

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

JANUARY 21, 2009 –WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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

Board Absent: Mr. Shuckrow

Students in Attendance: Mr. Hamm; Ms. Peng

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Maiello (Solicitor), Mr. Botti,
Mr. Devlin, Mrs. Ed, 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, January 21, 2009** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

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

Fall Athletics

Submitted by: Mr. Bob Bozzuto

**PIAA Girls' Tennis
Tennis Team State Champions**

First Place

Laura Amster
Mikayla Becich
Arundhati Bharati
Jacqueline Brown

Lisa Gorski
Jennifer Larimore
Amanda Maiello

Stephanie Smyers
Vaidehi Tata
Kelly Whelan

Tennis Team Doubles State Champions

First Place

Jennifer Larimore
Kelly Whelan

PIAA Girls' Volleyball
Volleyball Championships
Second Place

Stephanie Avalli
Kaitlin Bradshaw
Kendra Calhoun
Laura Conti
Kelsey Davies
Gretta Freyermuth
Katherine Freyermuth

Leeanne Haus
Maura Jeffries
Amanda Knobloch
Caroline Koenig
Jacqueline Lang
Natalie Masters
Logan Meinert

Julia Miller
Katherine Munson
Elizabeth Overbaugh
Victoria Pernell
Kayleigh Tony
Alexandra Wappler

PIAA Cross Country
Cross Country Championships
Third Place

Christopher Aland
Saad Al-Eid
Timothy Appman
William Appman
Luke Badaczewski
Nathan Badaczewski
Eric Balaban
J. Patrick Baum
Brian Bayer
Samuel Bojarski
Chase Broussard
Kevin Brumbaugh
Jay Cadwallader
Griffin Caruso
Jonathan Clendaniel
Quinn Conley
Jonathan Crammond
Forrest Crellin
Alan Dai
Domenic Del Nano
Matthew Doerzbacher
Samuel Dunlop
Everett Emery
Evan Farrell
Matthew Feraco
Andrew Franze
Joseph Franze

Richard Gayler
Nicholas Gigliotti
Ryan Gil
Andrew Goehring
Gregory Goodman
Edward Grieser
Ian Hall
Christopher Haseleu
Douglas Healy
Matthew Heckmann
Michael Heckmann
Brian Hepfinger
Aaron Humiston
Adam Jacob
Stephen Kelly
Dylan Kielman
Zachary Klein
Joseph Kovatch
Neel Krishna
Aaron Libonati
Christopher Lippiello
Michael Lynskey
Sean Madigan
Aleksander Martich
Michael McCabe
Maxwell Mellott
Nicholas Minich

Patrick Morgan
Jordan Nicotra
Tyler Nicotra
Daniel Ochs
Kevin Ordons
Srikanth Palanisamy
Joseph Pane
Michael Pane
Shane Patterson
Benjamin Peters
Michael Porcelli
Daniel Porter
Alec Raymond
Matthew Robertson
Gregory Sauer
Luke Schenker
Thomas Senneway
Mark Silvester
Steven Smith
Michael Smolinski
Ryan Stein
Blake Taylor
Vincent Tonzo
Kevin Vogl
Daniel Whitehurst
Thomas Zagorski

2007-2008 Math Olympiad Contest

Submitted by: Ms. Shari Schlosser, Ms. Carla Kuhn,
Ms. Ellyn Snyder and Ms. Sharon Kroll

Plaque of Highest Achievement

Zachary Anderson	Audrey Immonen	Benjamin Radock
Nandini Aravindan	Erica Jelinek	Charles Ross
Jeremy Best	Michael Kramer	Scott Seel
Lauren Brendel	Mark Littlefield	Nicholas Sheriff
Pranav Cannanbilla	Brian Luebbert-Hill	Kotaro Somekawa
Songela Chen	Cassandra Majewski	Shojiro Somekawa
Victor Cheng	Cameron Makin	Hengxiao Tao
Sylvia Ciocca	Sarthak Mattagajasingh	Lena Vodovotz
Jeffrey Clemens	Mary McCoy	Aleksandr Voinov
Sean Coran	Natalie Moore	Jacob Vries
Abhilash Dhanvada	Daniel Mosier	Selene Wartell
Joseph Fitzgerald	James O'Sullivan	Kathleen Webber
Sean Geiger	Charles Oestreich	Catherine Zhang
Daniel Hopkins	Thomas Osheka	Joseph Zubrow
Jason Hu	Natalie Osten	

Technology Student Association

Submitted by: Mr. Shawn Lydon

2008 National Conference

First Place in CAD Animation Architectural

Douglas Bauer

Pennsylvania Chapter

Elected to be State Secretary

Danny Zemel

Euro Challenge National Competition

Submitted by: Ms. Joann Urbaniak

Regional Representative

Sujaya Balachandran
Thomas Helgerman
Adrianna Jensen
Joshua Kaib
Aidan MacDonagh

National Forensics Competitions & Recognition

Submitted by: Ms. Sharon Volpe

National Forensic League

NASH named one of the top 100 high school Forensics Programs in the Nation

Ms. Sharon Volpe

Yale Invitational

Second Place Extemporaneous Speaking

Stacey Chen

and

Glenbrooks National High School Speech and Debate Tournament

First Place Extemporaneous Speaking

Stacey Chen

Students Published

High School Writer Senior High Edition

Submitted by: Ms. Patricia Kramer

Published

Elizabeth Skrovanek

Teen Ink Magazine

Submitted by: Mr. Antonio Caruso

Published

Edye Pucciarelli

Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association All-State Conference

NASH Honors Wind Ensemble invited to perform

Mr. Todd Stefan

Department of the Air Force Air University

2007-2008 Distinguished Unit Award

Maj. Frederick Schott

MSgt. Richard Denault

WORK SESSION

Mrs. Grosheider called the meeting to order at **7:50 p.m.** and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Mrs. Grosheider announced that the Board presented Distinguished Achievement Awards prior to the meeting honoring over 150 students and some staff members, which accounted for the late start. She thanked the staff members who were present for the work that they do every day to help our students to achieve.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Grosheider announced that the Board will meet in Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss a matter of litigation, two employee matters and a matter of information. She reviewed the calendar for January and February. Prior to the February 18, 2009 Work Session, the Board will again have Distinguished Achievement Awards. At the February 25, 2009 Regular Meeting, the Board will be presented with an update on the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Grosheider then turned the meeting over to Dr. Green to continue with the festivities and celebrations.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Dr. Green said the month of January is set aside for a very special reason by the Pennsylvania State School Boards Association (PSBA) to honor school boards across the Commonwealth. She recognized the voluntary service of our School Board that it provides to the community and all in the School District. The Distinguished Achievement Awards earlier this evening is a fine example of the commitment and dedication of the staff and the School Board who lead the District and set the vision and mission. They keep the best interests of the students in mind at all times.

In recognition of this honor, Dr. Green read a Proclamation from PSBA:

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 non-paid, 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.

Dr. Green also provided a certificate for each Board Member and a small gift of appreciation as a token of appreciation.

The Board received a round of applause.

Mrs. Grosheider, on behalf of the Board, thanked Dr. Green for her kind words.

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 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) due to PSSA results. This year was the highest AYP ever achieved, and it is 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.

Three of our schools are Title I schools and, as such, were eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 each in the Title I Academic Achievement Award Funds in recognition of their AYP accomplishment in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. The schools receiving this award are McKnight, Hosack and Pebbles.

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, the NA Fiddlers, under the direction of Mr. Dennis Morton, performed 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 NA 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's 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 and thanked the students and Mr. Morton for coming out on this night to add to the celebration.

RECESS

Mrs. Grosheider called for a recess at **8:27 p.m.** .

RECONVENED

The Board reconvened at **8:34 p.m.**

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Toni DiGiacobbe – spoke on the issue of field trips for GOAL students. It was her understanding that the GOAL students study a specific unit in 8th grade Social Studies and that the field trip is the culminating activity in which only the GOAL students can attend. She found out that there are times when the activity that is offered to the GOAL students does not necessarily correlate with what has been studied and, in fact, all students have actually studied the same thing. She wondered why all 8th grade students are not given the educational opportunity of a field trip. She came up with three solutions for the Board to consider and said that the preferential treatment of the GOAL students has created an elitist atmosphere that does not benefit the District. :

Response

Mrs. Grosheider said they will discuss her comments and our Protocol Officer will get back to her in writing.

REVIEW BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder for January 28, 2008. There was a minimum of discussion.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Mr. Hamm reported that the NA Marching Band traveled to Washington, D.C. to perform for the Presidential Inauguration and it was an amazing experience. He thanked the Board, the Administration, especially Mr. Stefan and Mr. Baldanzi, and the community for supporting the opportunity for this trip. It was a cold day, but everything was well worth the wait. The experience will last a lifetime.

Mr. Hamm also reported that the revisions made to the NASH Cafeteria lines is working out nicely and is very orderly, smoother, and faster. DECA did well in their regional competition last month.

Mr. Hamm also mentioned news at NAI. Student Council is organizing the Dance-a-Thon, which will take place in February and will benefit a non-profit organization for autism, research and awareness. The Forensics team organized one of the largest tournaments this season with over 500 competitors attending. NA did very well in this competition.

During review of the **Superintendent's Report**, there is a revision to Board Policy #4000, Child Abuse and/or Neglect, which will be requested for approval at the February voting meeting. .

SPEAKERS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Grosheider adjourned the meeting at **8:58 p.m.** The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a matter of litigation, a matter of information, and a couple of employee matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board