Notice having been advertised and posted and members duly notified, the regular meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on Monday, January 26, 2009, in the High School LGI Room.

The following Directors were present:

Mrs. Amy L. Billerbeck, President  Mrs. Angela B. Petersen
Mr. Harry F. Kunselman, Vice President  Mr. Louis A. Piconi
Mrs. Barbara L. Bolas  Mrs. Rebecca A. Stern
Mrs. Carol B. Coliane (arrived @ 7:31 pm)  Dr. William M. Sulkowski (arrived @ 7:26 pm)
Mr. Frank J. Kerber

School personnel in attendance:

Dr. Patrick O’Toole, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Terrence Kushner, Assistant to the Superintendent & Director of Secondary Education
Dr. John Bornyas, Director of Programming, Operations & Middle Level Education
Dr. Judith Bulazo, Director of Professional Development & Elementary Education
Ms. Frosina Cordisco, Director of Business & Finance
Mrs. Jean Toner, Director of Human Resources
Mr. Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology
Ms. Eloise Stoehr, Supervisor of Pupil Personnel
Dr. Sharon Suritsky, Supervisor of Special Education
Mrs. Mary Ann Stabile, Stenographer
Mr. W. Theodore Brooks, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Billerbeck called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m.

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Luke Steinhauer, high school student, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

READING OF THE MISSION

Mr. Piconi read the following School District Mission Statement:

Developing learned and responsible citizens for a global society is the mission of the nationally recognized Upper St. Clair School District, which is served by a responsive and innovative staff who, in partnership with the community, provides learning experiences that nurture the uniqueness of each child and promote happiness and success.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Billerbeck)

Mr. Piconi requested to add an agenda item to discuss a time limit for residents’ comments. Mrs. Billerbeck suggested adding the agenda item prior to the Solicitor’s Report.

MOTION: By Bolas: I move that the Board approve the revised agenda. Seconded by Stern, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

RECOGNITION OF SHARI ONDREJKO, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

Dr. O’Toole and Mrs. Bolas recognized Shari Ondrejko, high school student, for her drawing being selected by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to be on their holiday greeting cards. Mrs. Bolas, who is also the president of NSBA, thanked Shari for representing Upper St. Clair so well. Shari was presented with a poster display of the greeting card, as well as a matted and framed version of her drawing.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT (Katie Sray and Dana Roberts)

Katie Sray, student council president, and Dana Roberts, student council vice president, reported on the various high school and student council activities.

PRESENTATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Dr. O’Toole explained that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) has designated January as School Director Recognition Month. Dr. O’Toole recognized and thanked the board members on behalf of the administrators, staff, and community for their dedicated service to the School District. He presented them with a resolution, certificate of recognition, and calendar from PSBA.

RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

Sherwood Richardson, Miranda Road, commented regarding the middle schools renovation project.

Peggy Richardson, Miranda Road, commented regarding the middle schools renovation project.

Jim Belack, Clairmont Drive, commented regarding the middle schools renovation project.

Winifred Feise, Carmelita Drive, commented regarding her difference in views from the previous speakers regarding the middle schools renovation project.

Jim Welch, Montclair Drive, suggested moving the presentation by Dave McLean prior to the agenda item dealing with the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Billerbeck provided clarification regarding the middle schools renovation project. She noted that on December 15 the Board instructed the architect to move forward with the construction documents and that no decision has been made to move forward with the project until bids for the project are received. She also provided explanation as to why the two middle schools could not be combined into one. Mrs. Billerbeck stated that Act 1 does not permit the School District to raise taxes above 4.1% without going to referendum.

Mrs. Billerbeck thanked the residents for taking the time to provide their comments and welcomed residents to also submit more detailed comments via e-mail.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Stern: I move the approval of the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular Board meeting. Seconded by Petersen, and carried on unanimous voice vote.
SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

MOTION: By Bolas: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Commendations & Recognitions INCLUDED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Stern, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Congratulations to junior, Caroline Campanella, for being selected into the MENC All-Eastern Honors Choir, taking place from March 12-15 in Providence, Rhode Island. The chorus will be comprised of 350 students who received top chairs at their state's All-State Chorus festival in the Spring of 2008. Caroline is a member of the Chanteclairs and the Pantheon Choir, under the direction of Lorraine Milovac.

Nine students from Carolyn Cusick's Accounting I class scored in the top 25th percentile for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's fall 2008 National Financial Literacy Challenge, an initiative recommended by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy. From November 3, 2008 to December 12, 2008, the Challenge was taken by more than 75,000 high school students. Participants included students in rural areas, suburbs, and cities in this country, and in Department of Defense schools around the world. The students from the High School included: Justin D. Budash, Jacob T. Chockran, James A. Janis, Meghan McDougall, Brian E. McGuire, Danny Poljak, Jack Rosso, Brianna L. Schill, and William M. Sullivan.

Forty two students from Fort Couch Middle School recently participated in the 2008 American Mathematics Competition. The nationwide contest had the students answer 25 problem solving questions ranging from easy to very difficult. The top scorers were: John Rutkowski who earned a 23/25, Owen Meiman and Shaokang Yuan both earned 22/25 and Megan Adamo earned a 21/25.

David Tsui, an 8th grader at Fort Couch Middle School, won third place in the Pittsburgh Dialogue Foundation's Art and Creative Writing Contest. David submitted a painting titled "At Liberty Bridge" and earned $50.00. The contest is sponsored through Carnegie Mellon University.

The local competition of The National Geography Bee was held at Fort Couch Middle School with approximately 20 students competing. Garret Liebel, a 7th grader, placed third, Alex Bowman also in 7th grade, placed 2nd, and Ben Mertz, an 8th grader, came in first place. Ben will represent Ft. Couch in the State competition held at Shippensburg in April.

Four Ft. Couch teams participated in the Annual Science Bowl at Carnegie Science Center. Two teams tied for first, one team placed third, and another team placed fourth. One first place team consisted of Kathy Chen, Sharon Gao, Bethany Mittelman and Justin Brantner. The other first place team members were David Duan, Chenhao Yang, Christopher Besser, and Brett Mace. The third place team members were Christian Stage, Eric Baumann, Cheyenne Buntain, and Sarah Tepe. The fourth place team consisted of Ben Wucher, Robert Park, Brigid Kennedy, and Eva Roy.

REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ACTION PLANS FOR STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. O'Toole explained that the six strategic plan technical committees presented their action plans to the Strategic Plan Steering Committee, which were all endorsed. He stated that the Academic Standards and Assessments, Graduation Requirements, and Professional Development committees will present their action plans this evening, and the remaining three will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting in February.
ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT

Dr. Kushner and Dr. Bulazo reviewed the requirements and action plan for the Academic Standards and Assessment Technical Committee. In response to questions from the Board, there was discussion regarding resending information regarding Response to Intervention (RTI).

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Ghilani and Dr. Rullo presented the Graduation Requirements action plan strategies.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Karen Brown reviewed information regarding the Professional Development Technical Committee and shared the requirements and action plan strategies.

Administrators responded to questions and comments of Board members.

Dr. O’Toole thanked the leadership of the technical committee chairs. He stated that the technical committee action plans for Special Education, Pupil Personnel, and Technology will be presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 9. He explained that the strategic plan would be on display for 30 days prior to approval by the Board on March 9. Dr. O’Toole noted that the budgetary implications of the action plans will be incorporated into the proposed budget.

Mrs. Billerbeck commended all of the committee members for their work and thanked everyone involved in the process.

APPROVAL OF NON-REPRESENTED SUPPORT STAFF SALARY PLAN

MOTION: By Sulkowski: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve, effective January 1, 2009, a total salary increase plan for non-represented support employees for the calendar year 2009 in an amount not to exceed $37,665.00 to be allocated by the Superintendent in accordance with the compensation program structure for such employees. Seconded by Stern, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS RENOVATION PROJECT

PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Dave McLean provided an update regarding the Middle Schools Renovation Project. He stated that the design developments have been submitted to the construction manager and commissioning agent and noted that the estimates will be presented to the Board in February. Mr. McLean explained that the project and costs will be shared at a public hearing that will be held in March, the approval process has been initiated with the township planning department, technology needs for the buildings are being refined, geotechnical reports have been received, additional details regarding the site survey are being completed, the construction manager is working on preconstruction contracts, hazardous material removal work could begin in June, and new boiler and chiller units are recommended for Boyce as well as temporary classrooms for at least two years during the construction.
LEED CERTIFICATION

Mr. McLean reviewed the key areas of focus in the middle schools renovation project for LEED noting his confidence in achieving a basic certification level with the goal of achieving a silver level. He stated that when the design drawings are completed they will be submitted to the US Green Council for review noting that additional items will be submitted after the construction has begun. Mr. McLean explained that there are upfront costs associated with Green buildings and reviewed the payback period for some of the items. He shared the timeline of providing an overview in February regarding the LEED certification status along with upfront costs and payback periods, a public disclosure of the project with associated costs occurring in March, and soliciting bids for the project in June.

Mr. McLean responded to questions of Board members and suggested that the engineers attend a future meeting to provide further clarification in anticipation of the Board accepting the costs associated with LEED certification and providing permission to proceed. Mr. McLean stressed the importance of designing durable buildings first and then considering Green building ideas with the hopes of achieving both.

Mrs. Billerbeck requested information regarding the possible scenario of renovating one building at a time rather than simultaneously. Mr. McLean stated that he would provide a recommendation regarding the areas for each building that are in need of renovation regardless of the scenario that would be chosen.

ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING STAFFING

MOTION: By Piconi: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLVED, that based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the District staff be increased by the following Extra Curricular Activity positions effective February 1, 2009:

- Boys’ Lacrosse Varsity Head Coach (1.0)
- Boys’ Lacrosse Varsity Assistant Coach (1.0)
- Boys’ Lacrosse Junior Varsity Coach (1.0)
- Boys’ Lacrosse 9th Grade Coach (1.0)

PERSONNEL APPROVALS

MOTION: By Kerber: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the Personnel Listings, pending receipt of all paperwork, INCLUDED IN THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Retirement – Professional Staff
Joseph D. Kallis – High School/Industrial Arts effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Nancy A. Kirschner – High School/Spanish effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Frances Kayatin – Ft. Couch/Music effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Jean M. Austin – Ft. Couch/Science effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Patricia C. Betz – Boyce/Special Education effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Dorothy Moreau – Baker/Elementary effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Janice Rankin – Streams/Elementary effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Karen Slaven – Ft. Couch/Language Arts effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year
Thomas Smedley – High School/Math/Physics and High School Math Curriculum Leader effective 6-15-09 or the last day of the professional work year

Election – Professional Staff
Nikki Crum – (.8) High School/Family & Consumer Science (Long Term Substitute for Wagner) effective 1-21-09 - $34,080 (prorated)
Christopher Kountz – High School/English (Long-Term Substitute for Hendrickson - 2nd semester) effective 1-26-09 - $42,600 (prorated)

Election – Classified Staff
Tyler Hassenfeldt – Ft. Couch/(.5) Teacher Aide (Special Education) effective 1-6-09 - $14,000 (prorated)
Rosanne Short – Eisenhower/(.5) Teacher Aide (Special Education) effective 1-12-09 - $14,000 (prorated)

Leave of Absence- Professional Staff
Elizabeth Hendrickson – High School/English Unpaid Personal Leave effective 2-2-09 through end of 2008-2009 school year
Giulia Gouker – High School/English Unpaid Personal Leave effective 1-26-09 through 3-30-09
Tina Lach – Baker and Streams/ESL Unpaid Personal Leave effective 2-10-09 through 4-20-09
Erin Nanci – Ft. Couch/English Unpaid Personal Leave effective 1-9-09 through end of 2008-2009 school year
Gary McCullough – Boyce/Elementary Military Leave effective 12-4-08 (half-day) and 12-19-08 (full-day)

Leave of Absence – Classified Staff
Cynthia Kehren – Bus Driver return from Unpaid Personal Leave effective 12-2-08

Change of Status - Classified Staff
Sharon Lacey – Ft. Couch/Teacher Aide change Unpaid Personal Leave FROM 10-30-08 through 2-20-09 TO 10-30-08 through 1-23-09
Lois Smock – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO Boyce/Part Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 1-27-09

Resignation – Classified Staff
Kelly Konick – High School/Part Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 12-22-08

Resignations – Extra Curricular Activities
John Miller – Assistant Sports Conditioning Coach effective 12-23-08

New Appointments – Extra Curricular Activities
John Trovato – Assistant Sports Conditioning Coach - $1,000
Abby Montgomery – Volunteer Girls Middle School Basketball Coach
Shannon Dressler – Volunteer Hip Hop Club Sponsor
Michael Messina – Boys Lacrosse Varsity Head Coach - $3,100
Brooks Criswell – Boys Lacrosse Varsity Assistant Coach - $2,000
Michael Caruso – Boys Lacrosse J.V. Coach - $1,800
Ryan Schnieders – Boys Lacrosse 9th Grade Coach - $1,800
Jason Powell – Boys Lacrosse Volunteer Coach

Reappointments – Extra Curricular Activities
Terry Jackson – Middle School Boys Track Coach - $1,663
Greg Calvetti – Middle School Boys Track Coach - $1,663
Ryan Duchi – Middle School Boys Volleyball Coach - $1,856
Connie Montgomery – Middle School Girls Softball Coach - $1,819
Zoltan Toth – Middle School Girls Track Coach - $1,663
Becky Findley – Middle School Girls Track Coach – $1,663

Additions to District Substitute List
Professional:
Kelly Borra – Art effective 1-12-09
Kristina Dalnoky – Elementary effective 1-20-09
Nicole Lesovitch – Elementary effective 1-9-09
Christine McCrory – Social Studies effective 1-5-09
Curtis Morgan – Elementary effective 1-26-09
Judith Reilly – English effective 1-5-09
Philip Rychcik – Elementary effective 1-20-09
Amy Schmidt – Elementary effective 1-9-09
Amanda Young – English effective 1-15-09
Gregory Zajicek – Social Studies effective 1-5-09

Classified:
Judith Browne – Teacher Aide effective 1-12-09
Deborah Lattner – Nutrition Center Worker effective 12-16-08
Zachary Rugg – Custodian effective 12-17-08
Mary Stewart – Teacher Aide effective 1-5-09

Deletions from District Substitute List
Professional:
Joan Descalzi – German effective 1-7-09

Classified:
Louis Miale - Custodian effective 12-23-08
Pamela Kinney – Nutrition Center Worker 1-19-09

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE RATE FOR CUSTODIANS, SECRETARIES AND TEACHER AIDES

MOTION: By Bolas: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the following substitute rates for the School District effective February 1, 2009. Seconded by Piconi, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Custodians - $9.25/hour
Teacher Aides - $8.75/hour
Secretaries - $8.75/hour
FAST TRACK CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: By Petersen: The Committee recommends and I move the approval of the Fast Track Curriculum Recommendations AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on majority roll call vote of 7-1. (Mrs. Coliane voted nay and Dr. Sulkowski was absent from the room.)

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR VIDEO CONFERENCING ROOM AT HIGH SCHOOL

MOTION: By Kerber: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the contract for a video conference room at the high school to Dobil Laboratories, Inc. effective January 26, 2009 in the amount of $32,508.00. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

MOTION: By Sulkowski: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Treasurer’s Report AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, including budget transfers and approved total of the Bill List and Check File Listings as follows. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

- Fund 10 (General Fund) - $2,856,456.05
- Fund 31 (Capital Reserve Fund) - $11,495.00
- Fund 36 (Middle School Project Fund) - $17,024.32

APPROVAL TO REQUEST BIDS FOR GENERAL SUPPLIES FOR 2009-10

MOTION: By Kunselman: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board authorize the School District to request bids for general supplies for the 2009-10 school year. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move that in accordance with the mandate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Food and Nutrition, for all Pennsylvania school districts that currently contract with food service management companies to re-bid their food service contracts, the School District is authorized to solicit proposals for food service operations. Seconded by Stern, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF ACT 1 RESOLUTION

MOTION: By Piconi: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the Act 1 Resolution AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.
APPROVAL OF TRANSFER FROM ATHLETIC TICKET SALES TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

MOTION: By Bolas: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board authorize the School District to transfer $27,088 for fall athletic ticket sales from the General Fund into the Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Kunselman, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

DISCUSSION REGARDING FORMAT FOR RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

Mr. Piconi suggested limiting residents’ comments to three minutes each and also consolidating the approval of agenda items at voting meetings.

There was discussion among the Board regarding limiting the length of time for residents’ comments and the various practices used at other school districts, as well as past practices in Upper St. Clair.

Dr. O’Toole suggested that he along with the Board president and vice-president draft a policy for consideration at the February Committee of the Whole meeting.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Brooks stated that he has been working with Ms. Cordisco on the forms and appropriate manner to respond to right-to-know requests.

Mrs. Billerbeck requested that the Board be kept informed regarding the time commitments of staff associated with the right-to-know requests.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

Mrs. Billerbeck announced that executive sessions were held on the following dates:

- January 12, 2009 – Negotiations and Personnel Matters (2)
- January 26, 2009 – Personnel and Litigation Matters (2)

RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS

Bruce Kerman, Old Meadow Road, commented regarding the residents’ comments portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the meeting adjourn into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation matters at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Amy L. Billerbeck, President
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Frosina C. Cordisco, Secretary
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Submitted by: Mary Ann L. Stabile
School Board Stenographer