

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

JANUARY 16, 2008 –WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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: Ms. Czerniewski; Mr. Hackett

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Maiello (Solicitor), Mr. Botti,
Mrs. Ed, Mr. Gaertner, Dr. Hirsch, Mr. Hopkins,
Dr. Steinhauer, 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, January 16, 2008** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following students and staff members were honored for their achievements:

2007 Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence

Arts (Music)

Hae-Song Jung

Arts (Technical Theater)

Jennifer Schaeffer

Information, Society & Technology

Steven Kang

Science

Clifford Kim

Teaching

Jenna Klaum

Global Entrepreneurship

Joseph Kridgen

Health Care and Science

Janna Orons

Edward Wu

Agriculture Science and Teaching

Li Xu

International Studies

Yilu Zhang

2008 National Merit Scholarship Corporation Competition***Commended Status***

Zachary Auron	Rachel Kauss	Hannah Snyder
Brandon Caro	Jackson Kernion	Courtney Stein
Anne Caruso	Brian Marcus	Andrew Sullivan
Grace Concelman	Kristen McKim	Yoon-Kyu Sung
Timothy Crammond	Jamie Novak	Justin Taylor
Dorothy Curran	Merit O'Hare	Virginia Thistel
David Duffett	Laura Ochs	Brenna Thorpe
Hae-Song Jung	Joseph Snatchko	Katherine Wu
Claire Kairys		

Semifinalist

Gwyn Agnew	Glendon King	Edward Wu
Nathan Carlin	Xiaolei (Flora) Liu	Christopher Xiao
Peter Gayler	Samuel McCandlish	Li Xu
John (Jack) Grennan	Hillary Richard	Wen XU
Daniel Harrison	Rebecca Scheuer	Yilu Zhang
Steven Kang	Stephen Tjader	Xiao Zhu
Clifford Kim	Anlu Wang	

High School Writer-Senior High Edition National Newspaper***Original Story Published***

Mathew Magdic

Samantha Salvatora

Kings Head of the Schuykill Regatta***Bronze Medal in Men's High School Quads***

John Ellis

Brian Marcus

Zac O'Neill

Andrew Spirk

Bronze Medal in Mixed Doubles

Victoria Horn
Andrew Spirk

Bronze Medal in Women's High School Quads

Leandra Chisholm
Jordan Herbert
Katelyn Hildebrand
Mary Jo Negle

Gold Medal in Men's High School Doubles

Daniel Borzelleca
Michael McGowan

Gold Medal in Men's High School Quads

Alan Meininghaus
Ryan Mohan
Adam Reckless
Taylor Sandora

Gold Medal in Mixed Quads

Maria Delullis
Olivia Klipa
Brian Marcus
Zac O'Neill

Gold Medal in Women's High School Quads

Maria Delullis
Victoria Horn
Lauren Skoog
Michelle Weaver

Silver Medal in Men's High School Doubles

Kyle Kurtz
Joel MacKay

Silver Medal in Men's High School Quads

Canann Colwick
Mark Dissen
Daniel Jefferies
James Rectenwald

Silver Medal in Mixed Eights

Canaan Colwick
Emily Ellis
James Graner
Madeline Gray

Daniel Jefferies
Peter Joyce
Alexandra Pittman
James Rectenwald
Michelle Weaver

Silver Medal in Women's High School Doubles

Jessica Kelly
Olivia Klipa

PIAA Class AAA Doubles Championship

Silver Medal
Jennifer Larimore
Kelly Whelan

State Competition of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science

First Award for Cancer Research
Shivam Verma

Y-PA Magazine

Original Writing Published
Lucas Patten

Glenbrooks Speech and Debate Tournament

Second Place in the Country for Public Forum Debate
Nazih El-Khatib
Claire Kairys

Extemporaneous Speaking Quarter-Final Event

Stacey Chen

Extemporaneous Speaking Semifinal Event

John (Jack) Grennan

Student Congress Semifinal Event

Rachel Kauss

Staff Awards

American Association of School Librarians 13th National Conference

Presenter

Marg Foster

Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials Newsletter

Original Poem Published

Roger Botti

National Forensic League

NASH Named as One of the Top 100 High School Programs in the Nation

Sharon Volpe

2007 Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts Conference

Presenter

Jan Spohn

WORK SESSION

Mrs. Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:53 *p.m.* and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Mrs. Bishop announced that the Board presented Distinguished Achievement Awards prior to the meeting honoring over 100 students and some staff members, which accounted for the late start. She then turned the meeting over to Dr. Green to continue with the festivities and celebrations.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Dr. Green said we began the evening with the huge celebration of the Distinguished Achievement Awards. The remainder of the evening will continue to light up the room. She began by reading a Proclamation by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. The PSBA designates January to be School Director Recognition Month. They do this because it is a time to reflect and a time to say thank you to School Boards across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the voluntary service that they do. She thanked the Board for their level of professionalism, tremendous talent, incredible dedication and commitment to the North Allegheny community. A small gift of appreciation was also given to the Board as tokens of appreciation

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

The Board received a round of applause.

KEYSTONE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Dr. Green said that it is very fitting to continue the recognition on this night and to honor our staff as well.

Eleven of our District schools received Keystone Achievement Awards from Governor Rendell to commemorate the accomplishment of two consecutive years of AYP due to PSSA results. The years being recognized were 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years. There were more than 2100 Pennsylvania schools that were being honored, which was an increase throughout Pennsylvania, and they are a testament to the tremendous efforts of the students, the teachers, and the staff at each of these schools. The PSSA is given annually to students in grades 3-8 and grade 11.

Delegations of representatives accompanied Principals from each school as they came forward to accept these awards following Dr. Green's congratulatory remarks. The Keystone Achievement Awards will be displayed in each building.

ENTERTAINMENT

In honor of all of the celebrations enjoyed this evening, Mr. Dave Woten, the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year and music instructor at Carson Middle School, brought his sixth and seventh grade treble ensemble known as the Carson Chamber Singers to perform for the Board and all those in attendance. They sang two moving numbers and were accompanied on the keyboard by Mr. Howard Moser, former Music Department Chair. It was a delightful time for all who had the opportunity to enjoy their selections.

The Board thanked the students and Mr. Woten for coming out on this night to join in the celebration.

RECESS

Mrs. Bishop called for a recess at **8:26 p.m.**

RECONVENE

The Board reconvened at **8:37 p.m.**

Mrs. Bishop thanked Dr. Green for her kind words about the Board during the Recognition Ceremony. She also thanked Mrs. Ed for arranging all the festivities for this meeting.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Bishop said that the Board met in Executive Session at the December 12, 2007 meeting and discussed two items of litigation. There will be no Executive Session after tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Bishop reviewed the Agenda for this meeting and the Calendar for January and February 2008. There will be no reports presented at this meeting, nor at the meeting on January 23, 2008. At the Work Session on February 20, 2008, the Board will again have Distinguished Achievement Awards prior to the meeting. There are no reports scheduled for the February 20 or February 27 meetings.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No Speakers.

REVIEW BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder for January 23, 2008. There was a minimum of discussion.

Discussion

Financial Report

- Mr. Shuckrow asked if there was an increase in the unpaid real estate tax since last year and Mr. Hopkins said that every year we are within \$100,000.
- Mrs. Grosheider said the numbers are very consistent from last year. There are a couple of properties in Franklin Park where we have some homeowners who wait until the very end to pay their property taxes. Mr. Hopkins mentioned that there are also developers who wait to pay their taxes.

Human Resources Report

- Mr. Cunningham highlighted the 13 retirements of employees who have many years of service with the District and thanked them for their time.
- Mr. Pagone asked about the retirement of Ms. Colcombe from MES in March, rather than at the end of the school year, and Dr. Green assured him that the school will be well-taken care of. It is a personnel matter at this point and interviews are currently taking place.
- Mr. Shuckrow mentioned the supplemental contracts for the spring musical which are in the January Board Folder and commented that he felt it would be better to approve these contracts in November, prior to the try-outs of the musical.

Student Activities Report

- Mrs. Boujoukos said some progress has been made in making a standardized template for field trips but she asked that all forms contain the same information, i.e., how many days of school will be missed; identify whether chaperones are staff members or community members; specify whether costs are District-funded or student-funded. Dr. Green said that she will look into this.
- Mrs. Bishop complimented Lisa Czerniewski's report in the NASH newspaper, *The North Star*, in which she reported on the Board news and what happens at the meetings and how it impacts the students.
- Mr. Hackett reported that NAI is having their NAIdol Competition on Friday, January 18 from 7-10 p.m. in the NAI Cafeteria. There will be an annual Dance-A-Thon fundraiser on February 8 from 6-12 p.m. which benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation. Their goal is to raise \$12,000; each wish costs \$3,000. Community members are invited.

- Ms. Czerniewski reported that NASH will have their Talent Show on January 31 from 7-10 p.m. The theme is Game Shows and it is done for charity. Data Match begins in February when students are matched for compatibility and are paired with other kids in their grade for fun. The LEAD Conference will take place on February 1-3 and both she and Ross Hackett will attend.

Superintendent's Report

- Dr. Green gave her Good News Report:

★ **Ms. Judy Daw (MCK), Ms. Diana Berendowski (MCK), Ms. Miriam Petrini (MCK), Mr. Gilbert Pielin (NASH), Ms. Louise Baker (NASH), and Ms. Joyce Hlawati (PES)** were recognized this summer by the PA Department of Education for their participation in the Governor's Institute for Environment and Ecology for Educators. This week of seminars, workshops, keynote speakers, fieldtrips and networking had an integrative theme that combined content with current teaching practices to give teachers a fresh and challenging perspective on science curriculum. A topnotch faculty from the PA Fish and Boat Commission, Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Environmental Protection, business and industry, and college/university staff worked with teachers in level-specific experiences to guide them in the development of new lessons and units of study.

★ **The North Allegheny Board of School Directors** has been selected by the Pennsylvania State Arts Alliance to be the state nominee in the annual Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts (KCAAEN) and National School Boards Association (NSBA) Arts Education Award Program. This program has been in place since 1998 and was established to recognize and encourage the outstanding effort and commitment on the part of a school board that makes the arts an essential part of a student's education. The award honors a school board that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to a high-quality arts education with both national recognition and a cash award of \$10,000. The criteria for participation in the selection process include an in-depth presentation of curriculum and instruction in all four major artistic disciplines – visual arts, music, theater and dance – within the district's programs. The selection of the national honoree is made by a panel of arts educators and arts administrators including representatives of KCAAEN and NSBA. The winner will be announced at the national conference of the NSBA in March.

Legislative News

Mrs. Bishop said that the regular Legislative News would be reported next week, but she mentioned on January 17, 2008, that the State Board of Education is scheduled to vote on the recommended requested changes that they are planning to make in graduation requirements. This will be for any student in Pennsylvania who does not score proficient or advanced on the 11th grade PSSA. If the changes are implemented, any students who do not pass the PSSA will be required to show proficiency on 10 graduation competency assessments that are provided by the state. The Board opposes this and both the Board and the Superintendent have done a lot of advocacy on this issue.

Dr. Green was contacted by PSBA because they would like to use some of the points she raised in her letter in their testimony to the State Board of Education on this issue.

SPEAKERS

Mark Shepard – commented on the videotape that was made of each student who received a call-back for the high school musical in which the students were asked to make a commitment to the musical regardless of what part they received after auditioning. He felt this was a forced pledge and was coerced. His daughter, as a senior, was chosen for the leading role as the understudy to a talented sophomore. He felt that she and other seniors were disappointed because they did not receive leading roles. He said the high school musical is not a competition and roles should at least be double-cast. He asked that the Board focus on bringing the most opportunity to the most students. He suggested to his daughter that she withdraw from the musical.

Maureen Shepard – a senior who has been involved in the high school musical since 9th grade and said she admired that the musical was not about competing or winning awards but about involving as many students as possible. She felt the intent was lost this year since underclassmen were cast over upperclassmen in parts as well as the chorus and felt that this was not fair to the seniors. She feels that a change needs to be made so that seniors can have one last time to shine and to be involved in something that they love.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bishop adjourned the meeting at **9:28 p.m.** The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board