-evaluate.

We have on the table another issue with
another hit in the communities that were hit hard by
the Right-Sizing plan. Come on. We have schools in
the East End that don't even have a swimming pool, and
we have schools that was brought up before there's no
place for the kids to go out and play. I'm just
saying so they can enjoy this wonderful day, we have
to go back and we have to do it.

Mark, I don't know any other way, and I
hoping that this will begin that process, and let's
get it behind us, so this evening I'm happy and I'm
excited about those folks who are here for this
wonderful day, but I also want to remind you that
there are a lot of issues that have not been
addressed, and I'm hoping that you will join me in
making those issues priority.

Those students need us, and we can't push
them to the side because of this wonderful, wonderful
day, so I will respectfully abstain from this vote for
those folks who have been hurt by the past
initiatives; and, hopefully, we'll address them very
soon.

Thank you very much.

MRS. COLAIIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.

And just for the record, the Mark you were referring
to is the Superintendent, so that the record shows
and, also, the demonstration was Monday, evening not
last evening. That's just for the record.

Mrs. Fink, do you have any questions?

MRS. FINK: Not any questions. I would just like to thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the partnership that we have struck up with the PFT. I think as we move forward and look to the future to make education better for all of our kids and grandkids. I'm just so pleased, and I'm just so pleased that we have such a fine working relationship with the PFT, that we were able to partner and obviously had some ideas for improvement that the Gates Foundation decided we're worthy.

And we thank them, and I look forward to the future with great anticipation.

MRS. COLAIIZZI: Thank you, Mrs. Fink.

Ms. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: I just want to comment also. These resolutions have a lot of words, and I would just like to say a simple thank you.

MR. ISLER: Thank you.

Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: I'm not sure where to begin, but these ladies have beat me to it. I think a simple thank you is adequate, but I have a question.

Did we consider adding the crossing guards
as well in the-- I know the city employees, but could we possibly have them invited to the gala?

MRS. COLAIZZI: I'm afraid that that will have to go through communications and marketing, and you can bring that up to them later.

Is that all?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: I want to thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This is a wonderful opportunity for the District. Certainly, the items that are targeted are certainly items around teacher performance that are critically important to us in this District, so we're very grateful.

I want to commend the staff, our Superintendent on the work put into this grant, and I'm very confident that some great things will come out of this, but I also have to echo some of Mr. Brentley's concerns that in the excitement of this day and excitement of this challenge that we must remember there are a lot of students out there, a lot of initiatives that are already on the table, and we want to make sure that those initiatives continue to receive the level of attention that they have.
And, Mrs. Colaizzi, you know, I'm always -- as my waning moments as a Board member, I have to continue to advocate on behalf, which I think was another critical initiative, and that's our Accelerated Learning Academies.

So, again, I thank the Foundation; and, again, I commend our staff and Superintendent for this successful effort.

Thank you.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You, Mr. Taylor.

Mr. Isler?

MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.

I think it's been said, but I too would like to add my thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to the PFT for their partnership and hard work, to Mr. Roosevelt and his team. I think this District has shown time and time again what we can do whenever we're willing to dream big and work hard, and I really do thank you very, very much all of you for making this happen, and especially, for the Foundation for their ability to realize what really is important in education, and that is the teaching and learning that goes on in our classroom.

Thank you.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler.
Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.

I also want to offer my thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for this award.

It takes time. We have to be patient, and we have a long way to go, and we've come a long way in the few years that have passed. Issues and concerns that have been raised, some are being addressed, some still have to be addressed, but to really think that it's the right time to be in the right place to do the right thing, and this is all about the kids.

This Board is committed, and we truly believe that we can maximize the education of all students. We believe that we can educate all students to their highest level of achievement, and that can't be done unless you have a safe learning environment for that to be carried out in.

No matter where the student comes from, no matter what the class of the student, no matter what the race, the ethnicity, whether they're rich, poor, whether they're from the North Side, South Side East End or wherever, we're talking about Excellence For All, all students.

The pieces of the pie are coming together. We've talked about evaluating principals. We've
changed curriculum. We've consolidated buildings.

We've done all the things. Now we're concentrating on teachers to make sure there's an effective teacher in every classroom to ensure that we carry on our beliefs.

Now, making sure we have a safe learning environment, we can't do that without providing the necessary support to carry out that activity.

And our fourth commitment and belief if you really take it to heart if you're going to support that, we're going to make sure we distribute resources in an equitable manner. Now, look at the definition of equity. Look at what equitable means.

This Board is committed and believes that we can do that. We want to make sure that we encourage strong community, parent, family, organization encouragement in this District.

So if we put our beliefs together and if we carry out those five commitments and those beliefs and that being our goals, this is what we can do. We can realize it. Again, it takes time, but again we're incrementally moving in that direction such that as was stated before Pittsburgh can become a world class school district, not a nation class school district, not an Allegheny County class school district, not a
State of Pennsylvania world class district. We're talking about the world. We're talking about no matter where, so that's unlimited. It's unboundless. So if we take to heart our commitments and our beliefs, internalize them and if keep focused and move in the right direction, we'll accomplish our goals such that hopefully folks in the future 50 to 100 to 200 years from now can look back and say that Board in 2009, it was the right place. It was the right time to do the right thing.

Thank you.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You, Mr. Sumpter.

Mr. Roosevelt, do you have a comment?

MR. ROOSEVELT: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.

I have just a couple of quick things. I don't want to belabor this.

I want to thank the Board. A lot of districts start off in tough directions, and when times get hard, they retreat. You have stayed the course. You've done difficult things. You've stayed together.

I want to look around and I want to thank the staff. To those of you who were lucky enough to travel with us to some of the places with Gates, Mr. Sumpter, Mrs. Colaizzi, this staff is as good a
staff as any school district in America, and I am
really grateful to the people who have moved to
Pittsburgh, stayed in Pittsburgh and come together.

(Appause.)

MR. ROOSEVELT: We didn't even set that up.
But, I mean, I am so grateful to those of
you who have joined us in this effort, and you know
how hard they work, and however hard you think they
work, they work harder.

And I really want to thank our colleagues
at the PFT. This was a challenge to everyone. As
Mr. Tarka often says, you don't really get
opportunities of this kind without challenges. They
have embraced this. They have embraced it in all of
its aspect with courage, with integrity, with respect
for their membership, but also with incredible respect
for the students that we serve and the work that is in
front of us.

And I wanted to thank quickly the people
who helped get us here. I see Saleem here. I cannot
look back to what UPMC did to two and a half years ago
because that gift, to our friends in Gates, that
larger gift of $100 million really was extraordinary
act, and the way this community has come together to
supported the Promise is unparalleled.
And, lastly, to the Gates Foundation, what they really did was they made us focus. They asked us to focus on what matters most, effective teaching, and they catalyzed in this period of time more progress than we could have achieved under a much larger period of time without their help, so my gratefulness to them as well, and my echo to the Board's comments.

It's now up to us, folks. The stage has been set. The circumstances are here. The right people are here. The right support is here. We're rowing in the same direction. Let's just do it.

So thank everybody very, very much.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You.

If there are no further, Mr. Weiss, may we please have a roll call on all three of the resolutions.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

DR. ALLEN: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?
MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

MR. SUMPTER: As a Director from District 3, the City of Pittsburgh, I enthusiastically affirm my vote, yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

MRS. COLAIZZI: There would be no doubt in anybody's mind, yes.

MR. WEISS: The motion is carried eight in favor, one abstain.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

MR. WEISS: That concludes the business this evening.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

Before we adjourn, I would like to make a few closing comments. This is a big day for Pittsburgh and the students of the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

I want to personally thank my fellow Board members, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt and the staff of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, as well as Mr. John
Tarka and the PFT for all that you are doing and continue to do to advance Excellence for All.

This Board is very committed to doing whatever it takes to support our plan for Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Having no more business at this time, the Special Legislative Meeting is adjourned at this time.

I would like to ask my colleagues, Mr. Roosevelt, Dr. Lane, and the PFT representatives to join me at the other end of the table with the Superintendent while we sign the document.

This meeting is adjourned.

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(Thereupon, at 6:27 p.m., the Special Legislative Meeting was concluded.)
I, Melissa L. Fenster, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing twenty-two (22) 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 Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter