

*NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT*

***DECEMBER 3, 2008 – REORGANIZATION MEETING/WORK SESSION***

*MINUTES*

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

Board Absent: None.

Students in Attendance: Mr. Hamm; Ms. Peng

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Maiello (Solicitor), Mr. Botti,  
Mr. Devlin, Mrs. Ed, Mr. Gaertner, 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 their annual **Reorganization Meeting** and a **Work Session** on **Wednesday, December 3, 2008** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

**REORGANIZATION MEETING/WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Bishop called the meeting to order at **7:32 p.m.** and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Mrs. Bishop explained that the School Board reorganizes annually in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code during the first week of December. At this meeting, the Board will be electing officers for the upcoming year. This meeting will also serve as a Work Session.

Mrs. Bishop announced that the Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting on November 19, 2008 to discuss a litigation matter. In addition, the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss a personnel matter with respect to Administrative employees. The Board will also be meeting in Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss contract negotiations with a bargaining unit.

## CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Bishop reviewed the Calendar for December 2008 and January 2009. There are no reports scheduled for December 10. On January 21, 2009, we will have Distinguished Achievement Awards prior to the meeting and at the Work Session, we will have School Board Recognition, Keystone Awards and Entertainment. On January 28, 2009, there are no reports scheduled at this time.

## REORGANIZATION

### ROLL CALL

Mrs. Bishop asked the Board secretary for a Roll Call of all the School Board Members to establish that there was a quorum. All were present.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### Temporary President

A motion was made by Mrs. Grosheider to appoint **Karen Boujoukos** as Temporary President. No other nominations were made.

A motion was made by Mr. Shuckrow, seconded by Mrs. Grosheider, to close the nominations.

Voice Vote to close nominations: Unanimous.

Mrs. Boujoukos took over the Chair as Temporary President

#### Office of President

Mrs. Boujoukos asked for nominations for Office of President for a one-year term.

A motion was made by Mr. Shuckrow to nominate **Maureen Grosheider** as President. No other nominations were made.

A motion was made by Mr. Pagone, seconded by Mr. Shuckrow, to close the nominations.

Voice Vote to close nominations: Unanimous.

**Roll Call Vote (on Mrs. Grosheider as President): 9-Yes; 0-No. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

Mrs. Grosheider received a round of applause.

#### Office of Vice President

Mrs. Grosheider took the seat of the President and opened nominations for the Office of Vice President for a one-year term.

A motion was made by Mrs. Bishop to nominate **Dan Hubert** as Vice President. No other nominations were made.

A motion was made by Mrs. Boujoukos, seconded by Mrs. Bishop, to close nominations.

Voice Vote to close nominations: Unanimous.

**Roll Call Vote (on Mr. Hubert as Vice President): 9-Yes; 0-No. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

Mr. Hubert received a round of applause.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Grosheider thanked her colleagues on the Board who vested their confidence in her and Mr. Hubert as demonstrated by electing them to Board Leadership. She also detailed some of the highlights of the last three years under the leadership of Mrs. Bishop as Board President.

The District has achieved the following:

- the highest student achievement ever
- development and publication of a new Strategic Plan
- an exceptionally smooth elementary redistricting process
- improved curriculum management with presentations of Math, Business, Guidance and Tech Ed reviews
- a Local Tax Study Commission and recommendations acted upon
- recognition of North Allegheny for its Arts Programs, which culminated with our selection as the Pennsylvania Representative for the 2008 Kennedy Center Alliance for the Arts Award
- national and state level presentations involving the Board and the Superintendent

She said all of these accomplishments occurred when Mrs. Bishop was President of the School Board and she thanked Mrs. Bishop for her outstanding stewardship of the Board for the last three years. Mrs. Grosheider added that anyone who knows Mrs. Bishop recognizes the meticulous diligence and preparation with which she approaches every task, whether it is preparing for a public meeting, reviewing the District's budget, reminding our Legislators of their obligations to public education, or explaining the intricacies of Act 1 to a myriad of community members. Linda is the consummate example of the old adage that "any job worth doing, is worth doing right."

Mrs. Bishop has always been a member of Board Leadership since she has been on the Board, either as Vice President or as President, which is an exhausting 7-year commitment. The Board is grateful that they will be able to continue to rely on her wisdom, expertise and professionalism as a member of the Board.

Mrs. Bishop received a round of applause and a standing ovation for her work.

Mrs. Grosheider said that she looks forward to meeting the challenge of providing the best educational opportunity for the students of North Allegheny, along with the best School Directors, Superintendent and staff in the State of Pennsylvania.

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**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD VICE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Hubert also thanked the Board for their support over the last eight years and offered his appreciation to the Administrators who have been outstanding individuals who support the educational process at North Allegheny, driving us to a higher level with our students. He also thanked Mrs. Bishop for her leadership as President.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Mrs. Grosheider introduced the **Honors Chamber Choir** under the direction of **Mr. Ernie Pontiere**. Membership in this choir is attained by audition only and it is comprised of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. This group of approximately 50 performed four selections in honor of the School Board and their service.

They presented a classical piece, a jazz piece, a pop piece and a holiday finale. When the students had concluded their musical selections, Mrs. Grosheider acknowledged the high quality of the choral program, the incredible growth the choral program has experienced under Mr. Pontiere's leadership, and the tremendous pride the District takes in having these outstanding young musicians represent our award-winning Arts Program.

The Honors Chamber Choir, in elegant dress, received the applause and congratulations from the Board and community. Mrs. Grosheider complimented Mr. Pontiere and the students for the wonderful performance and for coming out on this night to honor the School Board. She reminded everyone of their upcoming performance tomorrow night at NASH, which will be outstanding. Mrs. Grosheider said that this program and Mr. Pontiere are part of the reason why we are one of the 90 Best Music Programs in this country, and she thanked him.

**RECESS/SOCIAL**

Mrs. Grosheider called for a Recess at **8:06 p.m.** and invited the students and community to join the Board in refreshments.

**RECONVENED**

The Board reconvened at **8:21 p.m.**

**REORGANIZATION (Continued)**

Mrs. Grosheider continued with the Reorganization.

**BOARD ASSIGNMENTS**

**Representatives to A.W. Beattie Career Center**

A motion was made by Mrs. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Hubert, to nominate **Mrs. Ludwig and Mr. Schwartzmier** to be our A.W. Beattie Career Center Representatives. No other nominations were made. Mrs. Ludwig and Mr. Schwartzmier were also our Beattie Representatives last year.

**Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**Alternate Representatives to A.W. Beattie Career Center**

A motion was made by Mrs. Boujoukos, seconded by Mrs. Bishop, to have all remaining Board members become Alternate Representatives to the A.W. Beattie Career Center.

**Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Unanimous. Motion Carried.**

**DELEGATION OF BOARD REPORTS**

The delegation of Board Reports is the purview of the President of the Board. Mrs. Grosheider requested that the same assignments be retained as last year, where possible, and they are as follows:

- Curriculum Report - Mrs. Ludwig
- Finance Report - Mrs. Bishop (change)
- Transportation Report - Mr. Pagone
- Human Resources Report - Mr. Cunningham
- Property and Supplies Report - Mr. Schwartzmier
- Special Ed & Pupil Services - Mrs. Boujoukos
- Student Activities Report - Ms. Lili Peng and Mr. Andy Hamm
- Superintendent’s Report - Dr. Green

**PROTOCOL OFFICER**

Mrs. Grosheider asked Mrs. Ludwig to fill this role for the coming year, and Mrs. Ludwig accepted. As Protocol Officer, Mrs. Ludwig will choose a new seating arrangement beginning with the next meeting. The Protocol Officer also answers letters that are sent to the Board, responds to Speakers at meetings, and is called upon to represent the Board on many occasions.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

These assignments are also the purview of the Board President. Mrs. Grosheider assigned the following:

- North Allegheny Foundation - Mr. Shuckrow; alternate – Mrs. Boujoukos
- Legislative Report - Mr. Shuckrow; alternate – Mr. Cunningham
- PSBA Liaison - Mrs. Bishop

- Hall of Fame - Mr. Schwartzmier; alternate – Mrs. Ludwig
- Summer Recreation - Mr. Pagone; alternate – Mr. Shuckrow

## WORK SESSION

### REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder of December 10, 2008.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Ms. Peng reported that NAI will have their winter dance on Friday, December 12, and their theme is “Glow in the Snow.” The Santa Stocking project has begun with each homeroom being assigned two children to provide gifts. The Forensics Team is very talented and dedicated and Stacey Chen, a senior, came in second place for extemporaneous speaking at a tournament at Yale, and a first place at Glenbrooks, which is the largest nation-wide Forensics tournament in the country. Overall, Ms. Chen is 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for extemporaneous speaking. Ms. Peng said that the NASH play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, was outstanding, and the stage extension provided another element of interaction between the performers and the audience.

Mr. Hamm also congratulated the cast and stage crew of the fall play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, and said there were rave reviews concerning it. He congratulated Margo Bentzel, who is NASH’s student of the month. Student Council teamed up with Metz Food for a new service project to do a Food Pyramid Drive and each homeroom will be assigned a particular food group and food will be brought in and contributed to the North Hill Community Outreach.

During review of the **School Board Report**, Mrs. Grosheider explained that the resolution presented is a certification that is required by Act 1. We will have a short presentation on this next week.

During review of the **Superintendent’s Report**, Dr. Green mentioned voting items that will include the 2009-2010 School Calendar and two policies that will be requested for adoption: one on Anti-Bullying and the other on the Right-to-Know. She also gave her Good News Report as follows:

#### Good News Report

- ★ **Ms. Cil Clemente, a teacher at Peebles Elementary School**, was awarded a 2008-2009 grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts’ Arts in Education Division. This grant will provide an Artist Residency with Mary Miller of the Mary Miller Dance Company in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, which matches the Pennsylvania Council funds. The Mary Miller Dance Company leads a specialized class for hearing impaired students on a once-a-month basis for 10-12 children in grades K-6 who participate in her creative movement class. Students learn about working together and the relationship between rhythm and dancing and experience opportunities for student leadership.
- ★ **Ms. Helen Croft, a teacher at Hosack Elementary School**, was awarded a 2008-2009 “Picturing America” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

and the American Library Association. The grant provided a collection of 40 high-quality reproductions of great works of American art and a teacher resource book. The resource book includes information on all the images and suggestions for using them to enhance classroom and library learning in a wide range of subjects.

- ★ **Dr. Brian Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum**, has had an article accepted for publication in the February 2009 edition of the *Pennsylvania Administrator*. The title of the article is “Principal Performance Surveys: A Leadership Tool for Continuous Improvement.” The *Pennsylvania Administrator* is published by the Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals (PAESSP).

### **SPEAKERS**

There were no speakers who came forth.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Grosheider adjourned the meeting at **8:43 p.m.** The Board met in Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with a bargaining unit.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary  
North Allegheny School Board