

**UPPER ST. CLAIR BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM**

6:15 PM - EXECUTIVE SESSION (LEGAL MATTERS)

Notice having been advertised and posted and members duly notified, the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on September 8, 2015 in the Central Office Board Room.

School Board Members in attendance:

Mr. Frank J. Kerber, President
Mrs. Buffy Z. Hasco, Vice President
Mrs. Amy L. Billerbeck
Mr. Harry F. Kunselman
Mr. Louis P. Mafrice, Jr.
Mr. Louis M. Oliverio
Mrs. Angela B. Petersen
Mrs. Rebecca A. Stern

School personnel in attendance:

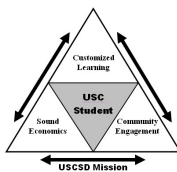
Dr. Patrick O'Toole, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sharon Suritsky, Assistant/Deputy Superintendent
Dr. John Rozzo, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Frosina C. Cordisco, Director of Business & Finance
Ms. Judith Bulazo, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development
Mr. Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology
Ms. Eloise Stoehr, Supervisor of Pupil Services
Ms. Melissa Garvin, Supervisor of Special Education
Mrs. Mary Ann Stabile, Stenographer
Mr. Robert Prorok, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Hasco)

Mrs. Hasco called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

READING OF THE MISSION

Mrs. Billerbeck read the following School District Mission Statement:



Developing lifelong learners and responsible citizens for a global society is the mission of the Upper St. Clair School District, served by a responsive and innovative staff who in partnership with the community provides learning experiences that nurture the uniqueness of each child and promotes happiness and success.

SHARED BELIEF STATEMENT #12 FROM STRATEGIC PLAN

Mr. Kunselman read the following Shared Belief Statement #12 from the Strategic Plan:

We believe that:

exposure to a balanced curriculum, including academics, arts, and athletics, expands the human experience and allows each student to discover his or her own particular interests and abilities.

RESIDENTS’ COMMENTS (REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

There were no residents’ comments at this time.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Hasco)

MOTION: By Mafrice: I move that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Petersen, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ANTHONY ABINANTI FOR BEING SELECTED TO STUDY IN CHINA ON A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP (Wagner)

Dr. Timothy Wagner, High School Associate Principal for Program Planning & Innovation, introduced Anthony Abinanti who was selected to study in China on a U.S. Department of State National Security Language Initiative for Youth Scholarship.

Anthony shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding his experiences in Xiamen, China during the summer of 2015, including information regarding the application process, why he applied, his itinerary and daily schedule, and future plans.

Dr. O’Toole and Mr. Kerber presented Anthony with a Certificate of Recognition and USC iPad portfolio.

Board members congratulated and recognized Anthony for being chosen for the scholarship and wished him well in his future plans.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (O’Toole)

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8 PERSONNEL LISTINGS
(Requires Board Vote at 9/8 Board Meeting - See Agenda Item #9)**

Dr. O’Toole requested approval of the Personnel Listings to be voted on at a meeting to be convened this evening.

CONVENE BOARD MEETING (Kerber)

The Committee of the Whole meeting recessed at approximately 7:34 p.m. to convene a voting Board meeting.

The Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at approximately 7:36 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (O'Toole)

REQUEST APPROVAL OF RECOGNITION OF GIFTS TO SCHOOLS, GRANTS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014-15 (SEPTEMBER 21)

Dr. O'Toole stated that a complete list of gifts to the schools, grants, awards, and scholarships will be presented to the Board for recognition and approval at the September 21 Board meeting.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BOARD CASTING OF VOTES FOR PSBA OFFICE ELECTIONS

Dr. O'Toole stated that he has reviewed the candidate's information and consulted with Mrs. Bolas regarding her recommendation since she is a member of the PSBA Board. He noted that both recommend that the Board vote for Mary Birks from Mt. Lebanon School District for the office of President-Elect and Michael Faccinetto from Bethlehem Area School District for the office of Vice President. He explained that the Board can discuss the candidates at the Board meeting, noting that he understands if a Board member wishes to abstain because of a lack of personal knowledge of the candidates.

The item will be placed on the Board meeting agenda for discussion, separate from the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

REQUEST APPROVAL OF TITLE I NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACT WITH AIU (Bulazo)

Dr. Bulazo requested approval of the Title I Non-Public School Contract with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for the 2015-16 school year.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF E-SIGNATURE RIGHTS FOR PDE E-GRANT TITLE I SYSTEM (Bulazo)

Dr. Bulazo requested approval of a Resolution authorizing the Superintendent to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, including the use of electronic signatures.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF ITEMS TO DECLARE SURPLUS (Berrott)

In accordance with Policy #3006 - Sale of Surplus Furniture, Equipment and Other Tangible Personal Property, Mr. Berrott requested that the Board declare equipment surplus and that the administration be authorized to bid the sale of the items, donate the items, dispose of the items as appropriate or advertise via public Internet auction.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (Garvin)

Ms. Garvin requested approval of the Special Education Settlement Agreement as presented.

The Committee will recommend approval, separate from the Consent Agenda.

BUSINESS & FINANCE (Cordisco)

REVIEW OF BILL LIST FOR 2015-16

Ms. Cordisco requested approval of the Bill List for 2015-16.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REVIEW OF BILL LIST FOR 2014-15

Ms. Cordisco requested approval of the Bill List for 2014-15.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH AIU

Ms. Cordisco requested approval of the Educational Services Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ROUTING SOFTWARE LICENSE AT BUS GARAGE

Ms. Cordisco requested approval of the additional software license and maintenance agreements for student transportation routing software for the Bus Garage with Trapeze Software Group (dba TripSpark Technologies) at an annual cost of \$2,346 beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH AIU FOR PARTICIPATION IN PA-EDUCATOR.NET COMPUTERIZED RECRUITING SYSTEM

Ms. Cordisco requested approval of the Agreement with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit for participation in the PA-Educator.net Computerized Recruiting System for the 2015-16 school year at an annual cost of \$3,000, contingent upon documentation acceptable to the Superintendent and Solicitor.

The Committee will recommend approval, to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

PSBA LEGAL OPINION - STATE BUDGET IMPASSE IMPACT ON DISTRICT PAYMENTS TO PSERS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Dr. O'Toole stated that he requested Mr. Prorok to review the legal opinion from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association regarding the state budget impasse and its impact on District payments to PSERS and charter schools.

Mr. Prorok provided his opinion and reviewed the District's obligations to make payments to PSERS and charter schools. He reviewed the District's options to either 1) withhold 100% of payments to PSERS related to the employer's obligations (but not the employees' withholdings) and withhold 100% of payments due to charter schools, or (2) to pay only the Net Employer Share (net of the Commonwealth share) due to PSERS on September 23 related to the employer's obligations as determined by PSERS (but not the employees' withholdings) and withholding the portion of the 2015-16 budgeted revenues from state and federal sources of payments due to charter schools, continuing until the Pennsylvania state budget impasse is resolved.

There was discussion among the Board members regarding the District's various options. Dr. O'Toole stated that motions will be drafted for the Board's consideration at the September 21 voting meeting.

MATTERS OF INFORMATION - SUPERINTENDENT & ADMINISTRATION

SUMMER SCHOOL REVIEW (Bulazo)

Dr. Bulazo reviewed information regarding the success of the District's Summer School, noting that the majority of the offerings were in creativity and STEAM instruction, as well as courses taken during the summer in lieu of during the school year. Dr. Bulazo added that approximately 375 students participated in the Student Leadership Academies.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN-SERVICE REVIEW (Suritsky)

Dr. Suritsky shared information regarding the back to school in-service days that were conducted with appropriate and meaningful offerings for the professional and classified staff. She reviewed the programs that were offered at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, including work on the strategic plan and high school experience. Dr. O'Toole added that two high school students presented an excellent film clip to the high school faculty regarding the high school experience.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 1:1 LEARNING INITIATIVE ROLLOUT REVIEW (Berrott)

Mr. Berrott reported on the rollout of the 1:1 Learning Initiative at the middle school level. He stated that High School students from the Smart Desk provided much help during the summer months. Mr. Berrott explained that at the end of August there were four nights where presentations regarding the 1:1 Learning Initiative were provided for parents. In-service training days were held for staff and personalized tech support is being provided during the first and second week of school. Training sessions continue for the students, and the tech department is continuing with their support.

Dr. Rozzo commended Mr. Berrott and Mr. Wilson for how well the 1:1 Learning Initiative at the middle school level was going.

STRATEGIC PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE - OCTOBER 19 (Rozzo)

Dr. Rozzo shared information regarding the Strategic Plan Steering Committee meetings that were held in the spring. He explained that the steering committee chairs and co-chairs finalized their work during the summer retreat by sharing their final product and requesting feedback. The feedback will be used to make necessary adjustments to share the final product of the vision teams at a Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting to be held on October 19.

PSSA STUDENT/PARENTS REPORTING

Dr. O'Toole stated that the District anticipates receiving the individual student reports of the PSSA tests in the next few weeks. He explained that the PSSA tests have changed based on Core Standards, which also provide different results. Dr. O'Toole stated that during the administrative retreat, work was done regarding how to convey this information to the parents. Dr. O'Toole stated that he would like to share information to the Board regarding the PSSA test results, including an explanation of the impact the new PSSA assessments are having on student scores at a workshop at 5:30 pm prior to the Board meeting on September 21.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE

Dr. O'Toole shared an update regarding the student enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. He stated that the student enrollment has decreased by 29 students K-12. He explained that the largest class is the seventh graders where he is predicting a class of 400 by the time they graduate and that he will be addressing the balancing of the elementary attendance areas, noting that future staffing and enrollment decisions may need to be made.

REPORT REGARDING NEW FAMILIES WELCOME EVENT @ HS - SEPTEMBER 4

Dr. O'Toole reported that the New Families Welcome Event was held at the High School on September 4. He welcomed the new families to the District and thanked Stacie de la Parra and her committee for planning the wonderful event.

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY 2014-15 FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 21 (Cordisco)

Mr. Cordisco stated that she will provide a preliminary review of the 2014-15 financial report at the Board meeting on September 21.

FALL OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULE

Dr. O'Toole announced the schedule for the Fall Open Houses as follows:

September 10 – Elementary
September 17 – High School
September 24 – Boyce
October 1 – Fort Couch

HALLS OF FAME INDUCTION - OCTOBER 16

Dr. O'Toole announced that the Halls of Fame Induction would be held on Friday, October 16.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn at approximately 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann L. Stabile
School Board Stenographer