

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

REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Monday, December 18, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

High School LGI Room

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 p.m. (Superintendent Search & Real Estate 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, December 18, 2006, in the High School LGI Room.

The following Directors were present:

Dr. Mark G. Trombetta, President (departed @ 8:10 p.m.)	
Mr. David E. Bluey, Vice-President	Mr. Daniel Iracki
Mrs. Barbara L. Bolas	Mr. Jeffrey W. Joyce
Mrs. Carol B. Coliane	Mrs. Angela B. Petersen
Mr. Glenn G. Groninger	Dr. William M. Sulkowski

School personnel in attendance:

Dr. Terrence Kushner, Acting/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
Ms. Frosina C. Cordisco, Director of Business & Finance
Mrs. Jean Rogers 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 L. Stabile, Stenographer
Mr. W. Theodore Brooks, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Mark G. Trombetta called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Procedure for residents' comments was explained.

Heather and Heidi Crossley, high school students, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT

Dr. Trombetta noted that a police officer had been in attendance at prior Board and Committee meetings and announced that it was no longer necessary to have the police officer in attendance due to improvements in the overall meeting environment. Dr. Trombetta added that he hoped that it would not be necessary to request a police officer for future meetings.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS

There were no residents' comments at this time.

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Josh Jackson, student council president, and Arjun Prabhu, student council vice president, reported on the various high school and student council activities, including the holiday projects. They distributed a box to solicit donations for needy families in Washington County. Josh and Arjun congratulated the high school football team in achieving the AAAA State Championship.

Dr. Trombetta stated that Mrs. Vicki McKenna requested that he announce a telethon fund raiser that will be held on February 1 from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m., which would include a spaghetti dinner and silent auction to raise funds for Sean Roche, a high school senior who is in need of a heart transplant. Mrs. McKenna has also requested donated items for the silent auction. Dr. Trombetta requested everyone to keep this student in their thoughts and prayers. Additional information regarding this fund raiser is on the District website, www.uscsd.k12.pa.us under “In the News.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Iracki: I move the approval of the minutes of the November 20, 2006 regular Board meeting. Seconded by Groninger, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: By Iracki: I move the approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2006 reorganization Board Meeting. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: By Iracki: I move the approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2006 special Board meeting. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT & REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms. Cordisco summarized information presented in the preliminary financial statements for the period ended November 30, 2006 and noted that the expenditure comparison report reflects overall expenditures for the current year compared to the prior year both being approximately 35% of the budget. Dr. Sulkowski stated that the format that Ms. Cordisco is using for the financial statements is very informative. Ms. Cordisco noted that the bill list is now sorted by vendor and will continue with that format, if the Board would so desire.

MOTION: By Bolas: 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 approved totals of the Bill List and Check File Listing as follows, with the exception of the invoice from McGuire Woods LLP in the amount of \$319.00 and the invoices from Tucker Arensberg, P.C. Seconded by Groninger, and carried on majority roll call vote of 5-4.

Fund 10 (General Fund) - \$2,033,637.73
Fund 31 (Capital Reserve Fund) - \$70,362.50

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Joyce, Bolas, Petersen, Groninger, Trombetta
Nays: Sulkowski, Bluey, Coliane, Iracki

MOTION CARRIES ON A VOTE OF 5-4

There was full discussion among the Board members, administration, and Mr. Dave Duessel of Maher Duessel with respect to the McGuire Woods invoice and the customary practice of charges from law firms for the time spent to research and respond to requests from auditors due to outstanding or potential litigation.

There was further discussion regarding legal fees related to the annual audit. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Duessel explained that as part of his audit process, the auditors request updates of various topics, including outstanding litigation. Maher Duessel's due diligence included a review of District expenses, the compliance with applicable laws and the appropriateness of such expenses. Mr. Duessel further explained that outside counsel was contacted to review the McGuire Woods LLP invoices, and it was the opinion of outside counsel after considering the facts and law that they did not find a basis for a surcharge action against the Board or its members. Mr. Brooks opined that according to Pennsylvania School Code it is the auditor's responsibility to understand all financial activities and investigate facts.

MOTION: By Coliane: I move that the Board pay the invoice from McGuire Woods in the amount of \$319.00. Seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on majority roll call vote of 8-1.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Joyce, Bolas, Sulkowski, Bluey, Coliane, Iracki, Groninger, Trombetta
Nay: Petersen

MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 8-1.

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

MOTION: By Bluey: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Commendations & Recognitions AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Dr. Kushner explained that the following Commendations & Recognitions will be included in the review of the Board meeting that will be taped for cablecast on Friday.

The following Upper St. Clair students were selected to participate in the PMEA District I Choral Festival to be held on January 11 - 13 at Peters Township High School: Mishan Blecher, Gina Iracki, Aditya Kumar, Sidney Kushner, Tyler Lehman, Becca Nadler, Shawn Summers, and Mitchell Warmbein. These students are all members of the Pantheon Choir which is directed by Ms. Lorraine Milovac.

Congratulations to the students that earned positions in the prestigious Music Educators National Conference Eastern Division Honors Performing Groups. They will perform for the Eastern Division Conference in Hartford, Connecticut on March 8-11, 2007.

Dalena Klavin and Eric Cheng, senior violinists in the HS Orchestra, will participate in the 2007 MENC Eastern Division Orchestra. Rebecca Nadler, junior soprano in HS Pantheon Choir, will be featured in the 2007 MENC Eastern Division Chorus.

Chris Matysik, sophomore cellist in the High School Orchestra, was selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 1 Senior High Orchestra Festival, to be held on January 25-27, 2007 at West Mifflin High School.

Arvind Prasad, freshman violinist in the High School Orchestra, Akhil Venkatesh, 7th level violinist in Fort Couch Orchestra, and Joe Merchant, 8th level bassoon player in Fort Couch Band, have been invited to participate in the PMEA District 1 Junior High Orchestra Festival to be held on January 19-20, 2007 at Fox Chapel High School.

Congratulations to Matt Boyas and Sarah Perrone, tenth graders, along with teacher, Pat Palazzolo, who have been working with the author of a book titled “Nanotech 101”. The book, which will be published this spring, is designed to encourage middle and high school students to consider nanotechnology as a future career field, and mentions Matt and Sarah as examples of students already looking into this up and coming technology. The author also credits Upper St. Clair High School as the kind of school that encourages this kind of high level speculation.

Congratulations to the two teams that placed first at the Calcu-Solve Competition held at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Team members are: Eric Cheng, Rob Pribish, Andrew Savinov, Jonathan Weimer, Kevin Su, Peter Wang, Josh Gao, and Akhil Venkatesan. In addition, Kevin Su and Josh Gao were Individual First Place winners and Jonathan Weimer and Nick Zaitz were Individual Second Place winners.

Arjun Prabhu, a senior at the high school, was selected as the Wendy's High School Heisman state winner for Pennsylvania. There were over 15,000 nominees nationwide for the award and Arjun was chosen for excellence in three categories: scholarship, citizenship, and athletics. Dr. Iracki noted Arjun Prabhu's distinction of being selected from over 15,000 nominees nationwide.

Dr. Iracki commended the high school choral students for the wonderful winter choral concert that was held at the high school on Thursday, December 14.

Dr. Kushner commended the high school football team for achieving the AAAA victory and announced that Dr. Ghilani and the high school staff are planning a parade and celebration in their honor, which will be held on Thursday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m. The celebration will begin with a parade along Panther Pass followed by a ceremony in the high school stadium. Dr. Kushner invited the public to attend the celebration.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of Name Change for 403(b) Vendors

MOTION: By Iracki: I move that the Board approve the name change of the following 403(b) vendors. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

FROM Traveler's Life and Annuity Company TO Met Life; and,
FROM Nexus Financial Group, Inc. TO Berthold Capital, LLC

Approval of Acceptance of Paraeducator Performance Grant Contract

MOTION: By Iracki: I move that the Board approve and accept the Paraeducator Performance Grant Contract from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network of the Pennsylvania Department of Education in the amount of \$9,997.08 AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Administrator Substitute Rate

MOTION: By Iracki: The Superintendent recommends and I move that a substitute administrator rate of pay be set at \$40.00 per hour effective December 18, 2006. Seconded by Groninger, and carried on majority voice vote. (Mrs. Coliane voted nay.)

Acceptance of Audit for Year Ended June 30, 2006

Mr. Dave Duessel of Maher Duessel reviewed information regarding changes in the professional standards for audits that will be in effect for the audit of the District’s financial statements for June 30, 2007.

MOTION: By Bluey: I move that the Board accept the audit for the year ended June 30, 2006 conducted by Maher Duessel AS ATTACHED TO THE PERMANENT RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING, and ratify the School District’s actions of filing the necessary legal notice of the auditor’s report with the Office of the Prothonotary. Seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

APPOINTMENTS TO PROPOSED FACILITIES RENOVATION AD HOC COMMITTEE

Mr. Bluey explained that he has been working with Dr. Kushner to develop the membership of the Facilities Renovation Ad Hoc Committee. He stated that the committee would review the architectural study as it relates to the long-term debt of the District. Mr. Bluey noted that the feasibility study included improvements of \$45 million. There was discussion among Board members regarding when the full Board would review the feasibility study and accept it as a public document and where individual Board member questions regarding the feasibility study should be addressed. Dr. Trombetta explained that an ad hoc committee has been established and questions should be addressed to Mr. Bluey as chair of the Facilities Renovation Ad Hoc Committee.

MOTION: By Sulkowski: I move the approval of the following members to the Proposed Facilities Renovation Ad Hoc Committee. Seconded by Bluey, and carried by majority voice vote. (Mrs. Petersen voted nay.)

Dave Bluey, Chairperson
 Glenn Groninger, Board Member
 Bill Sulkowski, Board Member

Ray Berrott, Director of Technology
 Joe Wightkin, ARAMARK Facilities Director

Gary McCullough, Boyce Middle School Teacher
 Jan Conn, Fort Couch Middle School Teacher

Advisor: Frosina Cordisco, Director of Business & Finance

Additional Committee Members to Attend When Respective Areas Discussed:

Karen Brown, Boyce Middle School Principal
 Joe DeMar, Fort Couch Middle School Principal
 Ted Petersen, High School Stadium

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2007 SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Trombetta announced the 2007 School Board Committee Membership as follows:

Academics, Arts & Activities Committee

Chairperson: Iracki
 Members: Bluey, Bolas, Joyce

Finance, Facilities & Operations Committee

Chairperson: Coliane
 Members: Groninger, Petersen, Sulkowski, Bluey (Facilities Only)

<i>Parkway West:</i>	Petersen (Representative)	Groninger (Alternate)
<i>Pathfinder:</i>	Sulkowski (Representative)	Coliane (Alternate)
<i>PSBA/SHASDA/Legislation:</i>	Bolas (Representative)	Bluey (Alternate)
<i>Youth Steering:</i>	Iracki (Representative)	Joyce (Alternate)

Dr. Trombetta suggested that when a tie vote occurs on a committee that the issue be moved to the full Board for a vote. Mr. Brooks opined that this would be a good practice for the Board to consider.

MOTION: By Sulkowski: I move that in the event of a 2-2 tie on an item discussed in committee that the agenda item be moved forward for a vote by the full Board. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: By Iracki: I move that the 2007 regular meetings of the Upper St. Clair Township Board of School Directors be held each month in the High School LGI Room at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time as follows:

January 22	June 25
February 26	August 27
March 26	September 24
April 23	October 22
May 21	November 26
	December 17

The Board reorganization meeting will be held on December 3. No regular meetings will be scheduled for the month of July. Special meetings will be called as needed.

The Academics, Arts & Activities Committee meetings of the Upper St. Clair Township Board of School Directors will be held each month in the High School LGI Room:

January 15	June 11
February 12	August 13
March 5	September 10
April 9	October 8
May 7	November 12

The Finance, Facilities & Operations Committee meetings of the Upper St. Clair Township Board of School Directors will be held each month in the High School LGI Room:

January 15	June 11
February 12	August 13
March 12	September 10
April 16	October 8
May 14	November 12

Committee meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. No committee meetings will be held in July or December. Special committee meetings will be called as needed.

Special meetings of the Board of School Directors of the School District of Upper St. Clair Township shall be held for any deliberations and actions of the Board of School Directors as may be deemed appropriate before regular Board meetings. Such special Board meetings shall be contemporaneous with meetings of committees of the Board of School Directors at 7:00 p.m. as noted above, except no meetings are scheduled for July or December.

The Secretary be given authorization to advertise the schedule of 2007 regular and committee meetings and the authorization to hold special meetings as approved by the Board in the previous motions. Seconded by Bolas, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVALS (Pending Receipt of Paperwork)

MOTION: By Iracki: The Superintendent recommends and I move the approval of the Consent Calendar, pending receipt of all paperwork. Seconded by Joyce, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Leave of Absence – Professional Staff

Gary McCullough, military leave 11-28-06 and 12-7-06

Election – Professional Staff

Jenny Andrae, Long-Term Substitute, Special Education, Fort Couch (for Amy DeMarco) at \$39,800 (prorated) effective 1-2-07

Election – Classified Staff

William Jordan, High School Custodian at \$23,000 prorated effective 12-18-06
Annette Tomasetti – High School Teacher Aide (Nutrition Center/Clerical) 12-month position at \$10.55/hour (prorated) effective 12-18-06

Resignations – Classified Staff

Bernadette Fincke, Eisenhower Teacher Aide (Special Education) effective 12-31-06

New Appointments – Extra Curricular Activities

Andy Lucas as Middle School Girls Basketball Coach in the amount of \$2,100

Reappointments – Extra Curricular Activities

Kevin Clark as Deer Valley Director in the amount of \$2,000
Terry Williard as Spring Musical Technical Director in the amount of \$2,000
Liz Williard as Spring Musical Assistant (Costumes) in the amount of \$1,750
Paul Fox as Spring Musical Orchestra Pit Director in the amount of \$500
Lorraine Milovac as Spring Musical Assistant (Vocal Coach) in the amount of \$2,000
Lorraine Milovac as Spring Musical Assistant (Accompanist) in the amount of \$1,000
Jane Dodd as Spring Musical Assistant Director in the amount of \$1,800
Ponny Conomos as Spring Musical Assistant in the amount of \$2,850
Shelly Desmond as Spring Musical Assistant in the amount of \$2,000
Glenn Wayland as Middle School Girls Basketball Coach in the amount of \$2,100

Additions to District Substitute List

Administrative:

Kathy Kirsch (effective 1-2-07)

Carl Lindstrom (effective 1-2-07)

Teachers:

Janine O'Brien – Elementary (effective 12-7-06)

Stacey Brett – Music (effective 11-27-06)

Clayton DeWalt – Music (effective 12-1-06)

Michelle Zeh – Elementary (effective 11-27-06)

Teacher Aide:

Anne Marie Smith (effective 2-1-07)

Bus Driver:

Alfred Verzellesi (effective 12-7-06)

Deletions From District Substitute List

Teachers:

Brigitt Wagner-Watts – Art (effective 12-01-06)

Christen Conarty – Mathematics (effective 12-01-06)

Pamela Long – Elementary (effective 12-01-06)

Custodian:

Vaughn Finney

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Presidents' Holiday Resolution

MOTION: By Bluey: May the blessings of the Holy Christmas season remain with you throughout the year, and may the blessings of Chanukah instill in your hearts the spirit of peace and good will. From our families on the Board to yours, we wish all citizens a prosperous, blessed, and Happy New Year. Seconded by Coliane, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Announcement of Executive Sessions

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

December 4, 2006 – Real Estate Matters

December 18, 2006 – Superintendent Search & Real Estate Issues

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (Any School Related Business)

Victoria Pye, 1535 Scenery Ridge, requested clarification regarding the Consent Calendar approval.

Elise Boyas, 1591 Tiffany Drive, expressed comments regarding the audit process.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Iracki, seconded by Sulkowski, and carried on unanimous voice vote that the meeting adjourn at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Mark G. Trombetta, President
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Frosina C. Cordisco, Secretary
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Submitted by: Mary Ann L. Stabile
School Board Stenographer