

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 20, 2009 –SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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

Board Absent: Mrs. Boujoukos, Mrs. Ludwig, Mr. Pagone, Mr. Shuckrow

Students in Attendance: Mr. Hamm; Ms. Peng

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

Others in Attendance: Mrs. Sherri Ludwig, Assistant Manager of Financial Services

The Board of School Directors of the North Allegheny School District convened for a **Special Meeting/Work Session** on **Wednesday, May 20, 2009** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

Prior to the meeting, Distinguished Achievement Awards took place in the Auditorium of Carson Middle School.

25-YEAR EMPLOYEES

Ms. Joy Gaetano, Human Resources Director, recognized and thanked the following employees for their 25 years of service to the District. Each received a flower, a small token of appreciation and a letter of commendation.

Nancy Boyle	Mindy Floro	Cathey Scanlon
Jean Eckert	Christine Lee	Linda Similo
Phyllis Esau	Rodney Lipscomb	Franz-Joseph Wesner

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Maureen Grosheider, Board President, in the absence of our School Board's Protocol Officer, recognized our two student representatives who diligently served the District and represented the students for the 2008/2009 school year. She said that **Andy Hamm** from NASH and **Lili Peng** from NAI have kept the Board informed of issues, curriculum, activities, and concerns/opinions of the students, and their work has been outstanding. The Board provided them with a small token of appreciation and their thanks for a job well-done.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following students were honored for their achievements:

2009 National French Contest

Submitted by: Ms. Barbara Haller, Ms. Gail Will, Ms. Nancy McKnight,
Ms. Barbara Obaker and Ms. Barbara Zaun

Level IA

Third Place in the Nation

Charline Klaputek
Eunbyul Lee

Tenth Place in the Nation

Lily Zhang
Stephanie Martich

Level 1

Sixth Place in the Nation

Molly Dunlop
Ford Smith

Eighth Place in the Nation

Mehrgol Tiv

Ninth Place in the Nation

Anis Adnani

Tenth Place in the Nation

Elizabeth Hartigan

Level 2

Third Place in the Nation

Melanie Klaputek

Sixth Place in the Nation

Jenna Sandala

Level 3

Second Place in the Nation

Annie Yan

Fourth Place in the Nation

Jennifer Lee

Fifth Place in the Nation

Naomi Borrebach

Sixth Place in the Nation

Julia Barnes

Seventh Place in the Nation

Alexandra Strycula

2009 National Latin Exam

Submitted by: Ms. Terry Klein, Ms. Connie Sobieralski, Mr. Jay Thomas

Latin I

Perfect Score – Gold Medal

Alan Dai

Stephanie Fulton

Samir Jindel

Joey Zou

Gold Medal

Victoria Abbondanza

Jake Adzema

Erin Bishop

Brian Boehmke

Kaitlin Campbell

Patricia Chen

Carolyn Duffett

Alexandra Grese

Emily Johns

Michelle Lee

Martin Majewski

Taraneh Manesh

Emily Marcellus

Jeremy McCandlish

John Rectenwald

Stephen Thayer

Paige Vanerstrom

Emily Wu

Amy Zhang

Silver Medal

Elizabeth Appleton

Alexis Bernard

Victoria Bianco

Sara Briggs

Rachael Cooper

Bethany Cousino

Mark Kennedy

Jennifer Kunselman

Taylor Lennox

Joel Norman

Mara Ott

Jacob Plichta

Edden Rabin

Brian Radermacher

Matthew Sciarappa

Emily Suwalski

Chelsea Weber

Latin II

Gold Medal

Jason Chen
Abigail Delserone
Kearsie Dougherty
Adam Majewski
Sean Nimmo
Srikanth Palanisamy
Francis Ray
Lauren Shideler
Julie Wu

Silver Medal

Halley Bayer
Bailey Blashford
Alexander Chiang
Sumana Dasari
Allison Fox
Lauren Lang
Daniel Lesh
Julia Meyer
William Oestreich
Steven Smith
Benjamin Suhrie
Divya Tumuluru
Brett Walter
Robert Whitmore
Kevin Xie

Latin Poetry Level 3

Gold Medal

Megan Doerzbacher
Jacob Klingensmith
Aidan MacDonagh
Natalie Rogers
Kelsey Steele

Silver Medal

Andrew Adam
Gina Carretta
Christy Cotter
Joshua Kaib
Michael Noh
Qishu Yuan

Latin Poetry Level 4

Gold Medal

Hyeong Cho
John McElhattan
Michael Park
Kathryn Schmiech
David Tobias

Silver Medal

Thomas Dean
Alexis Geeza
Joseph Whitmore

2009 National Spanish Exam

Submitted by: Mr. Domenico DiBacco, Ms. Roseanna Febbraro,
Ms. Patricia Finch and Ms. Rose Mantella

Level 1

Gold Medal

Andre Ficerai
Brianna Gabriel

Silver Medal

Ashleigh Phegan
Stephanie Scherder

Level 2

Gold Medal

Natalie Colburn
Rose Devine
Apoorv Dhir
Rebecca Fritsch
Aarohee Fulay
Emily Gibbs
Shariq Iqbal
Hannah Jones
Anusha Nagabandi
Erin Norwig
Maryellen Overbaugh
Rona Sun
Kelly Whelan
Brittany Wilson

Silver Medal

Akshaya Arjunan
Gabriela Bretz
Jeffrey Daye
Margaret Haughney
Sydney Micucci
Brandt Scheidemantel

Level 3

Gold Medal

Alexandra Bursic
Sophia Ciocca
Daniel Coombs
Lauren Gabriel
Carrie Vereide
Bonnie Yan
Kyle Zhu

Silver Medal

Evan Buysse
Jonathan Du
Merel Duursma
Katherine Edwards
Isaac Frank
Joseph Helbling
Julie Henderson
You Li
Kara McFadden
Maria Munsch
Rie Nomura
Eliana Rabinowitz
Aarthi Ramesh
Matthew Randall
Evan Robinson
Edgar Rodriguez
Rebecca Scherder
Mark Silvester
Samantha Sweeney
Hannah Webber
Liyang Yu

Level 4

Gold Medal

Arundhati Bharati
Stacey Chen
Douglas Healy
Michael Heckmann
Katherine Luo
Kenneth Sandala
Angela Sipes

Silver Medal

Derrick Alvarez
Michael Baldonieri
Katherine Hatfield
Lauryn Lepere
Madison Micucci
Dana Preston
Michelle Weaver

Honors 1B

Gold Medal

Michelle Lee
Shannon Wagner
Melissa Zuk

Silver Medal

Elizabeth Furiga
Alyson Haffner
Devin Malone
Keaton Micucci

2009 Northeastern University High School Composers Competition

Submitted by: Ms. Beth Leckey

Honorable Mention

Lucas Ashby

2009 Presidential Scholars Competition

Semifinalist

Stacey Chen

2009 Technology Student Association State Conference

Submitted by: Mr. Shawn Lydon, Mr. Mathew Kohler, Ms. Jennifer Smoller,
Mr. Nicholas Vorrasi, Mr. Scott Downs and Mr. Kevin Zebley

First Place in CAD Architectural Animation

Douglas Bauer

First Place in Cyberspace Pursuit

Gregory Fraley
Skanda Koppula

First Place in PA - Materials Process

Brian Zieger

First Place in PA - R.C. Vehicle

Christopher Chang
Andrew Mahler
Graham Walker

First Place in PA - Safety Illustration Computer Graphics

Benjamin Ziolkowski

Second Place in Debating Technological Issues

Eliana Rabinowitz

Shane Smith

Second Place in PA - CAD 2D, Architectural

Matthew Madler

Third Place in Construction Systems

Clayton O'Connor

Danny Zemel

Third Place in Extemporaneous Presentation

Thomas Helgerman

The High School Writer – Sr. High Edition

Submitted by: Ms. Patricia Kramer

Published

Haley Wisniewski

Teen Ink Magazine

Submitted by: Mr. Antonia Caruso

Published

Kathleen Euler

Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association

Submitted by: Mr. Todd Stefan, Mr. Ernie Pontiere and Ms. Sarah Lavelle

All-State Band Ensemble

Evan Swihart

Emily Teare

All-State Chorus Ensemble

Kahli Dalbow

Kimberly Watson

All-State Jazz Ensemble

Nicholas Amoscato

All-State Orchestra Ensemble

Gregory Goodman
Shinwoo Kang
Christopher Koter
Ian Preston
Dasun Wang

PIAA Class AAA Swimming and Diving

Submitted by: Mr. Corky Semler and Ms. Patti McClure

Team Championship Title

Sean Battle	Michael Magdic
Daniel Becker	Jacob Plichta
Konstantin Borisov	Matthew Reid
Jonathan Buerger	Luis Rodriguez
Matthew Buerger	Jacob Scherer
Jonathan Du	David Songer
Devin Glace	Johnny Songer
Kevin Kuntz	Evan Staresinic
Connor Kuremsky	Mark Waugh
You Li	Joseph Weiland
Matthew Magdic	

First Place in 1 Meter Diving

Connor Kuremsky

Second Place in 200 Freestyle

Jonathan Buerger

Second Place in 400 Freestyle Relay

Jonathan Buerger
Kevin Kuntz
Luis Rodriguez
Mark Waugh

Third Place in 100 Butterfly

Mark Waugh

2009 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

Submitted by: Ms. Marlene Paulick

Gold Key

Cade Seljak

Spring 2009 Knowledge Master Open

Submitted by: Ms. Janet Serdy and Ms. Christina Ruffalo

Junior High Division

First Place in Pennsylvania and Fourth Place in the Nation

Brian Boehmke	Jeremy McCandlish
Griffin Caruso	Morgan Shaber-Twedt
Alan Dai	Ford Smith
Elizabeth Furiga	Steven Vukmer
Dominic LaBella	Daniel Whitehurst
Christopher Lippiello	Joey Zou
Taraneh Manesh	

Middle School Division

First Place in Pennsylvania and Fifth Place in the Nation

Katerina Borisov	Alexis Lamperski
Chase Daftary	Dillon Naylor
Bradley Davis	Edward Pacey
Edward Ecker	Connor Phillips
Benjamin Gibbs	Aodhan Ridenour
William Gingrich	Ryan Sanguigni
Emma Gross	Kristina Taynor
Kelsey Hake	Saraj Wetze;
Jennifer Hofmann	Hayley Wyeth
Hae Min Jung	Sixiang Xiao

National Public Policy Foundation Debate

Submitted by Ms. Sharon Volpe

Advancing to the Top Eight

North Allegheny Forensics Team

Windy City Classic National Music Festival

Submitted by: Mr. Todd Stefan and Mr. Steve Baldanzi

Most Outstanding Jazz Soloist

Christopher Rudzinkas

First Place in Division, Gold Rating, and Grand Champion Award

Jazz Ensemble I

Gold Rating

NASH Honors Wind Ensemble	Majorette Squad
NAI Wind Ensemble	Flag Team
Jazz Ensemble 2	Dance Team
Marching Band (Parade)	Indoor Percussion

Silver Rating

NASH Symphonic Band
NASH Concert Band
Jazz Ensemble 3

The following staff members were honored:

Idaho National Laboratory

2009 National Physics Teachers Workshop Participant

Mr. John Schaefers

American Association of School Administrators

Submitted by: Dr. Patricia Green, Superintendent of Schools

National Conference Presenter

Dr. Brian Miller
Mr. Dave Woten
Dr. Timothy Steinhauer

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Submitted by: Dr. Patricia Green, Superintendent of Schools

National Conference Presenter

Mr. Bob Tozier
Mr. Jim Reinhard

National Forensics League

Receiving a Third Diamond Key

Ms. Sharon Volpe

Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame

Submitted by: Mr. Bob Bozzuto

2009 Inductee

Mr. Corky Semler

National Council of Teachers of English

Achievement Awards Program, Pennsylvania Judge

Ms. Janice Spohn

Department of the Air Force Air University

2008-2009 Distinguished Unit Award

North Allegheny Air Force Junior ROTC Unit PA-022

Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals

2009 Middle Level Principal of the Year

Ms. Tammy Andreyko

WORK SESSION

Mrs. Grosheider called the meeting to order at **8:13 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 300 students and staff members with Distinguished Achievement Awards. They also honored 25-year employees and thanked them for their service. Our student School Board representatives were recognized also for their distinguished service to their schools and the students that they represented all year long.

The Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of the last meeting to discuss two employee matters. There will be no Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting.

Mrs. Grosheider reviewed the Calendar for May and June 2009. The Board will hear a brief presentation on the Preliminary Budget at tonight's meeting and will receive the Communication Arts/English Curriculum Review Report at the May 27, 2009 meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No speakers.

PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Dr. Green introduced this report by noting that the Board provided very clear directives this year regarding their desire for a balanced budget for the upcoming school year with no tax increase. The Administration has worked diligently since last summer to accomplish this goal and still meet the current needs of the District, while being careful not to jeopardize anticipated future needs.

Dr. Green again referred to the fact that the District utilizes the Zero Based Budgeting process to facilitate the budget development process, making every expenditure transparent and open for review. The result of the Administration's efforts is the budget Mr. Hopkins presented, which is not only balanced, but represents a decreased overall total from last year.

Mr. Hopkins proceeded to present a six-slide summary of the 2009-2010 Preliminary Budget, which reflected that the millage rate will remain at 18.99. There is a slight projected decrease in expenditures of .4%, attributable to reductions in retirement expense, electric and diesel fuel costs, and fund transfers. He emphasized that the Commonwealth budget is due to be passed by June 30, 2009, and that information may have some impact on our current budget projections/planning.

Questions/Comments from the Board

Mr. Hubert said our District's local source of revenue is about 81% and the State average is about 60%, so our District has to contribute about 21% more versus the rest of the State. He said that our General Administrative Expenses are the lowest in the County, at around 8%, and he congratulated our Administrators for controlling costs.

Mr. Schwartzmier asked how citizens whose homes qualify for the \$154 rebate are getting their money.

Mr. Hopkins indicated that it comes directly as a tax credit from whatever municipality that a person lives.

Mrs. Bishop commended the Administration on producing a budget that reduces expenditures this year and noted that we have the fifth lowest millage rate in the County.

Mr. Schwartzmier commented on the charts in the report that were good benchmarks and we were doing a great job with cost per pupil.

Mr. Cunningham observed that \$840,000 is being budgeted for the payment of Cyber Charter Schools' tuitions. This is money that comes out of the pocket of our taxpayers and he would like those who attend Cyber Schools to come back to the public schools.

VOTING ITEM

FINANCIAL REPORT

Preliminary Budget

On motion by Mrs. Bishop, seconded by Mr. Hubert, the Board approved the adoption of the 2009-10 Preliminary Budget in accordance with Section 687 of the School Laws of Pennsylvania and requests authorization for the budget to be made available for public inspection for 20 days beginning not later than Friday, May 29, 2009.

For Information

The 2009-10 Preliminary Budget is estimated at \$114,422,284. The approval of the 2009-10 Final General Fund Budget is scheduled for June 24, 2009.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 5-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

Following the vote, Dr. Green and the Board commended the Administration for their work on this budget.

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder for May 27, 2009. There was some discussion.

During review of the **Financial Report**, the A.W. Beattie Career Center Budget was discussed. Attendance is down this year from last year, and also down from the year before that, yet the funding is flat because if the enrollment comes back up, they will have the funding to hire teachers back. However, enrollment has been going down since 2006 and the projected enrollment for next year is 609, down by 80 from the year before. It was questioned why the budget should remain the same even though the numbers are going down even more. The Board asked at what point will the budget issue be addressed?

Mr. Schwartzmier said that he will ask this question at the next Beattie meeting.

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

Mr. Hamm reported that Senior Prom is this Saturday, and the theme is "Through the Years." The Junior Prom was early in May and it went very well and the theme was "The Garden of Eden." **Brenna Curti** will be replacing Andy on the Board next year as the new student representative from NASH. Ms. Curti was the Principal's Advisory Cabinet Head this school year. Mr. Hamm thanked everyone who attended the dinner to honor the School Board. They had a Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony for the School Board members and Administrators and he thanked all for their time, energy, and enthusiasm that they give to North Allegheny every day. The Top Scholars Banquet will take place on Thursday, May 21, at the Chadwick with 25 scholars.

Ms. Peng reported that the Semi Dance was last week and went very well. Their theme was "Arabian Nights," with over 600 students attending. The Student Awards Night is on May 21 at NAI. Different awards will be presented at this ceremony, including the James Wall Humanitarian Scholarship for sophomores. Ms. Peng also expressed the students' excitement of the upcoming technology that will be installed at NAI and she thanked the Board and Administration for updating NAI's technology.

Comments from the Board President

- Mrs. Grosheider said that the Board concluded after their tour of NASH when they saw the Classrooms for the Future in action, that it really made a dramatic impact on how students can be instructed and how they can learn. She said the Board did not feel that it was appropriate not to have the same resources available at NAI, and Dr. Green agreed.
- Mrs. Grosheider mentioned how thrilled the Board was to be at NASH last week for the dinner that the students had for them. It was good to connect with the students and she thanked Mr.

Hamm for his excellent work and his dedicated involvement. Everyone was touched by the Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony.

- Mrs. Grosheider also mentioned that Saturday, May 23, from 7-9 pm, the community is invited to tour the high school to see the Post Prom decorations. It is always a rewarding effort by the parents who put this together for the students.
- On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Grosheider thanked the student representatives, Andy Hamm and Lili Peng, for their work and dedication this year. She said they were extraordinary Board Representatives.

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

- ☆ **Ms. Amy Wienand**, first grade teacher at Hosack Elementary School, has received First Place honors in the "staff" category of the third annual Scott E. Folmer Memorial Student, Teacher and Exemplary Practice or Partnering (STEPP) Awards by the Allegheny Local Task Force on the Right to Education. The STEPP Awards recognize outstanding support of children receiving special education services in the 42 school districts in Allegheny County (not including the Pittsburgh City Schools). Ms. Debbie Efke, Chairperson of the STEPP Awards Committee, was quoted as saying that Ms. Wienand "is committed to all children in her class and helps them reach their mark." A banquet was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 to honor award recipients.
- ☆ **Mr. Joe Bullick**, curator of the North Allegheny History Museum, is one of 50 people in Western Pennsylvania being recognized as a 2009 Jefferson Award winner. Mr. Bullick is being recognized for the volunteer work he does in maintaining the NA History Museum at McKnight Elementary School and for the countless hours he contributes to anyone interested in historical information about our District and/or the North Hills area. As an award recipient, Mr. Bullick will be featured in the *Post-Gazette* and then honored at a reception and ceremony to be held in February 2010. He will receive a bronze medallion commissioned by the Franklin Mint. One of the 50 award winners will be named "Pittsburgh's Most Outstanding Volunteer" and will represent our region at a national awards ceremony on June 2010 in Washington, D.C.
- ☆ **Mr. Corky Semler**, the District's head swimming coach, has been notified that he has been selected to be a 2009 Inductee into the Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame. The Pennsylvania Swimming Hall of Fame was established in 1968 by the Pennsylvania State University and recognizes those Pennsylvanians who have exhibited extraordinary service and achievement through aquatics. Mr. Semler has achieved 53 section titles, 19 WPIAL and 8 PIAA First Place titles since 1979. In addition, he has achieved 15 WPIAL and 6 PIAA Second Place finishes. His overall record is an impressive 561 wins, 83 losses and 6 ties. Mr. Semler's coaching has helped 120 athletes over the years to attain All-American Status.

Additional Comments

Mr. Schwartzmier added his insights about the recent election. He had an opportunity to go out into the community and knock on doors and meet the people and received a resounding welcome and positive feedback on how well the District is doing and the work that is being done. He thanked the Administrators for their work in making this District so great.

SPEAKERS

No speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Grosheider adjourned the meeting at **9:06 p.m.** The Board did not meet in Executive Session at the conclusion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board