

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

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 their Special Meeting
in the CAO Board Room.**

- All Board members were in attendance. In addition, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Green; District Solicitor, Mr. Lucas; the Superintendent's Executive Council; Mr. Hopkins; Mr. Botti; Mr. Gaertner; Mrs. Ryan; and Ms. Czerniewski and Mr. Hackett were in attendance.



AGENDA

7:00 DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

7:30 SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

- **Vote on Special Meeting Item**
- **Community Relations**
- **Strategic Plan End Results Presentation**
- **Review of Board Folder**
- **Speakers (Non-Agenda Items)**

Prior to the Board meeting, the Board presented nearly 100 Distinguished Achievement Awards to students who recently won honors on a state or national level. A summary of this ceremony will be posted as a link on the School Board website.

After the ceremony, the Board took a short break to congratulate the award winners.

Mrs. Bishop convened the Special Meeting and the Board took action on one voting item:

SPECIAL VOTING ITEM

The NASD Board of School Directors named **Dr. William P. Stropkaj** to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and Curriculum at their Special Voting Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

Dr. Stropkaj was appointed at an annual salary of \$98,900, prorated due to date of hire. The effective date of hire shall be determined upon release of his present employer. Dr. Stropkaj holds his B.S. in Secondary School Education from Duquesne University. He has an M.S. in Educational Administration also from Duquesne. Dr. Stropkaj began his career in education as a secondary science teacher in the Sto-Rox School District. He also taught secondary math and science in the Deer Lakes School District. He moved into administration as an Assistant Principal with the Montour School District as an Assistant Middle School Principal. He has been an Elementary Principal at Montour since 1996. Dr. Stropkaj is certified in Physics, Mathematics, and Elementary and Secondary Administration. He also holds the Pennsylvania Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

There were no residents who came forward to speak at this time.

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Mrs. Bishop proceeded with the meeting by making a few comments regarding the trip she, Mrs. Grosheider, and Dr. Green made to the AASA Conference this past weekend. Mrs. Bishop indicated that she found this experience to be a very valuable professional development experience that was helpful in terms of keeping her in touch with the cutting-edge issues in education. She especially enjoyed the keynote speaker, Daniel Pink, who emphasized the importance of 'right brain thinking' in the future of our world.

Mrs. Grosheider agreed that Daniel Pink was the most dynamic of the speakers they heard. She also heard good sessions on the use of communication within a school district community and how it can affect school achievement; No Child Left Behind; environmental clean-up and responsibilities; personal achievement; and how the media can benefit education. There were also many vendors they encountered who provided ideas for new programs and products. It was a very beneficial experience for her as well.

Dr. Green shared a little bit about the presentation that she, Mrs. Bishop and Mrs. Grosheider gave at the Conference. Their topic, the Governance Mosaic, addressed how a positive, collaborative relationship between the Superintendent and the Board has contributed to high student achievement at North Allegheny. They received very encouraging feedback from those who attended their session.

Following this update, Mrs. Bishop asked Mr. Botti to make a statement regarding the beef recall that has been in the news lately. His comments were:

As you know by now, the USDA has recalled over 143,000,000 pounds of beef that was produced by a company in California.

The USDA supplied approximately 25% of that beef to the national school lunch program. Across the country, the beef was placed on hold on February 1, 2008, and then the government recalled it last weekend.

Our District has approximately 230 cases of that beef to be returned. We are holding it in storage awaiting instructions from the government regarding how to properly return it. The District has been using an alternate supplier of ground beef since we were informed of this situation at the beginning of February 2008.

Although the media is covering this story heavily, there have been no reported health concerns related to this recall. The situation is being handled in an appropriate and controlled manner.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The meeting continued with a presentation on the Strategic Plan. Dr. Green introduced the report briefly, which was delivered by members of the Executive Council. This report specifically addressed a review of the overall process used in developing the Strategic Plan End Results, which have been identified as measurable statements that will enable the six Strategies to be accomplished. It then detailed the six to ten End Results that were identified for each Strategy.

At the conclusion of this report, several Board members made suggestions regarding issues they would like to see addressed when the Action Plans corresponding to these End Results are developed. These included items such as world languages in the elementary, environmental awareness/responsibility, more drug and alcohol programs, School Resource Officers, and others.

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed the items on which they will vote next week. There was some discussion as they prepared themselves to make decisions on the important issues presented in the February Board folder.

Of note, the Business, Computer, and Information Technology Curriculum 6-12 will be offered for approval by the Board next week. The Board engaged in discussion on a number of points in regard to this curriculum.

The Board will also vote next week on a proposal from a consultant to oversee Newman Stadium turf replacement and track repair. Both Mr. Gaertner and Mr. Bob Bozzuto, Athletic Director, were available to make a presentation and answer questions on this topic in terms of the heavy usage of the Stadium, the current problems with the existing turf, and why the use of a consultant is necessary.

There was also some on-going conversation about the A.W. Beattie Construction project, regarding which a resolution is being presented for consideration next week. The Board is still waiting for the answers to some outstanding questions regarding the bond issuance.

Dr. Green reviewed her Good News Report, the details of which will be included in next week's E-report. Mrs. Bishop added a note of accomplishment regarding Dr. Green to conclude the meeting. Dr. Green has been invited to become a member of a 20-person Advisory Panel for "Arts in Our Schools," a study being conducted by students in the Master of Arts Management Program of Carnegie Mellon University's H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management. The Board congratulated her on this excellent opportunity.

SPEAKERS

There were no community members who came forward to address the Board at the close of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 PM.

Prior to this meeting the Board met in Executive Session on a personnel matter. There was no Executive Session following the meeting.

**The next meeting of the NA Board of School Directors
is scheduled for February 27, 2008,
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 and minutes 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 <http://www.northallegheny.org/>.*

This update is provided by the Manager 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.