STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Emily Summers, high school student, sang the Star Spangled Banner.

READING OF THE MISSION

Mr. Frank Kerber 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 promote happiness and success.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Sulkowski requested that an agenda item be added regarding middle school renovation project debt service comparison and suggested use of Boscov’s store during middle schools renovation. Mrs. Billerbeck suggested that item 8.c. be added to the agenda to accommodate Dr. Sulkowski’s request.

The Board unanimously approved the revised agenda.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION REGARDING GASB 45

Colleen Deer, Vice President of Mockenhaupt Benefits Group, presented information regarding GASB 45, which is the required accounting of retirement benefits that must be reflected as an accounting figure in the District’s financial statements.

Ms. Cordisco explained that the administrative recommendation regarding GASB 45 would occur at the Committee of the Whole meeting in May with a formal vote at the regular Board meeting.

Ms. Deer and Ms. Cordisco responded to questions of Board members.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Dave McLean provided the following updates regarding the Middle Schools Renovation Project:
Act 34 Hearings & PlanCon Parts D & E

The Act 34 Hearings held on March 16 were well attended, and the 30-day comment period ended on April 16. Seven individuals pre-registered to speak at the hearing and seven follow-up comments were received in writing. All documentation regarding the hearing is a component of PlanCon Part D that will be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. PlanCon Part E consists of the educational component of the project. The approvals of PlanCon Parts D & E do not obligate the District to continue with the project.

Energy Modeling

Additional services are requested for consulting engineers to provide energy modeling of the buildings, which is detailed data that models the use of energy components of a building through a one-year calendar cycle. The process allows engineers to measure and compare energy modeling projections with actual prior use. The process can also help determine if alternates in energy equipment would be cost effective. The energy modeling is a requirement for LEED certification.

Modular Classrooms

There is a need for eight modular classrooms at Boyce Middle School during the proposed renovation project. Mr. McLean described the location of the proposed modular classrooms and explained that grading and exterior work could continue while the classrooms are in place. Approving the request for proposals for modular classrooms would not obligate the District to proceed with the project. He noted that an option could be included in the RFP to include a canopy to eliminate the elements of weather in traveling between the main building and the modular classrooms.

Questions by Dr. Sulkowski Regarding Middle Schools Renovation

Dr. Sulkowski requested clarification regarding the debt service comparison information that Ms. Cordisco provided to Board members. He requested a comparison of debt service among other school districts across the state. Ms. Cordisco suggested providing information again that was previously provided to Board members. Ms. Cordisco also provided an explanation regarding the variance of capitalized interest.

Mrs. Billerbeck stated that using the Boscov’s store at South Hills Village was an idea of Mrs. Stern’s that Ms. Cordisco pursued. She explained that the idea would not be cost effective and will no longer be pursued.

There was discussion with respect to requests for information from the administrative staff by Board members and being sensitive to their workload and time constraints.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Board approved by majority roll call vote the following items of the Consent Agenda.
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO YOUTH STEERING COMMITTEE

Approve the following appointments and reappointments to the Youth Steering Committee:

Appointments (4 years):
- Edyce Rizzi
- Geralyn Austin
- Stacie Sebastian

Reappointments (4 years):
- Lynn Boucek
- Gary Seech
- Debbie Piecka
- Jeff Krantz

PERSONNEL APPROVALS (Pending Receipt of Paperwork)

Retirement – Administrative Staff
Dr. Terrence J. Kushner – Assistant Superintendent effective 6-29-09

Resignation – Professional Staff
Amy Baumgart – High School / Special Education effective 6-30-09

Leave of Absence – Professional Staff
- Maureen Chermak – High School / Special Ed - Unpaid Personal Leave effective 6-8-09 through 6-15-09
- Dana Freedman – High School / Special Ed - Unpaid Personal Leave effective 5-27-09 through 6-15-09
- Tracy Smith – High School / Physics - Unpaid Personal Leave effective 2009/2010 school year
- Gary McCullough – Boyce/Elementary Military Leave effective 3-20-09 (full day) and 3-24-09 (half day)

Election – Classified Staff
Zachary Rugg – High School / Custodian effective 4-13-09

Leave of Absence – Classified Staff
- Cindy Trocano – High School / Part-Time Nutrition Center worker unpaid personal leave effective 3-10-09 through 4-13-09
- Nina Flanigan - Bus Driver return from Unpaid Personal Leave effective 4-21-09

Change of Status - Classified Staff
T Chad Heil – FROM Sub Nutrition Center Worker TO High School/Part Time Nutrition Center Worker effective 4-28-09

Retirement – Classified Staff
- Leroy Bittner – Ft. Couch / Custodian effective 6-29-09
- Margaret Crossan – Eisenhower / Nutrition Center Supervisor effective 6-16-09

New Appointments – Extra Curricular Activities
- Kathryn Calano – Middle School Softball Assistant Coach
- Jessica Brickett – Middle School Track Assistant Coach

Additions to District Substitute List
Professional:
- Tricia Andrino – Early Childhood effective 4-22-09
- Dennis Foor – General Science / Biology effective 4-13-09
Lisa Vancko – Elementary / Early Childhood effective 3-26-09
Barbara Wagner – Home Economics effective 4-1-09

Classified:
Michelle Jenkins – Summer Sub Aide (Special Ed)
Erica Dunkelbarger – Summer Sub Aide (Special Ed)
Kristina Gualazzi – Summer Sub Aide (Special Ed)
Jackie Geisler – Summer Sub Aide (Special Ed)
Melvin O’Bryon – Driver effective 4-22-09
Gina Spramelli – Summer Sub Aide (Special Ed)

Deletions from District Substitute List
Professional:
Geraldine Altenhof – Elementary/Reading Specialist effective 4-1-09
Larry Armenini – Elementary effective 4-1-09
Williard Hartley – German/History effective 4-1-09
James Smoyer – Elementary/Earth & Space Science/Geography effective 4-1-09
Karen Ann Thompson – English effective 4-1-09

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR DISTRICT COPIERS

Enter into a five-year contract with Amcom Global Imaging Systems in an amount not to exceed $142,776 per year.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF NOVELL SCHOOL LICENSE AGREEMENT

Renew the School License Agreement with Novell Corporation for the period March 1, 2009 through March 1, 2010 in the amount of $9,000 per year.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF STUDENT CONTRACTUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT WITH WESLEY SPECTRUM ACADEMY

Approve a Contractual Enrollment Agreement for special education student services with Wesley Spectrum Academy effective March 2, 2009 for the 2008-09 school year in the amount of $11,358.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF STUDENT CONTRACTUAL ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT WITH PRESSLEY RIDGE

Enter into a Contractual Agreement with Pressley Ridge for special education student services effective January 27, 2009 through June 12, 2009 in the amount of $25,000.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT

Approve the Treasurer’s Report, including budget transfers and approved total of the Bill List and Check File Listings as follows:

Fund 10 (General Fund) - $1,990,816.07
Fund 31 (Capital Reserve Fund) - $5,166.46
Fund 36 (Middle School Project Fund) - $450,609.68
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL TO DECLARE ITEMS SURPLUS

In accordance with Policy #3006 – Sales of Surplus Furniture, Equipment and Other Tangible Personal Property, declare four sets of choral risers at Fort Couch Middle School surplus, and the administration be authorized to bid the sale of the item, donate the item, or dispose of the item as appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF CENTRAL OFFICE LEASE AGREEMENT

Enter into an Administrative Office Space Lease Agreement with the Township of Upper St. Clair for the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the following students from Boyce Middle School for winning the annual Western Pennsylvania Dog Poster Contest: Sean Parker: First Prize - $100.00 Savings Bond and tickets to the Dog Show and Lauren DeSantis: Second Prize - $50.00 Savings Bond and tickets to the Dog Show. Their teacher sponsor is Dawn Yoder.

The following Upper St. Clair High School Orchestra students achieved very high rankings at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Western Region State Orchestra Festival held at Erie McDowell Intermediate High School on March 18th through the 20th. Their “blind audition” performance scores were outstanding and all of the USC students were invited to participate in the PMEA All-State Orchestra. Currently, these students participate in the Upper St. Clair High School Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Paul Fox. Matthew Boyas, Principal/First Chair Clarinet I, ranking first out of six clarinet players; Jun Iida, Principal/First Chair Trumpet I, ranking first out of nine trumpet players; Joseph Merchant, Principal/First Chair Bassoon I, ranking first out of five bassoon players; Laura Rollick, Principal/First Chair Oboe II, ranking first of six oboe players; and Michelle Szucs, Principal/First Chair Flute II, ranking fourth out of six flute players.

Congratulations to Ben Benack who was selected to play in the PMEA All State Jazz Ensemble at this year’s Pennsylvania State Festival held on April 22 through April 25. Ben is a senior at Upper St. Clair High School and a member of the Wind Ensemble and the Jazz I band under the direction of Frank Eisenreich.

Congratulations to Macy Miller and Jenna Ravasio, 7th graders at Fort Couch Middle School, and Samantha Dreyer a freshman at Upper St. Clair High School, for making the Showcase of Finalists in the annual Shakespeare Monologue and Scene contest. The contest is held at the Pittsburgh Public Theater every year and more than a thousand thespians from 81 schools competed.

The high school forensics team has had an outstanding year with successes at the local and state level, and will soon compete at the National Level in Albany, New York on Memorial Day weekend and in Birmingham, Alabama in June.

State Tournament
Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally - Duo interpretation - State Champions (for the second year running)
Meera Babu - Informative Speaking - 3rd Place in State
Jalpa Patel - Oral Interpretation of Prose - 5th Place in State
J.P. Gooderham - Impromptu Speaking - 6th Place in State
Semi-finalists at states:
Avisha Shah
Sidney Kushner

Qualifying to CFL Nationals
Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally - (Duo Interpretation of Literature)
Nikhil Venkatesh - (Dramatic Performance)
Brent Heard - (Extemporaneous Speaking)
J.P. Gooderham - (Extemporaneous Speaking)
Vijay Viswanathan - (Declamation)
Meera Babu - (Original Oratory)
Jalpa Patel - (Oral Interp of Literature)
Pankaj Aggarwal (Oral Interp of Literature)
Evan Pye & Mahen Seneviratne - (Public Forum Debate)
Kathryn Lin - (Lincoln Douglas Debate)

Qualifying to NFL Nationals
Mishan Blecher & Brendan McNally - (Duo Interpretation of Literature)
J.P. Gooderham - (Lincoln Douglas Debate) - Pittsburgh District Champion
Brent Heard - (Extemporaneous Speaking)

Congratulations to the following Fort Couch Middle School students for placing in the 2009 Middle School Computer Fair held at the Carnegie Science Center on April 1, 2009:
1st Place Web Page Design: Sharon Gao, 8th grader
1st Place Digital Movie: Brenna Carse and Josh Kane, 7th graders
3rd Place Digital Movie: Nolan Ardolino and Alex Bowman, 7th graders
The first place winners are invited to the State competition held at Dickinson College on May 20, 2009.

Creative Communication has announced that Maura Wells, a fifth grade student at Boyce Middle School, whose poem was chosen for publication in the fall anthology, has received a further honor. She has been named as a Top Ten Winner. Maura's poem, “Hope,” will be featured on its own page in the anthology, and she has also received a $50 savings bond. Maura's sponsors are Diane Ecker, Beth Harris and Gary Navoney.

Congratulations to the following fifth and sixth grade Boyce Challenge students who participated in the national Academic Bowl competition. Sixth grade team members are: John Benhart, Ananya Cleetus, Will Erlanger, Jacob Heller, Jeff Huo, Brian Kaplan, Carson Mafrice, Robbie Mertz, Allan Stott, Tony Wang, Brooks Wilding, Ryan Wells, Kevin Monpara, James Finkel and Doug Hapeman. The sixth-grade team recorded a total of 752 points, ranking third in Pennsylvania, and 23rd (out of 322) nationally and internationally. Their score is the highest achieved at Boyce. The fifth-grade Academic Bowl team won honors for the highest score in the state, 697 points, and ranked 11th (out of the 250) nationally and internationally. Kudos to the fifth-grade team members: Hunter Lantzman, Liam McClelland, Chase Miller, Jacob Ross, Steven Wagner, Amanda Williams and Hannah Tyger. Sponsors are Gary Navoney and Diane Ecker.

The following 5th and 6th grade Boyce Challenge students recently participated in a Future Problem Solving competition at Duquesne University. The team members included: Doug Hapeman, Hunter Lantzman, Daniel Pituch, Amanda Mittelman, Ananya Cleetus, Riley Úrbano, Rachel Diffendal, Sriparna Sen and Ricky Mellick. A skit performed within this competition captured first place. Sponsors are Gary Navoney and Diane Ecker.

Upper St Clair High School will represent Pennsylvania at the Northeast National Regional Economics Challenge in Baltimore MD on April 27, 2009. The team earned the top honor by surpassing 88 other teams who competed in three regional PA competitions and the state final in Camp Hill on April 1st. Winning teams from this competition move to the National Competition in New York City in May. The Team Members are Matt Myron, Drew Gallagher, Steve Wellard, and John Subosits. Their teacher/sponsor is Ms. Tonya Chothani.
Four Ft. Couch 8th grade students participated in the PMEA District 1 chorus festival on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4 at the Marshall Middle School in the North Allegheny School District. They are: David Duan - Tenor, Beth Mittelman - Alto, Nick Sembrat - Bass, and Grace Trocano - Soprano.

The Upper St. Clair High School Music Department hosted the 2009 PMEA Music Performance Assessment on April 2. Our own ensembles did extremely well in the Performance Assessments, with the High School Wind Ensemble and Orchestra receiving Superior ratings and the High School Symphonic Band and Ft. Couch Middle School Band receiving Excellent ratings. Congratulations to the Fort Couch 7th grade math team for ranking 1st place in the Pennsylvania Math League Competition. Both Grace Chen and Brinda Doshi scored 38 out of 40 giving them a 2nd place personal rank for the entire state. Other students on the team that were placed in the top 36 students are Aditya Murali, George Sun and Adam Yunus.

Congratulations also to the Fort Couch 8th grade math team for ranking 6th place in the Pennsylvania Math League Competition. Chenhao Yang scored 39 out of 40 giving him a 5th place personal rank for the entire state. The PML competition was administered by Joye Karidis - Math Resource Teacher.

Parents, school administrators and teachers nominated students from 17 high schools in Allegheny County's suburbs for The Tribune Review Total Media's 2009 Outstanding Young Citizens, which is based on academic achievements and extracurricular activities. One hundred were selected and the top 10 were recognized at a banquet. The Gold Medalists include: Xiao Fu, a senior at the high school who hopes to study economics and publish Chinese language novels, and J.P. Gooderham, also a senior, who founded a golf Website and plans to study political science and international relations.

Congratulations to Mikki Shalata, teacher at Streams, for having a paper that she wrote for her teaching project, published in the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association's Spring 2009 Forum.

Charity Schmiedl, also a teacher at Streams, has been selected from a field of over 600 nominees as one of 100 Pennsylvania 2009 Keystone Technology Integrators. Charity worked intensively to craft an application packet, including an I-movie, that captured her work with technology to engage learners and improve student performance.

Four teams represented Upper St. Clair at the PA State Odyssey of the Mind Competition. Our Fort Couch team earned a 2nd place medal and the honor of representing USC at the World Finals Competition held at Iowa State University in May. Our High School team received a 3rd place medal and just missed a chance to move on to the World Finals. One of our Streams teams consisting of 2nd and 3rd graders, placed an impressive 4th place, and the other Streams team placed 7th.

Congratulations to Christian Wheeler, pitcher for high school baseball team, for pitching a no-hitter against Bethel Park on April 16.

Special welcome to the administrators, teachers, and students from Thailand participating in the 2009 Thai-USC Student Cultural Exchange Program. Thank you to all staff and students for making our guests feel welcome and for all that you do to make Upper St. Clair so special. Special thanks to Dr. Gerry Groves and Mrs. Luck Groves for organizing the exchange program and to all of the host families.

Congratulations to the participants of the Fort Couch IB Science Fair for providing such innovative scientific experiments.
BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. O’Toole explained that Ms. Cordisco and he met with the budget review board subcommittee, which was attended by Mrs. Billerbeck and Mrs. Petersen. He reviewed information that was distributed to all Board members this evening, which was also shared at the subcommittee meeting. Dr. O’Toole stated that the information will be used as a basis for discussions at the Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, May 4, which will be devoted to the proposed 2009-10 budget and reviewing the District’s five-year budget projections. He also requested Board members to share additional information that they would like to receive at the May 4 meeting.

Dr. O’Toole responded to questions of Board members. There was further discussion regarding the proposed budget, including the Pennsylvania State Employees’ Retirement System (PSERS) contributions, additional revenue sources, middle schools renovation project costs, duplicative middle school athletic programs between township and school district, various approaches regarding middle school athletics and activities, capital expenditures, information provided at educationweek.com, duplicative educational programs, and Ms. Cordisco providing information regarding the practice used at another school district of designating money for proposed renovations.

Dr. O’Toole explained that the administration continues to review all expenditures to create further efficiencies in the proposed budget. Dr. O’Toole noted that there has been no tax increase for the past four years and did not recommend a fifth year with no tax increase, especially with the huge commitment of a proposed renovation project. He explained that he will recommend a fiscally responsible budget without jeopardizing the successful educational programming or service that the District provides to its residents.

MATTERS OF INFORMATION

MEETING REMINDERS

Dr. O’Toole announced the following May meeting schedule:

May 4 & 11 – Committee of the Whole Meetings
May 18 – Regular Board Meeting

BUSINESS & FINANCE

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PLAN CON PART D TO PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS TO BOYCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board approved by majority roll call vote the submission of PlanCon Part D to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Renovations & Additions to Boyce Middle School.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PLAN CON PART E TO PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS TO BOYCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board approved by majority roll call vote the submission of PlanCon Part E to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Renovations & Additions to Boyce Middle School.
RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PLAN CON PART D TO PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS TO FORT COUCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board unanimously approved the submission of PlanCon Part D to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Renovations & Additions to Fort Couch Middle School.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PLAN CON PART E TO PA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR RENOVATIONS & ADDITIONS TO FORT COUCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board unanimously approved the submission of PlanCon Part E to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Renovations & Additions to Fort Couch Middle School.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR MODULAR CLASSROOMS FOR BOYCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board authorized the School District to request proposals for modular classrooms for Boyce Middle School.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES CONTRACT FOR LEED ENERGY MODELING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS RENOVATION PROJECT

The Board authorized the School District, by majority roll call vote, to accept the proposal from CJL Engineering to perform energy modeling and additional documentation required for LEED certification for Boyce and Fort Couch Middle Schools at a cost not to exceed $39,000.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING APPROVAL OF FOOD SERVICE PROPOSALS

The Board authorized the School District to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Education the Evaluation Team’s recommendation to appoint Aramark to serve as the District’s food service provider effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

GASB 45 ACTUARIAL REPORT

The Board accepted the GASB 45 report from Mochenhaupt.

MATTERS OF INFORMATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Ms. Cordisco noted that she provided Board members with financial summaries that included actual expenses through March 31, 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Billerbeck announced that an executive session was held on the following date:

April 20, 2009 – Negotiations Matters

Meetings are also videotaped and will be cablecast on School Access Comcast Channel 19 & Verizon Channel 41.