

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

MINUTES

Meeting of : December 13, 2010

Call of the Meeting: Special Legislative Meeting

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

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 13, 2010

6:00 PM

**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA**

ROLL CALL

1. Committee on Personnel

[Roll Call]

RESOLVED, That the Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh appoint Dr. Linda S. Lane Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board of Public Education.

(See attached Resolution)

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH APPOINTING DR. LINDA S. LANE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools as well as Secretary of the Board of Public Education in the School District of Pittsburgh effective January 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Education wishes to appoint Dr. Linda S. Lane as Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board of Public Education pursuant to the provisions of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Linda S. Lane possesses the appropriate Letter of Eligibility to hold the Office of Superintendent; and

WHEREAS, under the Public School Code of 1949, the Superintendent holds the position of Secretary of the Board of Public Education; and

WHEREAS, appropriate notice was provided to the members of the Board of Public Education pursuant to the provisions of said Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved and it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. Dr. Linda S. Lane is appointed to the position of Superintendent of the School District of Pittsburgh for the period January 1, 2011 through January 16, 2014.
2. Dr. Linda S. Lane is hereby appointed Secretary of the Board of Public Education effective January 1, 2011.

3. The Board of Public Education hereby approves the employment contract for the Superintendent of Schools which is made part of this Resolution as though set forth herein at length.

4. Dr. Linda S. Lane shall, in cooperation with the office of the Solicitor, submit an appropriate Application for Commission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

5. The proper officers are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the employment contract and all necessary documents to effectuate the purpose of this Resolution.

RESOLVED this 13th day of December, 2010.

ATTEST:

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

Secretary

By _____
President

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

December 13, 2010

From the Superintendent of Schools
to
The Board of Public Education

The following personnel changes are recommended for the action of the Board:

A. Transfer From One Position to Another with Change of Salary

Salary Employees

<u>Name and Position</u>	<u>per month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason</u>
1. Lane, Linda Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Office of the Deputy Superintendent to Superintendent of Schools, Office of the Superintendent	\$ 16,667.00	01-01-11	Promotion

Respectfully submitted,

**Mark Roosevelt
Superintendent of Schools**

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010
6:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM A

- - -

BEFORE:

SHERRY HAZUDA, BOARD PRESIDENT
DR. DANA WARE ALLEN
MARK BRENTLEY
THERESA COLAIZZI
JEAN FINK
WILLIAM ISLER
FLOYD McCREA
THOMAS SUMPTER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
SHARENE SHEALEY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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ALSO PRESENT:

DR. LINDA LANE
LISA FISCHETTI
MR. DERRICK LOPEZ
MS. JEANNINE FRENCH
MS. BARBARA RUDIAK
MR. MARK CAMPBELL
MS. TANYA GORE-WHITE
MR. IRA WEISS
DR. PAULETTE PONCELET
DR. CHRISTIANA OTUWA
DR. JERRI LIPPERT
MR. PETER CAMARDA
MRS. JANIS RIPPER

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REPORTED BY: DEBORAH L. ENDLER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

- - -

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY
MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189

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 ORIGINAL

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

2 MRS. HAZUDA: Good evening, ladies and
3 gentlemen, and welcome to the December 13, 2010
4 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education Special
5 Legislative Meeting.

6 Would everyone please rise so we can salute
7 the flag?

8 (Pledge of Allegiance stated.)

9 MRS. HAZUDA: Before we begin this evening,
10 I'd like to ask everyone to please turn off all cell
11 phones and pagers.

12 Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll call,
13 please?

14 MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

15 DR. ALLEN: Present.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

17 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

19 MRS. COLAIZZI: Here.

20 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

21 MRS. FINK: Here.

22 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

23 MR. ISLER: Present.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

25 MR. McCREA: Here.

1 MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey?

2 MS. SHEALEY: Here.

3 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

4 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

5 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

6 MRS. HAZUDA: Present.

7 MR. WEISS: All present.

8 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Weiss. The
9 only item on the agenda this evening is a resolution
10 appointing Dr. Linda S. Lane Superintendent of Schools
11 and Secretary of the Board of Public Education.

12 There is a resolution that I'm asking
13 Ms. Shealey to read for us.

14 MS. SHEALEY: Thank you, Mrs. Hazuda.
15 Whereas, a vacancy exists in the office of
16 Superintendent of Schools as well as Secretary of the
17 Board of Public Education in the School District of
18 Pittsburgh effective January 1st, 2011; and whereas,
19 the Board of Public Education wishes to appoint
20 Dr. Linda S. Lane as Superintendent of Schools and
21 Secretary of the Board of Public Education pursuant to
22 the provisions of the School Code of 1949 as amended;
23 and whereas, Dr. Linda S. Lane possesses the
24 appropriate letter of eligibility to hold the Office
25 of Superintendent; and whereas, under the Public

1 School Code of 1949 the Superintendent holds the
2 position of Secretary of the Board of Public
3 Education; and whereas, appropriate notice was
4 provided to the members of the Board of Public
5 Education pursuant to the provisions of said code.

6 Now, therefore, be it resolved and it is
7 hereby resolved as follows:

8 Dr. Linda S. Lane is appointed to the
9 position of Superintendent of the School District of
10 Pittsburgh for the period January 1, 2011 through
11 January 16, 2014.

12 Dr. Linda S. Lane is hereby appointed
13 Secretary of the Board of Public Education effective
14 January 1, 2011.

15 The Board of Public Education hereby
16 approves the employment contract for the
17 Superintendent of Schools which is made part of this
18 resolution as though set forth herein at length.

19 Dr. Linda S. Lane shall, in cooperation
20 with the office of the Solicitor, submit an
21 appropriate application for commission to the
22 Pennsylvania Department of Education.

23 The proper offices are hereby authorized,
24 empowered and directed to execute the employment
25 contract and all necessary documents to effectuate the

1 purpose of this resolution.

2 Resolved this 13th day of December, 2010.

3 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mrs. Shealey.

4 Are there any questions or discussion at
5 this time?

6 I'll start down this end with Dr. Ware
7 Allen?

8 Mr. Brentley.

9 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes, I would like to make
10 some comments. Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 I just want to make my comments. I've
12 shared them earlier. I've had a conversation with
13 Dr. Lane.

14 This evening I will not be voting in the
15 affirmative for Dr. Lane, but let me qualify that. I
16 am voting no against the process, not the person.

17 I have requested in the past that we
18 consider a national search. We did not do that with
19 the leadership of this Board. I had requested that we
20 would consider even putting out a challenge within
21 this District to begin to generate some new ideas and
22 suggestions from the wonderful, wonderful employees in
23 this District.

24 It is my understanding we have close to 22,
25 if not 23 employees, in this District that has the

1 superintendent certification.

2 We have nearly 100, if not over 100,
3 employees that has national certification.

4 We have wonderful educators in this
5 District. And I thought it would have been a great
6 opportunity to at least put a job description out, to
7 at least put out a call and to listen and to possibly
8 get some suggestions on the future of this District.
9 This leadership rejected all of those suggestions.

10 My heart is heavy because I wish Dr. Lane
11 well, but my heart is very heavy because what has
12 happened over the last five years.

13 Depending on what neighborhood you come
14 from depends on what kind of services you are able to
15 get from this District.

16 I just happen to be from one of those
17 neighborhoods who took a very, very bad hit over the
18 experimental programs, the changes, school
19 configurations changed two or three times.

20 And at some point, somehow, some way,
21 somebody has got to be responsible and somebody has
22 got to at least acknowledge it.

23 Over the last month or so we have watched
24 this media blitz of propaganda of how wonderful the
25 District have, all the accomplishments.

1 And I'm stunned because the calls that I
2 get are those parents whose kids were sentenced to the
3 CEP program at Clayton and can't get out, or those
4 parents whose kids had their school configurations
5 changed three times in four years. It's unacceptable.
6 And so my no vote today is simply a vote to those who
7 have been victimized by this Administration.

8 I wish Dr. Lane well. I will immediately
9 move to help in any way possible. I'm only
10 encouraging, Dr. Lane, to please, this time, if we
11 would open our doors to the community, this time if we
12 would work from the bottom up when it comes to
13 spending money and putting in programs that are needed
14 in certain programs, certain communities.

15 So I'm only asking that we are partners,
16 there are teachers, there are educators, there are
17 community folks who are in love with this District.

18 And the solution to everything is not
19 always bringing in someone from out of town.

20 So my vote will represent to all of those
21 wonderful employees who have, would have jumped at the
22 opportunity of applying to at least sharing their
23 suggestions on the future of this great District.

24 So this evening my vote will represent a no
25 for the process, not against the person. Thank you.

1 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Brentley.
2 Mrs. Colaizzi?

3 MS. COLAIZZI: Thank you, Madam Chair. If
4 I just may say in a very brief statement that this
5 Board, over five and a half, almost six years ago,
6 made it very clear that they were going to set their
7 own goals and objectives to achieve for the District
8 of the City of Pittsburgh.

9 And I think that when we did that and we
10 did a national search and then found Mark Roosevelt,
11 we were quite pleased as the results of our goals and
12 our objectives being met.

13 We still believe in those goals and
14 objectives and we still believe in the future of this
15 District.

16 I think we have proved that as this Board
17 took the responsibility that is ultimately our's to
18 find a superintendent and hold that superintendent
19 accountable.

20 We did search our hearts and our minds
21 very, very carefully before we made this decision.

22 The true story here is that this Board a
23 long time ago made changes, and we don't want to stop
24 those changes from becoming the reality that we've
25 already started the road on.

1 So we're very, very pleased with the
2 decision that we have made.

3 And we also, and I personally would like to
4 thank Dr. Lane for sticking it out with us and moving
5 us forward. I wish her a lot of luck and I will be
6 there for you as well.

7 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mrs. Colaizzi.
8 Mrs. Fink?

9 MRS. FINK: I just want to say to Dr. Lane,
10 welcome to the hot seat. And you know you have our
11 support, and we really appreciate you accepting this
12 job offer and you being willing to lead the District
13 even farther into the future.

14 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mrs. Fink.
15 Mrs. Shealey?

16 MS. SHEALEY: Thank you, Mrs. Hazuda. I
17 just want to relay a little antidote that there is a
18 prayer, or piece of a prayer, that goes I seek refuge
19 in God from knowledge that doesn't bring wisdom.

20 And I spent the past year getting a lot of
21 knowledge, and I hope that it brought me some wisdom.

22 And in this process, I have determined in
23 my heart that there's not one individual on this
24 earth, and I realize the enormity of that statement,
25 there is not one individual on this earth better

1 poised and positioned and more prepared to lead this
2 District going forward, and to do the things for our
3 City and our children, the good things, that we all
4 wish for.

5 So Dr. Lane, I wish you the best of luck
6 and all of God's blessings and know that you have one
7 adamant supporter at least on this Board. Thank you,
8 Mrs. Hazuda.

9 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Ms. Shealey.
10 Mr. Sumpster?

11 MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mrs. Hazuda. The
12 most important decision that a school director can
13 make is regarding the selection of a superintendent.

14 I think it is hypocritical, I think it's
15 contradictory, I think it's selfish to vote for
16 anything other than the appointment of Dr. Lane.

17 I believe Dr. Lane is well qualified to be
18 Superintendent.

19 And I'm putting my vote where my mouth is,
20 and I wholeheartedly support Dr. Lane on this historic
21 appointment. Thank you.

22 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Sumpster.
23 Mr. Isler?

24 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Mrs. Hazuda.

25 I want to echo thank you for accepting

1 this. The students of the City of Pittsburgh Public
2 Schools, the entire staff, parents and the entire
3 community gains a phenomenal leader tonight.

4 You are the right person. There is no
5 doubt. It has been a pleasure to sit with this Board
6 through this process. It's not the first one I've
7 been through.

8 I have to tell you that of all the people
9 we could have considered, nobody brings what you bring
10 to this District. Thank you.

11 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Isler.
12 Mr. McCrea?

13 MR. McCREA: I think just about everything
14 has been said. I want to thank Dr. Lane for staying
15 with us as long as you have and staying with us in the
16 future and, again, support of at least the majority of
17 the Board. Thank you.

18 MRS. HAZUDA: Dr. Ware Allen?

19 DR. WARE ALLEN: Thank you. I was going to
20 reserve some comments for our Legislative meeting on
21 Wednesday, but I feel I would be remiss not to add my
22 comments as well.

23 I do agree with everything that has been
24 said in terms of the support of you, Dr. Lane.

25 I feel that you have the right balance, the

1 skills at the right time in our District's history to
2 lead the District forward.

3 I'm happy to support you. I look forward
4 to working with you in expanded capacity in this role
5 that you'll be taking.

6 It has been a pleasure working with you to
7 date. And congratulations and best wishes and our
8 support, because there is a challenging road ahead.

9 But this is not a role that you will be
10 working in alone. You have a great team of folks that
11 are here at the District as well as this Board to work
12 hand in hand with you. Thank you.

13 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Dr. Ware Allen.

14 Mr. Weiss, could we have a role call,
15 please?

16 MR. WEISS: Dr. Allen?

17 DR. ALLEN: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley?

19 MR. BRENTLEY: No against the process.

20 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi?

21 MRS. COLAIZZI: Absolutely.

22 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink?

23 MRS. FINK: Yes.

24 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler?

25 MR. ISLER: Yes.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea?

2 MR. McCREA: Yes.

3 MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey?

4 MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter?

6 MR. SUMPTER: Emphatically yes.

7 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda?

8 MRS. HAZUDA: Yes.

9 MR. WEISS: Motion carried 8 to 1.

10 Dr. Lane is elected.

11 (Applause.)

12 MRS. HAZUDA: I have a prepared statement
13 that I was going to read, but after listening to my
14 colleagues speak from their heart, there was nothing
15 truly more I could add.

16 We did a long, hard process from the time
17 we learned that Mr. Roosevelt was leaving us. We
18 worked through the process.

19 As we looked at the District and tried to
20 decide what our greatest needs were, the more we
21 looked, the more we knew that Dr. Lane was the right
22 candidate for us.

23 And I think you heard tonight all that is
24 felt. And we are very, very lucky to have you.

25 I want to very much thank all my fellow Board

1 Members for the number of hours that went into this
2 process.

3 There was a lot of dedication. There was a
4 commitment to work through it. There was a commitment
5 to be at the meetings, giving up Sunday evenings.
6 Always after Steeler games, of course. We do have
7 some parameters.

8 But there's no doubt in my mind we made the
9 best choice. There are folks that don't know it yet,
10 but as the year 2011 goes through, proceeds, however
11 the right word is to say, they will learn it.

12 We are very, very fortunate to have you.
13 And so, Dr. Lane, is there anything you would like to
14 say?

15 DR. LANE: Yes. Thank you so much
16 President Hazuda.

17 First, I want to thank this Board. I know
18 I saw little pieces of some of the work you did around
19 your decision-making process. And I'm honored. I'm
20 humbled for the privilege to serve.

21 So I'm very much looking forward to working
22 with all of you in a different capacity.

23 I want to thank the leadership team in this
24 room. Many of you we've been together now for between
25 five years, four years, depending on when you began in

1 your role.

2 And this is a hard working group of folks,
3 and I don't think people always realize.

4 But I told them I'd say it publicly, they
5 are the hardest working, the most dedicated group of
6 professionals I've ever had the privilege to work
7 with.

8 And I'm asking each of you to re-dedicate
9 yourself to the work that we need to do for the
10 children of the City of Pittsburgh.

11 We do have some things to be proud of. I
12 think that we owe Mark Roosevelt a debt of gratitude
13 for Pittsburgh Promise.

14 Because when I tell people around, that I
15 know around the country about the Pittsburgh Promise
16 they say to me, you're kidding, really. And I say
17 really. Really.

18 And so it's not only a statement to Mark's
19 vision, but also a statement about the faith this
20 community has in us, in the fact that they believe we
21 can do this work.

22 So that is a tremendous gift that we have
23 here in the City of Pittsburgh.

24 Another thing Mark did is the work that he
25 and Mr. John Tarka conducted together that changed the

1 culture of our District.

2 And they showed us that adults can get a
3 whole lot more done for children if we work together
4 instead of spending our time arguing with each other.

5 And so I'm looking very much forward to
6 continuing that collaborative work with the Pittsburgh
7 Federation of Teachers, and certainly also with our
8 organization or our principals as well. So we look
9 forward to both.

10 I began my career as a teacher. And my
11 time in the classroom, although admittedly a little
12 while ago, still informs my decision-making.

13 So I still remember the challenges I faced
14 as an educator, especially during my first year.

15 And I want to make sure that we all do all
16 we can to ensure that our teachers and our school
17 leaders have the support they need to continue the
18 work we're asking them to do around academic
19 achievement for our children, even during what we know
20 to be tough, difficult financial times ahead.

21 Together we've developed a vision about
22 what we believe we can do, and we have seen some
23 success. We have some students attending college
24 right now today on Promise scholarships that might
25 never have gone to college before.

1 We have seen gains in achievement, even
2 achieving AYP.

3 However, we also know we've got a long way
4 to go. We are not there yet.

5 So we need to take our next step, step
6 forward, and that means we need to deepen the work
7 that we have begun.

8 Evidence continues to confirm that strong
9 school leaders and effective teachers make the
10 difference in the lives of children and youth.

11 We are going to continue our work with
12 Empowering Effective Teachers, investing in our
13 teachers and school leaders as catalyst for change in
14 schools.

15 We are going to focus around our
16 under-performing high schools to make sure we get more
17 of our children Promise ready.

18 Success on these fronts will expedite
19 closure of racial achievement disparities that plagued
20 our schools for too long, as well as raise the
21 achievement for all PPS students.

22 Finally, we recognize the challenges ahead.
23 I know that as Superintendent I'm going to be making
24 some difficult decisions, some of whom many of you
25 that may be applauding today will not be applauding

1 some of those decisions.

2 But we still have to do what we must do to
3 ensure our children continue to improve their academic
4 achievement.

5 To achieve the vision of Excellence For
6 All, it is up to us, this community, to re-dedicate
7 ourselves to the work of preparing students to be
8 life-long learners, who are able to earn that college
9 degree or work force certification.

10 Again, I'm humbled for the opportunity to
11 serve the community. I pledge to come to work every
12 day focused and prepared to ensure that together we
13 can achieve our shared vision of Excellence for All.
14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MRS. HAZUDA: Having no more business at
17 this time, the special legislative session is
18 adjourned. We will now take a 12 minute recess.

19 MR. SUMPTER: Move to adjourn.

20 MRS. COLAIZZI: Second.

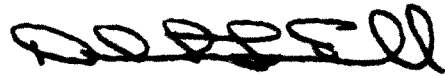
21 MRS. HAZUDA: There you go. Put a rookie
22 in charge.

23 We will now take a 12 minute recess before
24 we begin our Special Public Hearing for the Leadership
25 Academy of Math and Science Pittsburgh Charter School.

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

I, Deborah L. Endler, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing nineteen (19) 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, Conference Room A, on Monday, December 13, 2010.



Deborah L. Endler, Court Reporter
