

**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.**

**THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15213**

**Administration Building  
341 South Bellefield Avenue**

**November 18, 2009**

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA**

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**



*The Pathway to the Promise.*

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

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.

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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

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REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER  
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

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412-281-0189

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

2 MRS. COLAIZZI: Good evening, ladies and  
3 gentlemen, and welcome to the November 18, 2009  
4 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education Special  
5 Legislative Meeting.

6 Would everyone please rise to salute the  
7 flag.

8 (Flag saluted.)

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

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

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



1 proud.

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

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

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

11                   MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

12                   DR. ALLEN: Present.

13                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

14                   MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

15                   MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

16                   MRS. FINK: Here.

17                   MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

18                   MS. HAZUDA: Here.

19                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

20                   MR. ISLER: Present.

21                   MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

22                   MR. McCREA: Here.

23                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

24                   MR. SUMPTER: Present.

25                   MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

1 MR. TAYLOR: Here.

2 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

3 MRS. COLAIZZI: Here.

4 MR. WEISS: All members are present.

5 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

6 There are three resolutions before us this  
7 evening submitted by the Committee on Education that  
8 is all related. I will read each Resolution and  
9 provide an opportunity for comments on each. We will  
10 then have one roll call to vote on the entire report,  
11 and let me begin with Resolution No. 1.

12 Now, therefore be it resolved, that the  
13 Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a  
14 grant in the amount of up to 40 million dollars to  
15 support the Empowering Effective Teachers in the  
16 Pittsburgh Public School plan, which the District  
17 submitted on July 31, 2009 to the Bill & Melinda Gates  
18 Foundation for consideration for the Foundation's  
19 intensive partnerships to Empowering Effective  
20 Teachers Program. This grant funding will support the  
21 District plan to dramatically improve student  
22 achievement and college-readiness rates by making and  
23 policies and practices to ensure that all students  
24 have an effective teacher throughout their academic  
25 career.

1           The District understands the value of  
2 contributing to the body of educational research that  
3 would benefit other school districts, as well as  
4 public and private educational entities and agrees to  
5 participate in knowledge sharing to be made available  
6 and accessible at a reasonable cost, including  
7 allowing a third-party testing organization, such as  
8 ACT and the College Board, to release the Foundation  
9 certain data aggregated to the school level or  
10 higher.

11           Key priorities for this work include:

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

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

20           Resolved further, that the Board of  
21 Education of Directors directs the Bill & Melinda  
22 Gates Foundation to pay the grant funds to the  
23 District's physical agent, the Pittsburgh Foundation,  
24 which maintain and retain financial records and  
25 disburse grant funds to or on behalf of the District

1 for the purpose of the plan for Empowering Effective  
2 Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and in such  
3 manner as the District directs.

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

10           Resolved further, that the Board authorizes  
11 the Solicitor and the District's appropriate officers  
12 to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the  
13 Pittsburgh Foundation for the term of November 19,  
14 2009 through June 30, 2016 for an amount not to exceed  
15 \$60,000.

16           Are there any questions? Dr. Allen?

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

24           MR. SUMPTER: You only read one.

25           MRS. COLAIZZI: Yeah. I only did read the

1 one.

2 Dr. Allen, do you have any questions or  
3 comments?

4 DR. ALLEN: No.

5 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?

6 MR. BRENTLEY: No.

7 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?

8 MRS. FINK: No.

9 MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?

10 MS. HAZUDA: No.

11 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. McCrea?

12 MR. McCREA: No.

13 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Taylor?

14 MR. TAYLOR: No.

15 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Isler?

16 MR. ISLER: No.

17 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Sumpster?

18 MR. SUMPTER: No.

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

22 Now, therefore be it resolved, that the  
23 Board of Education authorizes the acceptance of a  
24 \$60,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
25 to provide communication support for the public

1 announcement and launch activities for the plan,  
2 Empowering Effective Teachers in the Pittsburgh Public  
3 Schools, contingent upon the full execution by all  
4 parties of the intensive partnership for effective  
5 teaching grant. The operating period is November 19,  
6 2009 through December 31, 2009.

7 Are there any questions or comments?

8 Dr. Allen?

9 DR. ALLEN: No.

10 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?

11 MR. BRENTLEY: No.

12 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mrs. Fink?

13 MRS. FINK: No.

14 MRS. COLAIZZI: Ms. Hazuda?

15 MS. HAZUDA: No.

16 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. McCrea?

17 MR. MCCREA: No.

18 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Taylor?

19 MR. TAYLOR: No.

20 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Isler?

21 MR. ISLER: No, ma'am.

22 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Sumpter?

23 MR. SUMPTER: No.

24 MRS. COLAIZZI: Seeing none, I will move  
25 onto the third Resolution.

1                   Now, therefore be it resolved, that the  
2 Board of Education authorizes the District to make the  
3 necessary arrangements with the Carnegie Museum of  
4 Pittsburgh in order to host a reception for the  
5 Pittsburgh Public Schools employees, as well as key  
6 community leaders to launch the work related to the  
7 intensive partnership for effective teaching grant.

8                   The reception at the Carnegie Museum of  
9 Pittsburgh is planned for Monday, December 14, 2009  
10 for a total cost not to exceed \$60,000 which will be  
11 paid per the account fund line as follows.

12                   The rental fee for the space of up to  
13 \$3,380 will be paid to the Carnegie Museum of  
14 Pittsburgh from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-411; the  
15 cost of up \$350 for the staging will be paid to  
16 All Occasions from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-449; the  
17 cost of up to \$8,700 for the labor and equipment for  
18 audio/visual, including lighting, projection screens  
19 and video, will be paid to Three Rivers Entertainment  
20 from Line Item 1500-21N-2823-449; the cost of up to  
21 \$47,570 for food and beverages at the reception will  
22 be paid to Parkhurst Dining Services from Line Item  
23 1500-21N-2823-635.

24                   Are there any questions on this Resolution?  
25 Dr. Allen?

1 DR. ALLEN: No.

2 MRS. COLAIZZI: Mr. Brentley?

3 MR. BRENTLEY: That's the third one, the  
4 final?

5 MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes, sir, it is.

6 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes. I would like to make a  
7 few comments. This is, of course, concerning the  
8 acceptance.

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

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

22 I've raised questions before and, Mark, I  
23 want to encourage you again because I don't know any  
24 other way of trying to get you and the staff to go  
25 back and to help those that need the help, and we know



1 about this EP program. We know about those issues  
2 with the Right-Sizing program. We know about the  
3 problems with the ALAs.

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

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

24           We have on the table another issue with  
25 another hit in the communities that were hit hard by

1 the Right-Sizing plan. Come on. We have schools in  
2 the East End that don't even have a swimming pool, and  
3 we have schools that was brought up before there's no  
4 place for the kids to go out and play. I'm just  
5 saying so they can enjoy this wonderful day, we have  
6 to go back and we have to do it.

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

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

21           Thank you very much.

22           MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.  
23 And just for the record, the Mark you were referring  
24 to is the Superintendent, so that the record shows  
25 and, also, the demonstration was Monday, evening not

1 last evening. That's just for the record.

2 Mrs. Fink, do you have any questions?

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

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

15 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mrs. Fink.

16 Ms. Hazuda?

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

20 MR. ISLER: Thank you.

21 Mr. McCrea?

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

25 Did we consider adding the crossing guards

1 as well in the-- I know the city employees, but could  
2 we possibly have them invited to the gala?

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

6 Is that all?

7 MR. McCREA: Yes.

8 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

9 Mr. Taylor?

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

16 I want to commend the staff, our  
17 Superintendent on the work put into this grant, and  
18 I'm very confident that some great things will come  
19 out of this, but I also have to echo some of  
20 Mr. Brentley's concerns that in the excitement of this  
21 day and excitement of this challenge that we must  
22 remember there are a lot of students out there, a lot  
23 of initiatives that are already on the table, and we  
24 want to make sure that those initiatives continue to  
25 receive the level of attention that they have.

1           And, Mrs. Colaizzi, you know, I'm always --  
2 as my waning moments as a Board member, I have to  
3 continue to advocate on behalf, which I think was  
4 another critical initiative, and that's our  
5 Accelerated Learning Academies.

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

9           Thank you.

10          MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You, Mr. Taylor.

11          Mr. Isler?

12          MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.

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

24          Thank you.

25          MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Mr. Isler.

1 Mr. Sumpter?

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

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

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

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

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

24 The pieces of the pie are coming together.  
25 We've talked about evaluating principals. We've

1 changed curriculum. We've consolidated buildings.  
2 We've done all the things. Now we're concentrating on  
3 teachers to make sure there's an effective teacher in  
4 every classroom to ensure that we carry on our  
5 beliefs.

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

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

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

18           So if we put our beliefs together and if we  
19 carry out those five commitments and those beliefs and  
20 that being our goals, this is what we can do. We can  
21 realize it. Again, it takes time, but again we're  
22 incrementally moving in that direction such that as  
23 was stated before Pittsburgh can become a world class  
24 school district, not a nation class school district,  
25 not an Allegheny County class school district, not a

1 State of Pennsylvania world class district. We're  
2 talking about the world. We're talking about no  
3 matter where, so that's unlimited. It's unboundless.

4           So if we take to heart our commitments and  
5 our beliefs, internalize them and if keep focused and  
6 move in the right direction, we'll accomplish our  
7 goals such that hopefully folks in the future 50 to  
8 100 to 200 years from now can look back and say that  
9 Board in 2009, it was the right place. It was the  
10 right time to do the right thing.

11           Thank you.

12           MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You, Mr. Sumpster.

13           Mr. Roosevelt, do you have a comment?

14           MR. ROOSEVELT: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.  
15 I have just a couple of quick things. I don't want to  
16 belabor this.

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

22           I want to look around and I want to thank  
23 the staff. To those of you who were lucky enough to  
24 travel with us to some of the places with Gates,  
25 Mr. Sumpster, Mrs. Colaizzi, this staff is as good a



1 staff as any school district in America, and I am  
2 really grateful to the people who have moved to  
3 Pittsburgh, stayed in Pittsburgh and come together.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. ROOSEVELT: We didn't even set that up.

6 But, I mean, I am so grateful to those of  
7 you who have joined us in this effort, and you know  
8 how hard they work, and however hard you think they  
9 work, they work harder.

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

19 And I wanted to thank quickly the people  
20 who helped get us here. I see Saleem here. I cannot  
21 look back to what UPMC did to two and a half years ago  
22 because that gift, to our friends in Gates, that  
23 larger gift of \$100 million really was extraordinary  
24 act, and the way this community has come together to  
25 supported the Promise is unparalleled.

1           And, lastly, to the Gates Foundation, what  
2 they really did was they made us focus. They asked us  
3 to focus on what matters most, effective teaching, and  
4 they catalyzed in this period of time more progress  
5 than we could have achieved under a much larger period  
6 of time without their help, so my gratefulness to them  
7 as well, and my echo to the Board's comments.

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

12           So thank everybody very, very much.

13           MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank You.

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

17           MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

18           DR. ALLEN: Yes.

19           MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

20           MR. BRENTLEY: Abstain.

21           MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

22           MRS. FINK: Yes.

23           MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda?

24           MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

25           MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

1 MR. ISLER: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

3 MR. MCCREA: Yes.

4 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpster?

5 MR. SUMPTER: As a Director from

6 District 3, the City of Pittsburgh, I enthusiastically  
7 affirm my vote, yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Taylor?

9 MR. TAYLOR: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

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

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

15 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

16 MR. WEISS: That concludes the business  
17 this evening.

18 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

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

23 I want to personally thank my fellow Board  
24 members, Superintendent Mark Roosevelt and the staff  
25 of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, as well as Mr. John

1 Tarka and the PFT for all that you are doing and  
2 continue to do to advance Excellence for All.

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

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

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

13                 This meeting is adjourned.

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15                 (Thereupon, at 6:27 p.m., the Special  
16 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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1 C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

2 I, Melissa L. Fenster, the undersigned, do  
3 hereby certify that the foregoing twenty-two  
4 (22) pages are a true and correct transcript of my  
5 stenotypy notes taken of the Special Legislative  
6 Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public  
7 Education, Administration Building, Board Room, on  
8 Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

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Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter

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