

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

**MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** January 18, 2012

**Call of the Meeting:** Continuation of January 9, 2012 Special  
Legislative Meeting

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

**Members Absent:** Regina Holley

**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**

**Continuation of January 9, 2012 Special Legislative Meeting on  
January 18, 2012**

## **AGENDA**

### **ROLL CALL**

#### **Committee on Business/Finance**

- |                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. 2012 Real Estate Millage | [Roll Call] |
| 2. 2012 Homestead Exemption | [Roll Call] |

### **ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION**  
**Real Property Tax Levies for Fiscal Year 2012**

RESOLVED, That The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of two (2) mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.20 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, pursuant to the provisions of Act 14, approved March 10, 1949, P.L. 30.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levy The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of .26 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.026 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 226, approved November 30, 1955, P.L. 793.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of .13 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.013 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 386, approved July 12, 1957, P.L. 837.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year, beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of .34 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.034 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 557, approved November 19, 1959, P.L. 1552.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year, beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of .17 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.017 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 321, approved October 21, 1965, P.L. 650.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year, beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of 1.02 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.102 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 340, approved November 26, 1968, P.L. 1098.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year, beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of 1.02 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.102 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of Act 143, approved December 15, 1975, P.L. 483.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That in addition to the foregoing levies The Board of Public Education of the School District of Pittsburgh does hereby levy and assess for the fiscal year, beginning on the first day of January, 2012, a school tax of 8.98 mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all real property assessed and certified for taxation in this district, being at the rate of \$0.898 on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable real property, for general public school purposes, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (a) (3) of Section 652.1 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, (Act 1982-182).

All of said taxes have been ascertained, determined and fixed in accordance with law and applicable thereto, including, but not limited to Special Session Act 1 of 2006, 53 P.S. §6926.101, et seq.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION OF THE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH IMPLEMENTING THE ACT 1  
HOMESTEAD AND FARMSTEAD EXCLUSION**

**WHEREAS**, on May 1, 2011 the Department of Education informed the School District of Pittsburgh ("School district") that its property tax reduction allocation under Act 1 is \$15,577,517.31; and

**WHEREAS**, Act 1 requires the School District to use its allocation to calculate a Homestead and Farmstead exclusion and to adopt a resolution implementing the exclusion for 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District has calculated a Homestead and Farmstead exclusion for the purpose of reducing School District property taxes.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School District shall implement the Homestead and Farmstead exclusion for 2012 in the amount of \$19,937.

1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

2 - - -

3 PITTSBURGH BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
 4 SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
 5 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012  
 6 6:33 P.M.  
 7 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
 8 VOLUME II  
 9 - - -

10 BEFORE:

11 SHERRY HAZUDA, PRESIDENT  
 12 SHARENE SHEALEY, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT  
 13 THOMAS SUMPTER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT  
 14 MARK BRENTLEY  
 15 THERESA COLAIZZI  
 16 JEAN FINK  
 17 WILLIAM ISLER  
 18 FLOYD McCREA  
 19 - - -

20 BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

21 REGINA HOLLEY

22 ALSO PRESENT:

23 DR. LINDA LANE	MR. IRA WEISS
24 MR. PETER J. CAMARDA	MS. LISA FISCHETTI
25 DR. JERRI LIPPERT	MR. MARK CAMPBELL
DR. JODY SPOLAR	DR. JEANNINE FRENCH
MR. DAVID MAY-STEIN	MS. CHRISTIANA OTUWA
DR. JERRI LIPPERT	MS. LINDA BAEHR

26 - - -  
 27 REPORTED BY: MELISSA L. FENSTER  
 28 PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTER  
 29 - - -

30 COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION BY  
 31 MORSE, GANTVERG & HODGE, INC.  
 32 PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
 33 412-281-0189  
 34 - - -

35 **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 continuation of the  
4 January 9, 2012 Pittsburgh Board of Public Education  
5 Special Legislative Meeting.

6 Before we begin this evening, I would like  
7 to ask everyone to please turn off all cell phones,  
8 pagers or put them on vibrate.

9 While you're doing that, I would like to  
10 take the opportunity to welcome the employees of PCTV  
11 who are recording us for the first time this evening.  
12 Welcome aboard.

13 (Applause.)

14 MRS. HAZUDA: Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll  
15 call vote please -- I mean, just a roll call? No vote  
16 yet.

17 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.

18 MR. BRENTLEY: Here.

19 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

20 MRS. COLAIZZI: Here.

21 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

22 MRS. FINK: Here.

23 MR. WEISS: Dr. Holley. Holley is absent.

24 Mr. Isler.

25 MR. ISLER: Present.

1 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

2 MR. McCREA: Here.

3 MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

4 MS. SHEALEY: Here.

5 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

6 MR. SUMPTER: Present.

7 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda.

8 MRS. HAZUDA: Here.

9 MR. WEISS: Eight members present.

10 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

11 The agenda for this evening's continuation  
12 of the January 9th's Special Legislative Meeting is  
13 the same as it was on January 9th. The agenda before  
14 you has two items that the Board must take action on  
15 this evening. The first one is the millage levy for  
16 2012 and the second is the Homestead/Farmstead  
17 resolution.

18 Before we begin with the agenda for the  
19 Special Legislative Meeting, I would like to  
20 acknowledge that we have at the table with us this  
21 evening Attorney Paul Lalley with Campbell Durant  
22 Beatty Palombo & Miller. Attorney Lalley is  
23 representing the School District in the reassessment  
24 case that has been before Judge Wettick.

25 Attorney Lalley is here to provide us with



1 the most current information so that the Board is  
2 comfortable in taking action on the items before us  
3 this evening.

4 Attorney Lalley, please address the Board  
5 at this time.

6 MR. LALLEY: Thank you, Ma'am President.

7 As the Board is probably aware from the  
8 newspaper reports, Judge Wettick granted the motion  
9 that we filed and permitted -- is permitting the Board  
10 to use the pre-reassessment valuations for determining  
11 the millage rate. The Judge found that we have  
12 presented convincing reasons for him to delay  
13 implementation of the new assessments for one year.  
14 Of course, that delay is not just going to be for the  
15 School District, but it's actually going to be for all  
16 the taxing entities in Allegheny County so that the  
17 appeals process can proceed, and then we'll have a  
18 better, more accurate valuation to have a tax levy  
19 occur in 2013 using new numbers.

20 So I believe the information that is being  
21 presented to the Board tonight is a resolution that  
22 essentially duplicates what you used in 2011, and  
23 including the millage rate that was used previously  
24 with no increase. Again, this is all -- you are  
25 permitted to do this in accordance with the Judge's

1 ruling on the motion.

2           There will be further proceedings in the  
3 case. There has to be some details worked out about  
4 people have received these 2012 notices. There's some  
5 question about whether they will be in formal appeals  
6 that the individuals will be able to take to have  
7 adjustments before they take formal appeals that  
8 hasn't been worked out yet. There will be a new  
9 deadline for people to file appeals on the new  
10 valuations and other aspects of implementing the  
11 Judge's ruling that still have to be ironed with the  
12 Judge or with the lawyers for all the parties.

13           At the last status conference,  
14 Judge Wettick indicated that he is asking other taxing  
15 entities to intervene in the case so that they can  
16 have a voice in the schedule that's ultimately going  
17 to be put together so that the School District isn't  
18 the only non-party entity in the case, which is true  
19 right now. The City is not formally a party to the  
20 case, nor is any other school district or taxing  
21 entity in Allegheny County.

22           Thank you.

23           MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you.

24           Are there any questions or comments on the  
25 information that Attorney Lalley has just shared with

1 the Board related to the two items before us this  
2 evening?

3 Mr. Brentley, we'll start with you.

4 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes, just a couple of quick  
5 questions. This is for Mr. Camarda, Dr. Lane or  
6 Attorney Lalley.

7 With accepting these numbers, do we as a  
8 District stand to lose any possible revenues at all  
9 for this year?

10 MR. CAMARDA: There's always an appeal  
11 process the taxpayers have even with this tax table.  
12 What this does is ensures that we're able to bill with  
13 the same file as it was for 2011, so I would have to  
14 answer that we would not lose revenue from this.

15 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. So we have no  
16 projection -- I mean, just a friendly or projection on  
17 the loss, if any, and if so, Dr. Lane, that would not  
18 or could it translate into additional layoffs or  
19 program cuts at all to this District?

20 DR. LANE: As Mr. Camarda said,  
21 Mr. Brentley, certainly taxpayers, property owners  
22 still have the right to appeal even old assessments,  
23 you know, so if that appeal process would prevail,  
24 then possibly there would be some change; but as  
25 compared to what it would have been had we been using

1 the new ones, we believe it would be -- this is  
2 significantly better for the District because it was  
3 certain that there was going to be a large number of  
4 appeals of those new assessments, and it would have  
5 been very difficult for us to anticipate what the  
6 total final valuation would have looked like, which  
7 meant we would have run the risk of having  
8 significantly less revenue than we had budgeted  
9 for frankly.

10 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. So we're in good  
11 shape?

12 DR. LANE: Better shape.

13 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. And, finally,  
14 Mr. Lalley, you are the attorney representing the  
15 District on this issue? That is correct?

16 MR. LALLEY: That is correct.

17 MR. BRENTLEY: Okay. And this is your  
18 recommendation that we accept the item that's before  
19 us? To the best of your knowledge, this is best for  
20 the District?

21 MR. LALLEY: It certainly is.

22 MR. BRENTLEY: Thank you.

23 MS. SHEALEY: Mrs. Colaizzi.

24 MRS. COLAIZZI: Thank you.

25 Mr. Lalley, I wanted to thank you for the

1 way you represented the District on this issue. You  
2 have done a wonderful job, and I certainly appreciate  
3 all the hard work that you put into it. Thank you  
4 very much.

5 MS. SHEALEY: Mrs. Fink.

6 MRS. FINK: Likewise, I'm sure that all  
7 taxing entities, not just us, are very grateful that  
8 the Judge was able to see the wisdom in the argument,  
9 so we can proceed with being able to run the District  
10 for the next year. Thank you.

11 MS. SHEALEY: Mr. Isler.

12 MR. ISLER: Thank you, Ms. Shealey.

13 I too want to thank Attorney Lalley. I  
14 think you did a great job representing the District,  
15 and in terms of helping everybody understand what the  
16 issue was, I think you also did a very good job saying  
17 we had to work within the Courts. That was the  
18 directive you gave us when we sat together in this  
19 earlier part of this meeting, that it was a Court  
20 decision and that we should abide by the Judge's  
21 decision. As we did then, that is your advice now,  
22 which has obviously been good advice.

23 I also think that the people that stand to  
24 thank you are all the citizens of the City of  
25 Pittsburgh who know what their taxes are going to be

1 based on what has happened as opposed to what could  
2 have happened, and I think that's very, very  
3 important. And, also, I think it's important to note  
4 that there is no tax increase for the residents of the  
5 City of Pittsburgh in terms of the 2012 tax year for  
6 the School District and the City of Pittsburgh because  
7 of this, so I think that this is a win/win for  
8 everybody.

9                   And, again, my thanks to you and to  
10 Mr. Camarda and his team that put it all together. I  
11 think it is quite great.

12                   And, again, Dr. Lane, you provided great  
13 leadership during this time, and I want to thank you  
14 also.

15                   Thank you, Ms. Shealey or Mrs. Hazuda,  
16 whoever is taking over right now.

17                   MRS. HAZUDA: You're welcome, Mr. Isler.  
18                   Mr. McCrea.

19                   MR. MCCREA: I want to echo my colleagues  
20 in thanking you, but I also want to thank the Judge  
21 for listening to us. I'm sure he felt our pain when  
22 we explained to him -- like, myself, you know, my  
23 vacation was very interesting last -- on the 9th.

24                   But I also want to note that the Homestead  
25 exemption is in this, and we fought long and hard to

1 get a Homestead exemption over the last ten years I've  
2 been on the Board, and that's one of my pride and  
3 joys, so I want to remind everybody.

4 And the 2.5 percent we give back to the  
5 City is from the wage tax, not the property tax,  
6 correct?

7 MR. WEISS: Correct.

8 MR. McCREA: Okay. Thank you.

9 MRS. HAZUDA: Always got to get that in  
10 there.

11 Ms. Shealey.

12 MS. SHEALEY: Thank you.

13 And I guess I would also like to echo  
14 everyone's comments regarding your representation of  
15 us, Attorney Lalley.

16 And for I think Mr. Camarda, can -- or  
17 whomever, will the tax bills go out on time and will  
18 the District receive its revenue with a delay? We  
19 would have generally voted this in December and we're  
20 about a month behind.

21 MR. CAMARDA: I spoke with the city school  
22 treasurer this afternoon, and we are delayed because  
23 of this action. We're not in the jeopardy we were  
24 when we first addressed the Judge in September because  
25 it was even a further delay that they were talking

1 about just getting the assessments announced and  
2 provided to the public. We can weather the delay  
3 without having to incur any costs or borrowing.

4 MS. SHEALEY: Thank you.

5 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you.

6 Mr. Sumpter.

7 MR. SUMPTER: Thank you, Mrs. Hazuda.

8 Thank you, Dr. Lane.

9 Thank you, Mr. Lalley.

10 I'm still waiting to see the big headlines  
11 of the public thanking the School District for taking  
12 this action to help clear up the misinformation that  
13 has been put out there and to just whoever is  
14 responsible for getting it done, they should get the  
15 accolades, but thanks again.

16 MRS. HAZUDA: My thanks as well.

17 If there are no further questions or  
18 comments, I would like to just talk. The first  
19 resolution before you this evening is to impose a  
20 13.92 millage. It is the same as last year and the  
21 same as many, many years before that, so there will be  
22 no tax increase for the folks in Pittsburgh coming  
23 from the School District this year as unfortunately  
24 previously represented.

25 So with that, Mr. Weiss, can we have a roll



1 call vote at this time?

2 MR. WEISS: This is on the resolution as  
3 presented and that's before you.

4 Mr. Brentley.

5 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.

6 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.

7 MRS. COLAIZZU: Yes.

8 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.

9 MRS. FINK: Yes.

10 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.

11 MR. ISLER: Yes.

12 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.

13 MR. MCCREA: Yes.

14 MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.

15 MS. SHEALEY: Yes.

16 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.

17 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.

18 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda.

19 MRS. HAZUDA: Yes.

20 MR. WEISS: The resolution is approved  
21 eight in favor, none opposed.

22 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.

23 I would like to now move to a roll call  
24 vote for the resolution to implement the Homestead and  
25 Farmstead exclusion for 2012 in the amount of \$19,937.

1 Mr. Weiss can we have a roll call, please?  
2 MR. WEISS: Mr. Brentley.  
3 MR. BRENTLEY: Yes.  
4 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Colaizzi.  
5 MRS. COLAIZZI: Yes.  
6 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Fink.  
7 MRS. FINK: Yes.  
8 MR. WEISS: Mr. Isler.  
9 MR. ISLER: Yes.  
10 MR. WEISS: Mr. McCrea.  
11 MR. MCCREA: Yes.  
12 MR. WEISS: Ms. Shealey.  
13 MS. SHEALEY: Yes.  
14 MR. WEISS: Mr. Sumpter.  
15 MR. SUMPTER: Yes.  
16 MR. WEISS: Mrs. Hazuda.  
17 MRS. HAZUDA: Yes.  
18 MR. WEISS: That resolution is also  
19 approved eight in favor, none opposed. That completes  
20 the business of the meeting.  
21 MRS. HAZUDA: Thank you, Mr. Weiss.  
22 All items have been completed. Is there a  
23 motion to adjourn?  
24 MR. ISLER: So moved.  
25 MRS. FINK: Second.

1 MRS. HAZUDA: Isler and Fink.

2 All those in favor.

3 (Thereupon, there was a chorus of ayes.)

4 MRS. HAZUDA: Meeting adjourned.

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6 (Thereupon, at 6:45 p.m., the Special  
7 Legislative Meeting was concluded.)

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

I, Melissa L. Fenster, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the foregoing fourteen (14) 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, on Wednesday, January 18, 2012.



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Melissa L. Fenster, Court Reporter

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