

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

APRIL 22, 2009 –WORK SESSION

MINUTES

Board in Attendance: Mrs. Grosheider, Mr. Hubert, Mrs. Bishop,
Mrs. Boujoukos, Mrs. Ludwig, Mr. Pagone,
Mr. Schwartzmier, Mr. Shuckrow

Board Absent: Mr. Cunningham

Students in Attendance: Mr. Hamm; Ms. Peng

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Maiello (Solicitor), Mr. Botti,
Mr. Gaertner, Ms. Gaetano, Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Miller,
Dr. Steinhauer, Dr. Stropkaj, Dr. Wheat, Mrs. Ryan (Secretary)

MST in Attendance: None.

The Board of School Directors of the North Allegheny School District convened for a **Work Session** on **Wednesday, April 22, 2009** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Prior to the meeting, the following students were honored for their achievements:

2009 National Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition

Finalist

Stacey Chen	Dakota McCoy
Michael Heckmann	Elaine Oestreich
Andrew Ho	Michael Sinko
Emily Li	Nimish Telang
Kevin Liu	Kristen Yealy
Katherine Luo	

Semifinalist

Arundhati Bharati
Joseph Whitmore

Commended

Laura Amster
Phillip Briggs
Thomas Dean
Andrew Fishell
Kelly Gilmour
Adam Jacob
Douglas Kulchar
Laurn LePere
Jeffrey Lin

Jonathan Lin
Colin Madigan
John McElhattan
Sarah Musial
Dinesh Palanisamy
Bianca Palmesano
Samantha Polar
Ian Preston
Christopher Rullan

Kenneth Sandala
Kathryn Schmiech
Sumeet Shroff
Ashley Truxal
James Walton
Kerri Woodward
Peter Wu
Conor Yates

2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program

Semifinalist

Kendra Calhoun

Outstanding Participant

Ayorinde Adegbesan

2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Program

Scholar

Steven Verez

2008-09 Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement

Pennsylvania Scholarship Recipient

Katherine Luo

2009 American Association of Teachers of German National German Exam

Submitted by: Mr. Mark Demkee and Mr. Franz Wesner

99th percentile

Hendrik Hohlfeld

95th percentile

Stephanie Smyers

93rd percentile

Joseph Marshalek
Marco Zenz

92nd percentile

Emma Gryger

90th percentile

Adrianna Jensen

**2009 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Children's Congress Delegate
Daniel Hopkins**

**35th Annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament
Submitted by Ms. Sharon Volpe
First Place Extemporaneous Speaking
Stacey Chen**

**DECA State Career Development Conference
Submitted by Ms. Nancy Boyle
Retail Market Research, Second Place
and
Qualifying to Compete at the International Conference
Margaret Bentzel
Amanda Malkowski**

**Public Relations Project, Third Place
and
Qualifying to Compete at the International Career Conference
Erica Bernardi
Jane Miner**

**Accounting, Second Place
and
Qualifying to Compete at the International Conference
Anthony Colosimo**

**Qualifying to Compete at the International Conference
Piper Foight
Shelby Roehre**

***High School Writer Senior High Edition*
Submitted by Ms. Patricia Kramer
Published
Thomas Wagner**

***Y-HS Magazine*
Submitted by Ms. Patricia Kramer
Published
Courtney Steinmiller**

PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships

Mr. Bob Bozzuto

First Place

Joseph Waltko

WORK SESSION

Mrs. Grosheider called the meeting to order at **7:40 p.m.** and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Grosheider announced that prior to the meeting, the Board honored approximately 60 students with Distinguished Achievement Awards.

The Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of the last meeting to discuss a personnel matter and to discuss a student matter. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Board will be meeting in Executive Session to discuss an employee matter.

Mrs. Grosheider reviewed the Calendar for April and May 2009. There are no reports scheduled for April 29, 2009. For the May 20, 2009 Special Meeting/Work Session, the 2009-10 Preliminary Budget will be presented. Prior to the May 20 Work Session, the Board will have their last and largest Distinguished Awards ceremony for the 2008/2009 school year in the Auditorium of Carson Middle School. Twenty-five year employees will also be honored at this ceremony as well as our two student School Board Representatives.

Mrs. Grosheider recognized all the Administrative Assistants in the District on this day, including the Board secretary, and thanked them for their work.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No speakers.

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder for April 29, 2009. There was some discussion.

During review of the **Property and Supplies Report**, Mr. Shuckrow asked about the mobile labs that will be installed at NAI and Dr. Green conveyed that this is the purchase of year one computers that we are proposing to do. Mrs. Bishop said the mobile lab carts will be for the Science and Social Studies classes at NAI, which is similar to the Classrooms for the Future program at NASH. The second phase will be for the English and Math classrooms in the second year.

Mrs. Bishop thanked Dr. Green and the Administration for the opportunity to visit the classrooms. She said it was good to see the comparison of the new technology of the Classrooms for the Future at NASH to the needs at NAI and she completely supports what the District is doing to upgrade NAI.

Mrs. Ludwig made a point of mentioning how much Board Members have appreciated the opportunity to visit some classrooms around the District to see technology demonstrations. She thanked the teachers who opened their classrooms for these opportunities and reiterated how helpful and informative this has been for the Board. Additional visits for the same purpose are scheduled in the near future.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Andy Hamm and Lili Peng gave an update of recent and upcoming student activities.

Ms. Peng reported that two fundraisers are currently taking place at NAI. The Battle of the Bands is raising funds for the Pittsburgh Project and the Dodgeball Tournament that is being hosted in conjunction with NASH will give their money to the 4 Diamonds Fund. The Euro Challenge for which Lili Peng is a member, will be heading to New York City next week for semi-finals.

Mr. Hamm acknowledged the Marching Band and the Orchestra trips which took place last month and both did very well with many trophies being earned. Mr. Hamm listed the many ways in which the Band and Orchestras have grown from his Freshman year four years ago to his Senior year this year. Senior Banquet will take place on Friday, April 24. He also mentioned the recent Youth Summit in Harrisburg which took place at the Governor's residence and topics included Civics Engagement and Civics Education in High School. He stressed how much North Allegheny already does and how fortunate we are as a District in our course offerings, including AP courses. He also mentioned things that could be improved upon for us and other districts across the state, like Foreign Language being taught at an early age, having efficient laptops in the classrooms for students, and having training days for teachers for CFF. He said although NASD is fortunate to have some of these things, there is always room to grow. He said it was a great experience for all.

Ms. Peng said that the Governor has cut the Governor's School through his education budget and she was wondering if the School Board could advocate having the Governor's School reinstated.

The Board agreed with the value of this kind of education and they, too, are disappointed with the lack of funding. Mrs. Grosheider said the Board would certainly be happy to provide a letter of support. Mrs. Bishop suggested that the Student Councils could also send letters to the Governor expressing their views from a student's perspective. Mrs. Ludwig will coordinate this effort.

During review of the **Superintendent's Report**, the following Good News was highlighted:

- ★ **Mr. John Schaefer, a teacher at Ingomar Middle School**, was recently selected to participate in the 2009 National Physics Teachers Workshop titled "Nuclear Technology Addressing Worldwide Energy Demands." Only 30 teachers total, with a limit of one per state, have been selected to participate in this all-expense paid workshop sponsored by the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The workshop, which will be held in July 2009, is designed to provide teachers with the opportunity to increase their knowledge level on

nuclear energy, meet and learn from the nuclear researchers, tour facilities, and interact with peers from across the country.

- ★ **Ms. Janice Spohn, a teacher at Peebles Elementary School**, has been appointed to serve as a judge in the Achievement Awards Program for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). The Achievement Awards Program is an NCTE sponsored competition designed to honor eleventh grade students in the United States, Canada, and American schools abroad for excellence in writing. Each judge evaluates papers submitted in their state.
- ★ **Mr. John Woffington, longtime NA Boys' Tennis Coach**, will be one of eight select honorees inducted into the Western Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on May 2, 2009. In 38 seasons with NA, Coach Woffington, who is 599-131, has never coached a team with a losing record. His teams have won 21 section titles, three WPIAL championships, and a PIAA team title. His team has qualified for the WPIAL playoffs in 14 consecutive seasons and 27 of the past 28 years, missing the cut in 1995. Individually, 11 players under Coach Woffington's watch have claimed WPIAL championships and two went on to win PIAA titles. Mr. Woffington is also retired from his career as an English teacher at NA.
- ★ **The Office of Communications and Public Relations** has been honored with an Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) for the *2008-2009 North Allegheny School District Activities Calendar*. Each year, PenSPRA sponsors an annual Excellence in Education Communications Contest in a number of different categories that reflects the scope of work often undertaken by communications professionals. The PenSPRA is an organization of school public relations professionals whose goal is to improve educational communication and support student achievement through systematic, proactive, and responsible public relations programs.

Dr. Green added to her Good News Report the information that the District was again named by NAMM to the list of Best Communities for Music Education. This is the second consecutive year that the District has been on this elite national list.

SPEAKERS

No speakers.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Hamm reminded all that the School Board Dinner sponsored by the Student Council Officers and the Principals Advisory Committee will take place at the NASH Library on Thursday, May 14, 2009 from 6-7:30 p.m.

Mr. Pagone updated everyone on the Midnight Madness Basketball Game for the Make-a-Wish Foundation which took place last month. They raised \$10,800, which was over three wishes and he thanked those who contributed. The Board also commended and thanked Mr. Pagone for his involvement with this worthy organization.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Grosheider adjourned the meeting at **8:22 p.m.** The Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss an employee matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board