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

MINUTES

Meeting of: December 7, 2011

Call of the Meeting: Board Organization Meeting

Members Present: Mark A. Brentley, Theresa Colaizzi (via phone), Jean Fink, Sherry Hazuda, Regina Holley, William H. Isler, Floyd L. McCrea, Sharene Shealey, and Thomas H. Sumpter

The following matters were received and acted upon.

Actions taken are recorded following the reports.
ADMINISTRATION OF OATH TO NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS – The Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III
Judge of the Common Pleas
Court of Allegheny County

District 2 – Regina B. Holley
District 4 – William H. Isler
District 6 – Sherry L. Hazuda
District 8 – Mark Brentley, Sr.

ROLL CALL:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Temporary Organization
1. Election of Temporary President
2. Election of Temporary Secretary

Permanent Organization
1. Election of President
2. Election of Vice Presidents

GENERAL BUSINESS - RESOLUTIONS

1. Election of Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries and Setting of Bonds
2. Election of School Treasurer and Setting of Bonds
3. Election of School Controller and Deputy School Controller and Setting of Bonds

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES AND SETTING OF BONDS

RESOLVED, That Linda Lane, be elected as Secretary of the Board of Public Education in addition to her other duties as Superintendent of Schools, without additional salary, and that bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Ira Weiss, Esquire, Peter J. Camarda and Pamela R. Capretta be elected Assistant Secretaries of the Board of Public Education in addition to their other duties as Solicitor, Acting Chief Operating and Financial Officer, Director of Finance and that bonds for the offices be set at $250,000 each, the bonds to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
ELECTION OF SCHOOL TREASURER AND SETTING OF BOND

RESOLVED, That Margaret Lanier, Treasurer of the City of Pittsburgh, be elected School Treasurer and that bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
ELECTION OF SCHOOL CONTROLLER
AND DEPUTY SCHOOL CONTROLLER
AND SETTING OF BONDS

RESOLVED, That Michael Lamb having been elected Controller of the City of Pittsburgh as certified by the Allegheny County Bureau of Elections on November 8, 2011 for a four year term from the first Monday in January 2012 to the first Monday in January 2016, now be elected Controller of the School District of Pittsburgh for the same term and at an annual salary of $21,219.00, in accordance with the provisions of the Public School code of 1949 as amended.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That Ronald Schmeiser be appointed Deputy School Controller for the same term as the School Controller set forth above.

RESOLVED FINALLY, That statutory faithful performance bonds of $25,000 for the School Controller and $10,000 for the Deputy School Controller respectively be furnished by recognized bonding companies at the cost of the School District.

We are an equal rights and opportunity school district.
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
BOARD ORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011
6:07 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

BEFORE:

SHERRY HAZUDA, PRESIDENT
SHARENE SHEALEY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
THOMAS SUMPTER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MARK BRENTLEY
THERESA COLAIZZI
JEAN FINK
REGINA HOLLEY
WILLIAM ISLER
FLOYD McCREA

ALSO PRESENT:

DR. LINDA LANE
MR. IRA WEISS
MS. CHRISTIANA OTUWA
MR. PETER J. CAMARDA
DR. JERRI LIPPERT
MS. JODY SPOLAR

DR. PAULETTE PONECELET
MS. MARY JANE CONLEY
MR. VIDYA PATIL
MS. LISA FISCHETTI
MR. MARK CAMPBELL
MR. DAVID MAY-STEIN

REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER
PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER

COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY
MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
412-281-0189
MR. WEISS: I want to welcome all of you to the Re-Organization Meeting of the Board Education of the School District of Pittsburgh. The School Code requires that all school boards reorganize the first week of December, the first full week of December, and we're pleased to have with us the Honorable Joseph K. Williams, III of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County to administer the oath to our re-elected and newly-elected members.

Judge Williams is a graduate of the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He attended Yale University and graduated from Carnegie Mellon with an undergraduate degree in psychology, and he earned a masters degree in clinical psychology. Then after he went to the Duquesne University School of Law where he received his law degree.

He practiced -- he was in private practice in Manchester for many years specializing in real estate development and contracts, international transactions, estates and trusts and criminal law. He is licensed both in Pennsylvania and in this District of Columbia and has had extensive activity as a lawyer in the area of international transactions in the emerging African nations.
He has an extensive history of civic active as well. In 2000, he received the Homer S. Brown Outstanding Attorney Award and in 2001 was elected president of the Homer S. Brown Law Association. He served on many Boards, including the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Negro Education Emergency Drive and the NAACP.

He was nominated for the bench by Governor Ed Rendell, was sworn in in November 2008, and in November 2009, he was elected to a full term.

I'm pleased to introduce Judge Williams, who will administer the oath.

(Applause.)

JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Weiss.

It gives me great pleasure to come here today because I'm a product of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and very few people have an appreciation for how rich of an experience it is, and you heard about my colleges and you heard about my professional experience, but that which makes me me or anchors me was really borne out of this building and experience I had in elementary school at Manchester Elementary and Oliver Junior High School and Oliver High School.
I think it's extremely important for children to have a rich, diverse background where they meet people who are like them and where they meet people who are not like them, and I believe that's what prepares us for the real challenges we have in life.

I know most of the people who I'm going to swear in tonight from having been involved with them at some point in my earlier life in some public service venture. The person that I know the best is doctor Regina Holley, and I would like to take the opportunity to swear her in first.

Would you?

(Thereupon, Dr. Regina B. Holley was administered the oath.)

(Applause.)

JUDGE WILLIAMS: William Isler.

(Thereupon, Mr. William H. Isler was administered the oath.)

(Applause.)

JUDGE WILLIAMS: I have to admit this name I needed a little help with before I came here, but thank you very much. I've enjoyed meeting you this evening.

(Thereupon, Mrs. Sherry L. Hazuda was
administered the oath.)

(Applause.)

(Thereupon, Mr. Mark Brentley, Sr. was administered the oath.)

(Applause.)

JUDGE WILLIAMS: All of the Directors were kind to accommodate me with a typo that happened with respect to their districts. What I would like to do is take each one of these and have the proper district put in, and I will get them back to you.

Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

MS. HAZUDA: Good evening. This is December 7, 2011. It's the Board Re-Organization Meeting for the Board of School Directors of the Pittsburgh School District. It is a required meeting under the School District and newly elected and re-elected members will be sworn in.

I ask that you please turn off your cell phones or put them on vibrate.

Would you please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Flag saluted.)

MS. HAZUDA: Since this is December 7th, I would like to ask that we have a moment in silence for
all those who lost their lives defending our country particularly at Pearl Harbor, but in any of our wars. (Thereupon, there was a moment silence.) MS. HAZUDA: Mr. Weiss, may we have a roll call, please.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.
MR. BRENTLEY: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Here.
MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.
DR. HOLLEY: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.
MRS. FINK: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.
MR. ISLER: Present.
MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.
MR. McCREA: Here.
MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.
MS. SHEALEY: Here.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.
MR. SUMPTER: Present.
MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.
MS. HAZUDA: Here.
MR. WEISS: All members present.
MS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.
We would like to welcome new Board member Dr. Regina B. Holley to our Board. Glad to have you.

At this time, we need to elect a temporary President of the Board so that we can proceed with the election.

Is there a motion from the floor for a temporary President?

MRS. FINK: I would like to nominate Mr. McCrea.

MS. SHEALEY: Second.

MS. HAZUDA: It's been moved.

Are there any further nominations?

(No response.)

MRS. HAZUDA: If none, a motion to close the nominations.

MR. ISLER: So moved.

MS. HAZUDA: Is there a second?

MS. SHEALEY: Second.

MS. HAZUDA: Isler and Shealey.

All in flavor, sign by saying aye.

(Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

MRS. HAZUDA: Opposed?

(No response.)

MRS. HAZUDA: Okay. Mr. McCrea, please come up and take the President's seat.
MR. McCREA: Thank you.

At this time, I would like to take the nominations from the floor for President of the Board.

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes. I would say like to nominate Dr. Regina Holley.

I would like to just take a moment if it is appropriate just to share some quick comments. It is very rare that we have at this end of the table someone who brings to the table the kind of experience that she's able to bring, 30-plus years as an educator, principal, supporter of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, and not only would it be a good thing, but it would be the right thing to do in terms of this District being able to show our students in terms of how important education really is.

So I make the nomination, and I am hoping if she accepts that my colleagues would give her a unanimous vote. Thank you.

MR. McCREA: Dr. Holley, a comment?

DR. HOLLEY: Thank you, Mr. Brentley. I'm going to say no. I'm new, and I want to learn more about my position on the Board, but I do thank you for that confidence.

MR. McCREA: Mr. Isler.
MR. ISLER: I would like to nominate Sherry Hazuda.

MRS. COLAIZZI: I'll second that.

MR. McCREA: It's being nominated by Mr. Isler.

MR. WEISS: We don't need a second.

MR. McCREA: Okay. We don't need a second.

Any other nominations?

(No response.)

MR. McCREA: Hearing no other nominations, we'll close the nominations, and at this point, we'll have a roll call vote by --

Go ahead, Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: I would just like to make a few comments for this vote. I will not be supporting the nominee. I will suggest again and make it very, very clear that I truly believe that we as a District are moving in a different direction.

It is important to get a new set of eyes to look at some of the things we have voted on in the past, and I am hoping that somehow some way that we can get ahead of it. We have made some very, very serious decisions that will impact this District negatively, and I believe it requires a strong leadership to move in a different direction, so I will
not be supporting the recommended nominee. Thank you.

MR. McCREA: Thank you.

Mr. Weiss, may we have a roll call?

MR. WEISS: Since we have one nominee, I would just ask that when your name is called and you vote yes it means you're voting for the nominee or no.

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: No.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.

DR. HOLLEY: I'm going to abstain because I want to work with her first before I give my vote.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Hazuda is elected by a vote of seven yes, one no, one abstention.

MR. McCREA: Thank you.

I overlooked something before we started. We were supposed to do the temporary secretary. Is there a nomination for temporary secretary?

MS. HAZUDA: I nominate Mrs. Fink.

MR. McCREA: We don't need a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

(Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

MR. McCREA: Thank you.

We'll move on then to the -- I have to have my glasses on when I do this.

The first vice president, any nominations for first vice president?

MRS. COLAIuzzi: May I nominate someone, please?

MR. McCREA: Yes, Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Sharene Shealey.

MR. McCREA: Thank you.

Any other nominations?

(No response.)

MR. McCREA: Hearing none, we'll have a -- Mr. Brentley, go ahead.
MR. BRENTLEY: I just want to briefly say that my comments would be the same comments made concerning the presidency. I would like to suggest to my colleagues that when accepting these Board positions that we may want to consider the importance of attendance.

It's very important meetings, and sometimes attendance is not there on very, very important issues, so I'm just putting that out there as a suggestion that we consider that, and somehow making it -- or strongly encouraging those who are elected to the offices that they would keep in mind the importance of attending the meetings when they're holding these very, very important positions, but my votes will be pretty much the same.

I do believe we should be moving in a different direction. We have not with this present leadership on the Board. Thank you.

MR. MCCREA: Any other comments?

(No response.)

MR. MCCREA: Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, roll call, please?

Is there a motion to close the nominations?

MR. ISLER: So moved.

MR. MCCREA: Thank you.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Second.

MR. McCREA: Okay. Roll call.

MR. WEISS: Voice vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

(Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

MR. WEISS: All right. Those --

MR. BRENTLEY: It's a no vote.

You said all in favor.

MR. WEISS: For closing the nominations.

MR. BRENTLEY: I got you. I understand.

Okay. Thank you.

MR. WEISS: This is for First Vice President again. Because we have one nominee, a yes vote will be in favor of Ms. Shealey. A no vote registering a vote against her.

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: No.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.

DR. HOLLEY: No.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.
MR. ISLER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.
MR. McCREA: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.
MS. SHEALEY: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.
MR. SUMPTER: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey is voted by a vote of seven to two.
MR. McCREA: All right. We're ready to go to the Second Vice President then.
?
?
?
?
Any nominations? Mr. Isler.
MR. ISLER: Nominate Tom Sumpter.
MRS. COLAIZZI: Second.
MR. McCREA: Any other nominations?
(No response.)
MR. McCREA: All right. We need a motion to close the nominations then.
MS. SHEALEY: So moved.
MRS. COLAIZZI: So moved.
MR. McCREA: So moved by Ms. Shealey and Mrs. Colaizzi.
Mr. Brentley.
MR. BRENTLEY: Yes. My comments or my vote
will be the same, but my reason I would just like to share is just once again over the years the suggestions and policies and motions placed on the floor that at times from this present leadership seem to target poor communities, African-American children, and it is just one that it seems at times would often not place a high priority on concerns of parents in the African-American community. This nominee is a part of the leadership. This nominee is also one who has introduced bills that I believe can hurt and will hurt this District, primarily, the lowering of the standards for our students, and I think it's the last thing we should ever be discussing.

So I will be respectfully voting no again, but encouraging my colleagues that we need a new set of eyes. We need to be moving in a different direction, and we need to place the agenda -- to place on our agenda, top on our agenda the struggling communities that have been victims of the experimental programs over the last five or six years in this District. Thank you.

MR. McCREA: Thank you.

Any other comments?

(No response.)
MR. McCREA: Hearing none, Mr. Weiss, roll call, please?

MR. WEISS: Again, a yes vote is in favor of Mr. Sumpter. A no vote is against him.

Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: No.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.

DR. HOLLEY: I'm going to abstain.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter is elected by a vote of seven yes, one no, one abstention.

MR. McCREA: Thank you very much.
At this point, we're going to play musical chairs again.

MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you.

Mr. Sumpter, I will now read the resolution for election of secretaries and assistant secretaries and setting of bonds.

Resolved, that Linda Lane be elected Secretary of the Board of Public Education in addition to her other duties as Superintendent of Schools without additional salary, and that the bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

Resolved further, that Ira Weiss, Esquire, Peter J. Camarda and Pamela R. Capretta be elected Assistant Secretaries of the Board of Public Education in addition to their other duties as Solicitor, Chief Financial Officers, Chief Financial Officer Acting and Executive Director of Budget Development, Management and Operations and that bonds for the offices be set at $250,000 each, the bonds to be furnished at the cost of the Board.

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

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.
MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.

MS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.

DR. HOLLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: The resolution is approved unanimously.

MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you.

Resolved, that Margaret Lanier, Treasurer of the City of Pittsburgh, be elected School Treasurer and that the bond for the office be set at $250,000, the bond to be furnished at the cost of the Board. Mr. Weiss, may we take a vote?

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.
Deputy

Approved unanimously.

The election of School Controller and setting of bonds.

Resolved, that Michael Lamb having been elected Controller of the City of Pittsburgh as certified by the Allegheny County of Elections on November 8, 2011 for a four-year term from the first
Monday in January 2012 to the first Monday in January 2016, now to be elected Controller of the School District of Pittsburgh for the same term and that an annual salary of $21,219 in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

Resolved further, that Ronald Schmeiser be appointed Deputy School Controller for the same term as the School Controller set forth above.

Resolved Finally, that statutory faithful performance of bonds of $25,000 for the school Controller and $10,000 for the Deputy School Controller respectfully be furnished by recognized bonding companies at the cost of the District.

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

MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.

MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

MRS. FINK: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Hazuda.

MRS. HAZUDA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley.
DR. HOLLEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

MR. ISLER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

MR. McCREA: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

MR. WEISS: Unanimously approved.

Madame President, that completes the business of the Re-Organization Meeting.

MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you.

I just want to take a few moments to say a few words. Again, welcome, Dr. Holley to our Board. We all look forward to working with you this year.

It has been a very challenging year that we just completed, and the challenges are going to be continuing throughout 2012, so we know there's a lot of work involved for both our staff and the Board members trying to do what's best for every student in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, in addition to the taxpayers of the City of Pittsburgh. That is a challenge.

We need to educate all our children so that
they become productive contributing members of the
society. That's the ultimate challenge before us, but
I know that this Board with the talent on this Board,
we can work together with our staff and make that
challenge a reality, and so I look forward to serving
as your President in 2012, and we'll get on with
business.

This meeting is adjourned.

You want a motion? Do we need a motion to adjourn?

MR. WEISS: Someone can make a motion.
MR. McCREA: So moved.
MR. SUMPTER: Second.
MS. SHEALEY: Second.
MRS. HAZUDA: McCrea and Sumpter.
All right. Thank you.
Now, the meeting adjourned.

(Thereupon, at 6:29 p.m., the Board Organization Meeting was concluded.)
CERTIFICATE

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 Board Organization Meeting held in the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, Administration Building, on Wednesday, December 7, 2011.

Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter