



## ***SCHOOL BOARD MEETING REPORT UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT***

***February 20, 2006***

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Sulkowski called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. He noted that Board members have the common goal of the best interest of the students in mind. He requested everyone to show respect to each other during the residents' comments. He noted that the Board would be following Roberts' Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure during the meeting. Dr. Sulkowski stated that each resident would be allowed to speak for two minutes.

### **STAR SPANGLED BANNER**

Hannah Starnes, high school student, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

### **RESIDENTS' COMMENTS**

Approximately 40 residents expressed comments regarding the International Baccalaureate program of the School District.

### **ACADEMICS, ARTS & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Iracki reported that the Academics, Arts & Activities Committee met on February 13. He explained that 21 residents spoke regarding the International Baccalaureate program followed by comments by Committee members. Dr. Iracki noted that the Committee recommended having the decision regarding the International Baccalaureate program be discussed by the full Board.

### **Discussion and Action Regarding International Baccalaureate Program**

There was extensive discussion and debate among Board members regarding the International Baccalaureate program, which included the following:

- being fiscally responsible with local control and having the School District develop their own internationally based program that could be a model of academic excellence
- the need to follow the curriculum development process before a decision is made
- completing a thorough analysis of the program before a decision is made to eliminate it
- the lack of quality comparative data from the administration to substantiate the continuation of the program
- requesting the Academics, Arts & Activities Committee or the Academics, Arts, Activities & Informational Technology Advisory Panel to continue to review the program until all unanswered questions are clarified
- the amount of time for a study done prior to eliminating the Flight and Mosaic teams compared to the International Baccalaureate program
- making a decision regarding eliminating the program too hastily
- a thorough study regarding the International Baccalaureate program being requested in the summer but being delayed because of teacher negotiations

- the number of school districts not offering the program
- colleges and universities treating Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses equally
- the program taking away resources that could be used for “children in the middle”
- whether property values would decline if the program were eliminated
- continuing the International Baccalaureate program until another program could be developed to replace it
- the small cost savings to the School District if the program were eliminated
- the number of fixed costs of the School District
- the concern for students currently enrolled in the program
- the possibility of charging a fee for students to be involved in the program

Dr. Lombardo stated that he supported the International Baccalaureate program and was not recommending that the program be eliminated, however, as the chief executive officer of the Board he would follow the directive of the Board. Dr. Lombardo explained that he would have had the administration approach the 30-minute presentation in a different manner last week had he known that a decision regarding the program were going to be made based on the presentation. He added that the administration would try to provide data that is being requested, however, he did not recommend that the Board make their decision to eliminate the program based on the fact that the administration failed to provide certain data.

Following a motion and a number of motion amendments, the Board adopted the following motion by majority roll call vote of 5-4.

I move to cancel the International Baccalaureate Program in the Upper St. Clair School District starting the 2006-07 school year except for students currently enrolled in the Diploma studies in the current grades 11&12. No new students will be admitted to the Diploma program and no courses are to be offered excluding only those courses required to fulfill the Diploma program of students currently enrolled. No further fees will be forwarded to the International Baccalaureate Organization except as required to fulfill the criteria above.

Mrs. Petersen clarified that she attended the Academics, Arts & Activities Committee meeting after she left the Finance, Facilities & Operations Committee meeting on February 13 and requested that the minutes accurately reflect that.

### **FINANCE, FACILITIES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Bluey reported that the Finance, Facilities & Operations Committee met on February 13. He stated that there were some questions and comments from residents.

#### **Approval of Charge and Committee Membership for Finance & Budget Community Advisory Committee**

There was discussion among the Board that included the charge of the advisory committee being too vague, the number of applications received and the credentials of the applicants, input received by Dr. Lombardo regarding the applicants, and clarification regarding an individual being advised prior to the Board meeting of being a member of the advisory committee.

The Board approved by amended motion the charge and the committee membership outlined below as nominated by the President of the Board for the Finance & Budget Community Advisory Committee.

Committee Membership: Elise Boyas, Beatrice Browand, Roger Heins, Henry Luck,  
Michael Moore, and Andrea Riberi

**Approval of Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer’s Report was approved, including approved totals of the Bill List and Check File Listing as follows.

Fund 10 (General Fund) – \$2,505,382.33  
 Fund 31 (Capital Reserve) - \$2,016.44

**Approval of Items to be Declared Surplus**

In accordance with Policy #3006 – Sale of Surplus Furniture, Equipment and Other Tangible Personal Property, the following items were declared surplus and the administration was authorized to bid the sale of the items, donate the items, or dispose of the items as appropriate:

- One (1) Piano at Boyce Middle School
- Excess School Buses as Outlined Below

Bus Number	Capacity	Year Mfg.	Make	Type	Body Type & Make
009	12/2wc	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird /Micro Bird
010	12/2wc	1996	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird /Micro Bird
084	66	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird Conventional Body
085	66	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird Conventional Body
086	66	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird Conventional Body
088	66	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird Conventional Body
090	66	1995	Ford	Sch. Bus	Blue Bird Conventional Body

- 222 books from the High School English Department titled Adventures in American Literature © 1985 (to be donated to victims of Katrina and shipped at not charge to the School District thanks to the generous offer of a resident to cover the shipping costs)
- Ford Ranger Transportation Service Vehicle

**Request to Administer Salary Adjustments for Central Office Support Staff**

Mr. Bluey reported that there was discussion regarding the Central Office staff salary adjustments, and the item was tabled.

**Approval to Conduct Appraisal of Cook School Road Property and Develop a Letter of Intent**

The Board accepted the proposal from Meridian Realty Advisors, LLC to conduct an appraisal of the Cook School Road property as outlined in the memorandum to the Board of School Directors dated February 10, 2006 in the total amount not to exceed \$1,850.00 and develop a letter of intent to negotiate the sale of the property pending the outcome of the appraisal.

**Data Regarding Direction to Investigate Outsourcing Transportation Services**

Mr. Bluey stated that Dr. Lombardo reported that the unions are not in agreement with allowing the privatization of the transportation department services, and therefore, the soonest those services could be outsourced would be the 2007-08 school year. He added that Dr. Lombardo suggested that the administration begin to seek estimates from outside firms in the next six months. Mr. Bluey stated that he requested a presentation to be made by a firm regarding outsourcing of the transportation services for the Committee meeting in March.

## **PROGRESS TOWARD DISTRICT GOALS**

Dr. Lombardo reported that the February 20 inservice day was the second day of training for the professional staff on the new supervision/evaluation model.

## **COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Sulkowski and Board members offered their congratulations to School Board member Barbara L. Bolas for being nominated for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the National School Boards Association.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATION OF FIRST DRAFT OF 2006-07 BUDGET**

Dr. Lombardo stated that the administration has completed the first draft of the 2006-07 budget and he encouraged all Board members to review the first draft and be prepared to ask questions at the School Board committee meetings in March. Dr. Lombardo stated that the Board requested the administration to develop budgets for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years with no millage increase. Dr. Lombardo noted that to accomplish that goal reductions in positions are recommended, which he would review in executive session at a later time. Dr. Lombardo added that a 2007-08 projected budget was also developed with no millage increase. He explained that the first draft of the 2006-07 budget includes an increase in expenditures of 1.5% and for 2007-08 a 3.7% increase in expenditures. Dr. Lombardo added that in 2006-07 there is a projected fund balance of \$1.5 million (3%) and at the end of 2007-08 a fund balance of \$1.58 million (3%). Dr. Lombardo noted that there are concerns for the 2008-09 budget estimates. Dr. Lombardo thanked the administrators for working in a cooperative spirit to achieve the directive of the Board.

Mr. Bluey stated that he appreciated the efforts of Dr. Lombardo and Ms. Sierzega in presenting a first draft of the budget to meet the directive of the Board, and to project no millage increase for two years is unprecedented. Dr. Sulkowski also thanked the administration and staff for their efforts.

Ms. Sierzega stated that copies of the budget draft are available for the public and will also be available on the website.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVALS (Pending Receipt of Paperwork)**

### **Retirements – Professional Staff**

- James L. Smoyer – Boyce/General Science effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the Professional school year
- James Lydon – Boyce/Special Education effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional School year
- Joan Kerlin – Streams/Elementary effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional school year
- Colette Sullivan – High School/English effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional School year
- Joan Descalzi – Boyce/German effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional school year
- Cindy Golding – Streams/Elementary effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional school year
- Jodie Ramsay – High School/Math effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional school year
- Dee Hamel – Streams/Elementary effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the professional school year
- Noreen Pikutis – High School/Physical Education effective June 15, 2006 or the last day of the Professional school year

**Resignation – Classified Staff**

Roger Haddix – Baker/Custodian effective 1-31-06

Imelda Poluha – High School Part-Time Nutrition Center effective 2-16-06

Kimberly Harding – Bus Attendant effective 2-13-06

**Unpaid Leave – Classified Staff**

Kathleen DiCecco –Streams/Part-Time Nutrition Center effective 2-27-06 to end of 2005-06 school year

**Change of Status – Classified Staff**

Cynthia Holzworth FROM Substitute Nutrition Center TO Boyce/Part Time Nutrition Center effective 2-20-06

Marjorie Townsend FROM Substitute Nutrition Center TO Part Time Nutrition Center effective 2-20-06

**Election – Classified Staff**

David Chadwick – High School/Custodian effective February 6, 2006

**Resignation – Extra Curricular Activities**

David Boardway - Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach

**Change of Status – Extra Curricular Activities**

J. Travato - Sports Conditioning Assistant

J. Render - Sports Conditioning Coordinator

J. Miller - Sports Conditioning Assistant

D. Stellute - Sports Conditioning Assistant

S. Morton - Sports Conditioning Assistant

**New Appointments – Extra Curricular Activities**

Jeffrey Beck - Spring Musical Scenery Painter

Jason Dempsey - Assistant Track Coach

Megan Bell - Boys Volleyball Assistant Coach

Tracy Doyle - Assistant Track Coach

Doug Petrick - Assistant Track Coach

Carlee Yaquinto - Assistant Softball Coach

Gretchen Moul - Girls .80 Lacrosse Assistant Coach

Jennifer Waters - Assistant Track Coach

Terry Tressler - Assistant Boys Tennis Coach

**Reappointments – Extra Curricular Activities**

Tim Olack - Head Track Coach

Carol Olack - Assistant Track Coach

Matt Martocci - Assistant Track Coach

Dave Palcho - Girls Lacrosse Head Coach

Mike Palcho - Girls .75 Lacrosse Assistant Coach

**Additions to District Substitute List**

Teacher:

- Lindsey Anderson – Elementary (effective 2-6-06)
- Megan Bedell – Early Childhood (effective 1-17-06)
- Joanne Benedetto – Elementary, Reading Specialist, Secondary School Guidance (effective 2-1-2006)
- Sarah Correal – Elementary (effective 1-27-06)
- Cynthia Croftcheck – Elementary (effective 1-17-06)
- Ashley Enyeart – Elementary and Special Education (effective 2-2-06)
- Stefany Gianoni – Elementary (effective 2-1-06)
- Erin Grow – Math (effective 2-1-06)
- Kelly Kovacs – Elementary (effective 1-18-06)
- Florine Masciantonio – Library Services (effective 2-1-06)
- Rebecca Neptune – Elementary (effective 1-17-06)
- Jonathan Stenger – Health & Physical Education (effective 1-26-06)
- Tara Tomczyk – Elementary (effective 2-1-06)
- Deborah White – Math (effective 1-23-06)
- Michael Dobos – Elementary (effective 2-14-06)
- Christian Jantos – Biology (effective 2-14-06)
- Amanda Rineer – Music (effective 2-14-06)

Custodian:

- Vaughn Finney – Custodian (effective 2-8-06)
- Jeffrey Podroskey (effective 2-14-06)

Bus Attendant:

- Kimberly Harding (effective 2-13-06)

**Deletions From District Substitute List**

Teacher:

- Michael Bothwell – Social Studies (effective 2-7-06)
- Danielle Kraljevic – Elementary (effective 1-12-06)
- Christine Lintner – Elementary (effective 1-24-06)
- Shantal Lucks – Business/Information Technology (effective 1-18-06)
- Sondra Marquardt – Elementary (effective 2-7-06)
- Amber Nassan – Elementary (effective 1-6-06)

Secretary/Teacher Aide:

- Debbie Breisinger – Aide/Secretary (effective 2-6-06)

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Brooks reported that the Board met in executive session before the meeting to discuss potential litigation matters.

**OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Mrs. Bolas thanked the Board for their comments and recognition of her nomination for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the National School Boards Association. Mrs. Coliane thanked Mrs. Bolas for her help and guidance as a new Board member and noted that she has much to learn from Mrs. Bolas as an experienced Board member.

Mrs. Petersen expressed concerns that the Board did not follow the Board's policy on the curriculum development process regarding the decision to eliminate the International Baccalaureate program.

*The agendas for the School Board meetings and School Board Meeting Reports are available on the school district website at [www.uscsd.k12.pa.us](http://www.uscsd.k12.pa.us) (District Info – School Board).*

*School Board meetings are also videotaped and will be cablecast on Cable 19 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.*