

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

NASD School Board News

◆ ◆ ◆ an E-report for all NASD employees

**The North Allegheny School District
Board of School Directors
met tonight at 7:30 PM for a Board Work Session
in the CAO Board Room.**

- All Board members were in attendance, with the exception of Mr. Shuckrow. In addition, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Green; District Solicitor, Mr. Maiello; the Superintendent's Executive Council; and Mr. Hamm and Ms. Peng, student representatives, were present.



AGENDA

7:00 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

7:30 WORK SESSION

- School Board Recognition
- Keystone Achievement Awards
- Entertainment
- Community Relations
- Review of Board Folder
- Speakers

9:00 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Prior to the Board meeting, the Board presented nearly 170 Distinguished Achievement Awards to students and staff who recently won honors on a state or national level. We learned that the Girls Tennis Team won the State Championship, as did the Girls Tennis Doubles Team. Girls Volleyball took Second Place at the State level and Boys Varsity Cross Country took Third Place at States. An NA Fifth Grade Team was honored for being among the top 10% of all teams worldwide in the Math Olympiad. An NA student took First Place at the National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference and one of our TSA students was also elected to State office. An NAI Team qualified to participate in the Euro Challenge National Competition in New York City and a Senior took top honors in two national Forensics competitions. Two High School students were published in national periodicals and the NA Honors Wind Ensemble was invited to perform at the PMEA All State Conference. The NA JROTC Program was given the National Distinguished Unit Award. Also, the NASH Forensic Program was honored for being named one of the nation's Top 100 Forensics Programs for the second year in a row. For in-depth information about the entire event, please watch for details and photos to be posted on the NASD website and an NATV-Cable special to be aired soon.

The meeting began with a brief review of the Board calendar, followed by the annual Board Recognition Ceremony. School Board Recognition is a national event that occurs every January to emphasize the volunteer work that school board members do on behalf of public education. Dr. Green read the official national proclamation into the minutes and made a few extemporaneous remarks about her appreciation and the District's gratitude for the professionalism of this Board and their continued dedication to the high standards this community has set forth for the District.

Mrs. Grosheider thanked Dr. Green for her kind words.

Following Board Recognition, Dr. Green proceeded to present the **Keystone Awards** to eleven District schools who received them from Governor Rendell to commemorate the accomplishment of two consecutive years of AYP due to PSSA results. Delegations of representatives accompanied principals from each school as they came forward to accept these awards following Dr. Green's congratulatory remarks. The Keystone Awards will be hung in each building. It was also announced that three schools received Title I Achievement Awards in the amount of \$1,000: Peebles Elementary, Hosack Elementary, and McKnight Elementary.

In honor of all of the celebrations enjoyed this evening, Mr. Dennis Morton, a strings teacher at McKnight and Ingomar Elementary Schools, brought the NA Fiddlers to perform for the Board and all those in attendance. The NA Fiddlers is a group of young string musicians in grades six through 12 who are interested in expanding their love and knowledge of playing and performing music. Organized in 2002, the group rehearses after school and during the summer.

The N.A. Fiddlers have performed at dozens of locations throughout the North Hills area including retirement homes, folk festivals, fall festivals, country clubs, church festivals, picnics and, various school functions. They have also played with the Pittsburgh Philharmonic and the Butler Symphony Orchestras.

These student fiddlers participate in a weeklong workshop during the summer months. During that session, tunes are taught and learned in the traditional aural style, meaning by ear and

without the use of written notes. They learn a variety of styles including Scottish, Irish, Old Timey, Scandinavian and Cajun.

Tonight group played four pieces:

- *Candy Gals*, an Appalachian fiddle tune,
- *St. Anne's Reel*, an Irish fiddle tune,
- *La Cassin Special*, a Cajun fiddle tune, and
- *Old Dan Tucker*, an old-Timey tune.

The Board and the audience enjoyed these musical selections.

The Board took a short break to thank the performers and congratulate the award winners prior to reconvening.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Ms. Toni DiGiacobbe spoke on the issue of field trips for GOAL students. She offered suggestions of alternative ways to determine which students go on these field trips, rather than the current practice of automatically sending GOAL students.

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board engaged in a review of the Board folder, which contains the items upon which they will take action during next week's Regular Voting Session.

Included among those items are a website design and maintenance contract and a review of a revised Board Policy #4000.

The Student Representatives presented an update of recent and upcoming student activities. It was again recognized that the NA Marching Band participated in the 44th Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington DC yesterday. Andy Hamm, the NASH representative was with the Band as a trumpet player and reported that it was an amazing experience. He thanked the Board and the community for supporting the opportunity for the Band.

SPEAKERS

There were no residents who came forward to address the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.

The Board met in Executive Session following this meeting to discuss a personnel matter, a matter of litigation and a matter of information.

**The next meeting of the NA Board of School Directors
is scheduled for January 28, 2009,
and will be held in the Board Room at CAO.**

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Display copies of Board Books are available at each building and department office. Copies of the complete Board Report folder are available through the Board secretary's office, as well as copies of the various reports presented.

For information about the Board meeting schedule, please refer to the NA website www.northallegheny.org.

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This update is provided by the Director of Communications and Public Relations immediately following the actual meeting.

For a copy of the Official Minutes of the meeting, please contact the North Allegheny School Board Secretary, Rose Mary Ryan, at 412/369-5437 or rryan@northallegheny.org.