

**UPPER ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
UPPER ST. CLAIR, PA 15241**

REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Monday, October 22, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.

High School LGI Room

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 –P.M. – PERSONNEL ISSUES

PRESIDING: Mark G. Trombetta, President

Notice having been advertised and posted and members duly notified, the regular meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on Monday, October 22, 2007, in the High School LGI Room.

The following Directors were present:

Dr. Mark G. Trombetta, President (departed at 8:03 p.m.)

Mr. David E. Bluey, Vice-President

Mrs. Carol B. Coliane

Mr. Glenn G. Groninger

Mr. Daniel Iracki

Mr. Jeffrey W. Joyce

Dr. William M. Sulkowski

School personnel in attendance:

Dr. Patrick O'Toole, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Terrence Kushner, Assistant Superintendent & Director of Secondary Education

Dr. John Bornyas, Director of Programming, Operations & Middle Level Education

Dr. Judith Bulazo, Director of Professional Development & Elementary Education

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

Dr. Mark G. Trombetta called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. Procedure for residents' comments was explained.

Becca Nadler, high school student, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Dr. Trombetta announced that Agenda Item #14, Approval of Act 93 Plan – 2007-2010, will be postponed until the November Committee meetings.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

There were no residents' comments at this time.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Hanna Mann, student council president, and Louis Tambellini, student council vice president, reported on the various high school and student council activities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Bluey: I move the approval of the minutes of the September 24, 2007 regular Board meeting. Seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: By Bluey: I move the approval of the minutes of the October 8, 2007 special Board meeting. Seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT & REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MOTION: By Coliane: 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, approved totals of the Bill List and Check File Listing as follows. Seconded by Groninger, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Fund 10 (General Fund) – \$1,191,407.26

Fund 31 (Capital Reserve Fund) – \$13,780.00

RECOGNITION OF 2008 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION SEMIFINALIST & COMMENDED STUDENTS

Dr. O'Toole recognized the following students for their success on the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Competition and presented the students with commendation certificates and USC pens.

Semifinalists: Scott Bussey, Joshua Gao, Jerome Grunnagle, Liyun Jin, Nicole Kish, James Kostas, Christine Lee, Angela Liu, Brindusa Manolache, Silvia Manolache, Matthew Moretti, Noah Simmons, Kevin Su, Shawn Summers, and Brian Toth.

Commended Students: Catherine Batz, Christopher Baum, Tanya Braun, Meghan Christie, Chelsea Cramer, Sandeep Jain, Victor Lavi, Alexander Lippold, Colleen Lloyd, Brian Lynch, Hannah Mann, Madeline Massaro, Bridget Slowey, Catherine Thomson, and Akhilesh Venkatesan.

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

MOTION: By Groninger: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Commendations & Recognitions. Seconded by Iracki, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Trombetta recognized Dr. William Sulkowski and presented him with a certificate of recognition for being honored as a 2007 Awardee of Distinction by the Pitt Varsity Letter Club for being a three-year letter winner on the University of Pittsburgh basketball team from 1971 to 1973.

Congratulations to cellists Steve Wellard and Michael Kaufman for earning high rankings and an invitation to participate in the PMEA District 1 Honors String Orchestra to be held on November 17-18, 2007 at the Fox Chapel High School. Both musicians are members of the new after-school (independent study) High School Chamber Orchestra.

High School Sophomore Rocky Paterra sang the National Anthem at the Pirates' Game at PNC Park on Thursday, September 27.

Congratulations to the following students who successfully auditioned for the PMEA Honors Choir Festival held at Derry High School on October 19 and 20: Soprano I - Becca Nadler, grade 12 (1st Chair) and Sarah Nadler, grade 9; Soprano II - Emily Summers, grade 10; Tenor II - Mitchell Warmbein, grade 12 (2nd Chair) and Michael Zaitz, grade 9; Bass I - Shawn Summers, grade 12 (1st Chair), Joey Kennedy, grade 10, and Santino Tomasetti, grade 10; Bass II - Tyler Lehman, grade 12. Kudos also to Madeline Kushner, grade 9 and Devon Skelton, grade 11 for their participation at the auditions. The students are all enrolled in the high school choral program under the direction of Lorraine Milovac.

Laura Davies, The International Baccalaureate Academic Administrative Officer from the United Kingdom, recently advised that their senior examining team for IB psychology was impressed by the quality of work submitted for the May 2007 examination by our school's psychology candidates. The team also extended an invitation to high school teacher Doug Kirchner to apply to become an assistant examiner. The psychology candidates are: Tanya Braun – Senior, Colleen Lloyd – Senior, Blair Douglass – 2007 Graduate, Evan Garfield – 2007 Graduate, Neesha Hathi – 2007 Graduate, Dalena Klavin – 2007 Graduate, and Miriam Loebman – 2007 Graduate.

The following high school students auditioned on October 1 for the PMEA District 1 Honors Band and were accepted into the band: Michelle Szucs (Flute), Laura Rollick (Oboe), Matt Boyas (Clarinet), Joe Merchant (Bassoon - 1st chair), Benny Benack (Trumpet), Johnny Simons (Baritone), Jun Iida (Trumpet), and Jeff Wucher (Percussion) were accepted as alternates. Congratulations to these hard working musicians on their excellent achievement.

Sixteen high school juniors and seniors are participating in a service organization called Kids Helping Kids, founded by high school social studies teacher, Todd Flynn. The students in this organization, paired with teachers and local medical professionals, are traveling to the Dominican Republic to help the local communities by providing needed clothing, food, and medical supplies to remote villages. They will also participate in establishing a free clinic, repair local structures, and build a baseball field for the children. The Upper St. Clair students volunteering for this important endeavor are: Kira Brown, Meghan Christie, Jennifer Findle, Nicole Gans, Steve Garbin, Ashley Gilbert, Mike Howie, Carly Hyland, Samantha Jones, Brian Lattanzi, Colleen Lloyd, Kelsey Mailman, Ashley Nowicki, Marcella Ogrodnik, Holly White, and Scott Yanak. The four teachers volunteering are: Keera Dwulit, Todd Flynn, Mike Ghilani, and Tracy Smith.

Congratulations to the following Semifinalists in the 2008 Merit Scholarship Competition: Scott Bussey, Joshua Gao, Jerome Grunnagle, Liyun Jin, Nicole Kish, James Kostas, Christine Lee, Angela Liu, Brindusa Manolache, Silvia Manolache, Matthew Moretti, Noah Simmons, Kevin Su, Shawn Summers, and Brian Toth.

Congratulations to the following Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Competition: Catherine Batz, Christopher Baum, Tanya Braun, Meghan Christie, Chelsea Cramer, Sandeep Jain, Victor Lavi, Alexander Lippold, Colleen Lloyd, Brian Lynch, Hannah Mann, Madeline Massaro, Bridget Slowey, Catherine Thomson, and Akhilesh Venkatesan.

ACADEMICS, ARTS & ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bluey provided an update regarding the middle school renovation project. He explained that two public forums were held and feedback was received from residents. He noted the existing School District debt and the additional proposed Township debt with the addition of the community recreation center. Mr. Bluey stated that the architectural firm of Graves & McLean developed various options and cost estimates, which did not include renovations to the high school stadium nor relocation of the bus garage. He explained that Act 1 places a cap on tax increases at 4.4% without being required to place the project on a referendum ballot or submitting a petition to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for an exception. Mr. Bluey noted that a \$30 million renovation project would translate into approximately one additional mill and cautioned the Board to move forward with the proposed project in a fiscally responsible manner.

Following discussion, the following motion was presented:

MOTION: By Sulkowski: I move that the cost for the middle school renovation be no more than \$30 million including all soft costs but excluding the athletic facility and the bus garage. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on majority roll call vote of 5-2.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Sulkowski, Bluey, Coliane, Iracki, Trombetta
 Nays: Joyce, Groninger
MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-2

Mr. Brooks opined that the approved motion is a sense of the Board at this time and would be nonbinding on future Boards.

MOTION: By Sulkowski: I move also that in the event of an increase in property assessments that future budgets remain neutral; that is, the Board must reduce millage to offset a property value increase. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on majority roll call vote of 5-2.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Sulkowski, Bluey, Coliane, Iracki, Trombetta
 Nays: Joyce, Groninger
MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 5-2

Objections were voiced by Mr. Groninger and Mr. Joyce regarding the previous two motions being presented that had not been on the agenda nor discussed by the entire Board since Mrs. Bolas and Mrs. Petersen were absent and not able to comment and vote. Mr. Brooks opined that although any Board member may present a motion at any time it has been the Board's practice to have issues discussed at School Board Committee meetings. He repeated that the motion is a sense of the present Board and would be nonbinding on future Boards.

FINANCE, FACILITIES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Approval of Agreement with Wesley Spectrum Highland for Student Services

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the Agreement with Wesley Spectrum Highland for student services for the 2007-08 school year in the amount of \$24,500.00 AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Iracki, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Contractual Enrollment Agreement with Wesley Spectrum Academy For Student Services

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board approve the Contractual Enrollment Agreement with Wesley Spectrum Academy for student services for the 2007-08 school year in the amount of \$13,265.00 AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Iracki, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Renewal of Food Service Contract

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move the approval of the one-year Addendum to Standard Contract for Food Service Management Services with Aramark Educational Services, LLC AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Iracki, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Architect Proposal Including Fee Arrangement

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board accept the Architect Proposal from Graves & McLean, including the fee arrangement of 6.5% and enter into a Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect subject to successful negotiation of the terms and conditions and approval by the Superintendent and Solicitor AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Groninger, and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Adoption of Revision to Policy #1001 – Philosophy of the Board of Education

MOTION: By Coliane: The Committee recommends and I move that the Board adopt the revision to Policy #1001 – Philosophy of the Board of Education AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Iracki, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVALS (Pending Receipt of Paperwork)

MOTION: By Groninger: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Consent Calendar, pending receipt of all paperwork. Seconded by Joyce, and carried by majority roll call vote of 6-1. (Mrs. Coliane voted nay.)

Resignation – Professional Staff

Elizabeth Tighe, HS/English effective 10-12-07

Leave of Absence – Professional Staff

Gary McCullough, Military Leave 10-01-07, 10-03-07, 10-12-07 and 10-10-07 (half day)

Change of Status - Administrative Support

Dara Georges, FROM Central Office/Confidential Secretary TO Central Office/Accounting Clerk-effective 10-15-07 - \$27,000 (prorated)

Election – Administrative Support

Corrin Ficorilli, HS/ School Police Officer effective 10-29-07 - \$39,000 (prorated)

Joseph Conners, HS/School Police Lieutenant effective 10-29-07 - \$44,000 (prorated)

Leave of Absence – Administrative Support

Scott Holtkamp, Military Leave 10-30-07 through 11-2-07

Retirement – Classified Staff

Barbara DeVuono, Eisenhower/Teacher Aide effective 11-9-07

Leave of Absence – Classified Staff

William Scott Roley – Eisenhower/Head Custodian unpaid personal leave ending 9-7-07

James McDonough - .50 Streams/.50 Baker Custodian unpaid personal leave ending 9-21-07

Election – Classified Staff

Dawn Machi, Central Office/ Secretary I - effective 10-15-07 - \$25,100 (prorated)

Michael Culligan, HS/Custodian, effective 10-22-07 - \$22,600 (prorated)

Catherine Kauffman, Bus Attendant effective 10-23-07

Change of Status - Classified Staff

Julia Zaitz – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO High School/Part-Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 10-23-07

William Woods – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO Ft. Couch/Part-Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 10-23-07

Darcy Hill – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO Baker/Part-Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 10-23-07

Deborah Freeman – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO Streams/Part-Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 10-23-07

Resignations – Extra Curricular Activities

Vivian Criner – Culinary and Nutrition Club Sponsor

Karla Gioia – Culinary and Nutrition Club Sponsor

New Appointments – Extra Curricular Activities

Richard Platts, Forensics Sponsor - \$2,450

David Watson, Assistant Forensics Sponsor - \$914

Dee Kelly, F.R.I.E.N.D.S Event Leader - \$422

Kim Marmion, F.R.I.E.N.D.S Event Leader - \$422

Becca Brown, (.625) Diving Coach, - \$1,760

Gary Anselmino, JV Girls Basketball Coach - \$3,119

Greg Wagner, (.6) Freshman Girls Basketball Coach - \$2,495

Heather Koontz, (.2) Freshman Girls Basketball Coach - \$624

Reappointments – Extra Curricular Activities

Terry Tressler, Head Rifle Coach - \$3,218

Tom Smedley, Assistant Rifle Coach - \$2,300

Emil Deliere, Head Wrestling Coach - \$5,452

Dom Frollini, J.V. Wrestling Coach - \$2,300

Lucas Halliwell, Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach

Richard Bradshaw, Head Swimming Coach - \$5,726

Amy Pohodich, (.625) Assistant Swimming Coach - \$1,760

Charlie Seymour, (.75) Assistant Swimming Coach - \$2,079

Ernie Koontz, Girls Head Basketball Coach - \$7,355

Mike Vuono, Assistant Girls Varsity Basketball Coach - \$4,114

Zoltan Toth, (.5) Middle School Wrestling Coach - \$1,247

Pat Corr, (.5) Middle School Wrestling Coach - \$1,247

Dave Kyle, Middle School Wrestling Coach - \$2,599

Jeff Matty, (.2) Freshman Girls Basketball Coach - \$624

New Appointments – Odyssey of the Mind (Non-Paid Positions)

Robert Ritter

Andrea Bowman

Kevin Stefanik

Darlene Bleier

Reappointments-Odyssey of the Mind Coaches (Non-Paid Positions)

Geralyn Austin

Corrine Zatawski

Reid Simmons

Gwen Patterson

Karen East

Beckie Kane

Susan Rosati

Priti Shah

Eden Piconi

Additions to District Substitute List

Professional:

Michael Bernesser – Citizenship effective 9-25-07
Michael Cesario – Elementary effective 9-25-07
Ann Coggin – Elementary effective 10-1-07
John Criswell – Elementary effective 9-25-07
Sarah Emanuele – Elementary effective 9-25-07
Nicole Gasse – Music effective 9-25-07
Tiffany Gratchic – Art effective 9-25-07
Lindsay Greer – Elementary effective 9-25-07
Shana Haid – English effective 9-26-07
Sarah Hanson – English effective 9-25-07
Stephanie Nechemja-Bunton – Social Studies effective 9-25-07
Rosemary Penascino – Elementary effective 9-25-07
Blake Schaub – Social Studies effective 9-25-07
Brittany Taylor – Social Studies effective 9-25-07
Holly Levy- School Nurse effective 10-3-07
Kara Kisty – Elementary effective 10-3-07
Linda Lanham – Elementary effective 10-3-07
Timothy Sofis – Social Studies effective 10-9-07
Sara Maits – Biology effective 10-8-07
Jessica Locke – Elementary effective 10-16-07
Jessie Wehler – Elementary effective 10-10-07

Classified:

Melissa Picchi – Aide, Secretary, Bus Attendant effective 9-25-07
Joseph Gates – Custodian effective 10/8/07
Marianne Himes – Aide, Secretary effective 10-15-2007

Deletions from District Substitute List

Professional:

Susan Rosetti, Spanish effective 10-16-07

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Brooks reported that the signed court order for the sale of the Cook School Road property to Williamson & Jefferson, Inc. is subject to receiving final approval by the Township. He noted that in addition to the proceeds from the sale of the land, the tax base will be increased by the addition of five lots.

CONTINUING BUSINESS ITEMS

Academics, Arts & Activities Committee
Elementary School Recess

Finance, Facilities & Operations Committee
Review of Organizational Chart
Discussion Regarding Hall of Presidents
Discussion Regarding Review of Facilities Leases
Student Transportation Requests for Proposals Update
E-Mailing Board Packets
Discussion Regarding Gifts and Purchases for High School Theatre
High School Stadium Scoreboard

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Announcement of Executive Sessions

Mr. Bluey announced that executive sessions were held on the following dates:

October 8, 2007 – Negotiations & Personnel Issues

October 22, 2007 – Personnel Issues

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (Any School Related Business)

Pierette Van Ryzin, 2031 Allison Drive, expressed comments regarding unannounced agenda items.

Kathleen Himler, 1261 Satellite Circle, expressed comments regarding operating schools in the same manner as businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Iracki, seconded by Joyce, and carried on unanimous voice vote that the meeting adjourn at approximately 8:11 p.m.

Mark G. Trombetta, President
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Patrick T. O'Toole, Superintendent
UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Submitted by: Mary Ann L. Stabile
School Board Stenographer