

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MAY 21, 2008 – SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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

Board Absent: Mrs. Ludwig

Students in Attendance: Ms. Czerniewski; Mr. Hackett

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Brungo (Solicitor), Mr. Botti, Mrs. Ed,
Mr. Gaertner, Dr. Hirsch, Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Steinhauer,
Dr. Stropkaj, Dr. Wheat, Mrs. Ryan (Secretary)

Others in Attendance: Ms. Tammy Andreyko – Principal of Ingomar Middle School
Mr. Brian Miller – Principal of Carson Middle School
Ms. Katherine Jenkins – Assistant Principal of Carson Middle School
Dr. Cynthia Kainaroi – Principal of Marshall Middle School
Mr. Bob Bozzuto – Athletic Director
Ms. Sherri Ludwig – Assistant Manager, Financial Services

The Board of School Directors of the North Allegheny School District convened for a **Special Meeting/Work Session** on **Wednesday, May 18, 2008** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

25-YEAR EMPLOYEES

Mr. Devlin recognized and thanked the following employees for their 25 years of service to the District. Each received a small token of appreciation and a letter of commendation

Deborah Gottshall
Charlene Lepant
Marie Presto
Suzanne Roy

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Grosheider, the School Board's Protocol Officer, recognized our two student representatives who diligently served the District and represented the students for the 2007/2008 school year. She said that **Lisa Czerniewski** from NASH and **Ross Hackett** 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:

31st Annual Student Music International Awards Program

High School Classical Group winner

North Allegheny Honors Wind Ensemble

(Award was accepted by Band Director Mr. Todd Stefan)

2008 Disney Band, Orchestra and Choral Festival

Best Jazz Soloist

Samuel Mickler

The following awards to the Marching Band and Auxiliary Units/specific Ensembles were accepted by Band Director Mr. Todd Stefan and Assistant Director Mr. Steve Baldanzi:

Gold Medal, Best Overall Band and Festival Champion

North Allegheny Marching Band and Auxiliary Units

Gold Medal

North Allegheny Dance Team

Silver Medal

North Allegheny Jazz Ensemble I

Silver Medal

North Allegheny Indoor Percussion

The following awards to the Chamber Orchestras were accepted by Orchestra students representing the group:

Silver Medal and Best in Class Award

North Allegheny Senior High School Chamber Orchestra

Bronze Medal

North Allegheny Intermediate High School Chamber Orchestra

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association

Placement in the All-State Band

Nicholas Amoscato

Brett Freithaler

Joshua Waynick

Placement in the All-State Orchestra

Anne Caruso	Michael Lorenzo
Andrew Ho	Taylor Praskach
Shinyoung Kang	Sean Radermacher
Steven Kang	Erin Smith
Jeffrey Lin	Hannah Snyder

2008 American Association of Teachers of German National German Exam
Scoring in the 99th Percentile

Adrianna Jensen
Marco Zenz

Scoring in the 98th Percentile
Stephanie Smyers

Scoring in the 93rd Percentile
Brandon Rebholz

American Association of Teachers of French National Exam

Introduction to French
Tenth Place in the Nation

Anis Adnani
Ford Smith

French Level I
Third Place in the Nation

Jenna Sandala

Fifth Place in the Nation
Meiqin Zhou

Tenth Place in the Nation
Alexis D'Amato
Kristen Schwemmer

French Level II
Second Place in the Nation

Jennifer Lee
Artem Talanov

Sixth Place in the Nation
Annie Yan

Tenth Place in the Nation
Julia Barnes
Madison Kraus

French Level 3
Fourth Place in the Nation
Konstantin Borisov

Seventh Place in the Nation
Jianxin Zeng

Eighth Place in the Nation
Kelly Gilmour

Ninth Place in the Nation
Emily Li
Kerri Woodward

French Level 4
Fourth Place in the Nation
Wex Xu

Seventh Place in the Nation
Jenna Klaum
Hillary Richard
Li Xu

Eighth Place in the Nation
Jamie Novak
Rebecca Scheuer

Ninth Place In The Nation
Katherine Muskal

Tenth Place in the Nation
Xiao Zhu

2008 National Latin Exams
Introduction to Latin
Perfect Score and earning a Gold Medal
Samir Jindel
Joey Zou

Latin I
Perfect score and earning a Gold Medal
Bailey Blashford
Kearsie Dougherty
Julia Meyer
Sean Nimmo
Lauren Shideler

Latin I
Gold Medal

Bryan Caswell	Srikanth Palanisamy
Jason Chen	Benjamin Suhrie
Allison Fox	Divya Tumuluru
Lauren Lang	Julie Wu
Adam Majewski	Kevin Xie
Irene Onufrey	

Latin I
Silver Medal

Annie Altman	Jacqueline Musser
Halley Bayer	Willaim Oestreich
Abigail Delserone	Christopher Rudzinskas
Daniel Lesh	Andrew Stoof
Sean Madigan	

Latin II
Gold Medal

Andrew Adam	Claire McGinnis
Max Adzema	Jenna Mulligan
Sujaya Balachandran	Michael Noh
Gina Carretta	Matthew Poole
Julia Concelman	Sean Radermacher
Megan Doerzbacher	Natalie Rogers
Lindsay Holdcroft	Kelsey Steele
Joshua Kaib	Dasun Wang
Aidan MacDonagh	

Latin II
Silver Medal

Nikki Bindas	Allison Reckless
Michael Bove	Jennifer Rumble
Christy Cotter	Jay Sehgal
Madeline Gray	Jacob Wrigley
Chelsea Henderson	Oichu Yuan
Jacob Klingensmith	Oishu Yuan
Bayleigh McMenamin	

Latin Poetry Level 3

Gold Medal

Lucas Ashby	Elaine Oestreich
J. Patrick Baum	Bianca Palmisano
Hyeong Cho	Michael park
Maura Crock	Katheryn Schmiech
Thomas Dean	David Tobias
Elizabeth Lorenzi	Steven Verez
Cori McCarthy	Elisabeth Wert
John McElhattan	Joseph Whitmore
Ryan Napper	

Latin Poetry Level 3

Silver Medal

Margaret Bentzel	Alexis Geeza
Paul Bergdahl	Vanessa Kachulis
Keshav Dhanda	Marissa Mylet
Andrew Fishell	Sarah Wrigley

Latin Poetry Level 4

Gold Medal

Gwyn Agnew	Samuel McCandlish
Nathan Carlin	Kimberly Schmitt
Grace Concelman	Andrew Sullivan
Hae-Song Jung	Stephen Tjader
Claire Kairys	Edward Wu
Lisa Marcellus	Yilu Zhang

Latin Poetry Level 4

Silver Medal

Timothy Hubert	Ken Nakajima
Dana Lynch	Sarah Rauterkus
Brian Marcus	Hannah Snyder

2008 National Middle School Science Bowl
Qualifying to Compete in National Competition

Joseph Eisner
Elizabeth Hartigan
Skanda Koppula
Cathy Li
Jeremy McCandlish

2008 Technology Student Association State Conference
First Place in CAD Animation Architectural

Douglas Bauer

First Place in the Digital Photography Challenge

Sara Luty

Second Place in Extemporaneous Presentation

Brenna Thorpe

Second Place in CAD Animation Architectural

Clarissa Costa-Lima

Second Place in CAD Animation Engineering

Joel Mackay

Second Place in Imaging Technology

Mariah Vaglia

Second Place in PA – CAD

Sara Luty

Third Place in CAD Architectural 2D

Mariah Vaglia

Third Place in CAD Engineering 3D

Clayton O'Connor

Third Place in Challenging Technology Issues

Sara Luty

Taraneh Manesh

Third Place in PA – CAD

Erin Bishop

Third Place in System Control Technology

Christopher Chang

Cullen Minahan

Samuel Rutan

Third Place in the Manufacturing Challenge

Skanda Koppula

Taraneh Manesh

Emily Wu

Third Place in the Technology Bowl

William Dignazio

Adam Majewski

Shane Smith

Borders National Open Door Poetry Contest

First Place, Teen Category

Merit O'Hare

National Academic League

First Place National Champion

Jake Adzema	Kaitlin Campbell	Ryan Saguigni
Elizabeth Appleton	Benjamin Gibbs	Justin Strzelczyk
Timothy Appman	Hae Min Jung	Mehrgol Tiv
Erin Bishop	Joseph Murphy	Jacob Wessel
Brian Boehmke	Joel Norman	Amy Zhang
Katerina Borisov	Connor Phillips	Benjamin Ziolkowski
Daniel Brunner	Jacob Plichta	Joey Zou

Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Tournament

First Place in Public Forum Debate

Victoria Lopez

Gregory Vose

First Place in Extemporaneous Speaking

Stacey Chen

First Place in Radio Announcing

Yilu Zhang

Second Place in Commentary

Douglas Kulchar

Third Place in Humorous Acting

Gwyn Agnew

Y>PA Magazine

Short Story Published

Steven Mueller

American Scholastic Press Association

First Place Classification

Northstar Newspaper Staff

The following awards to the Safari Yearbook Staff were accepted by Co-Advisors Ms. Frances Bogus and Ms. Jeanne Giampetro:

Pennsylvania School Press Association

All-State Award

Safari Yearbook Staff

Columbia Scholastic Press Association
Silver Crown Award
Safari Yearbook Staff

National Association of Student Councils
2008 National Council of Excellence Award
North Allegheny Senior High School Student Council
(Award accepted by Student Council Advisor Ms. Patricia Dzambo)

SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION

Mrs. Bishop called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Mrs. Bishop announced that the Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of their meeting on April 23, 2008 to discuss a contract matter and a litigation matter. The Board met prior to this meeting to interview a candidate for an Administrative position. The Board will meet in Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss contract negotiations with a bargaining unit, a litigation matter and a contract matter.

Mrs. Bishop noted that the Board hosted the Distinguished Achievement Awards ceremony prior to this meeting, which accounted for the late start. She said it was a very positive and uplifting ceremony with over 200 students being recognized at the state or national level. She also took a moment to again thank the Student Board Representatives, Lisa Czerniewski and Ross Hackett, for the excellent work they have done this year. Ms. Czerniewski said she will be attending the University of Pittsburgh and will be double-majoring in Accounting and Marketing. The Board congratulated her.

Mrs. Bishop noted that Andy Hamm, who was in attendance, will be the NASH Representative next year. He previously served as a Student Representative during his sophomore year. The NAI representative for 2008-2009 will be announced next week.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Bishop reviewed the Agenda for this meeting and the Calendar for May and June 2008. At this meeting, the Preliminary Budget will be requested for approval. There are no reports currently scheduled for the May 28, 2008 meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

SPEAKERS ON VOTING ITEMS

There were no speakers.

SPECIAL MEETING VOTING ITEMS

Mrs. Bishop asked the Board's permission to address one particular voting item at this point in the meeting. She asked the Superintendent to introduce this item.

Dr. Green introduced Ms. Kristen Silbaugh as the Administration's nominee for the position of Assistant Principal at Ingomar Middle School and the Board took action as follows.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – INGOMAR MIDDLE SCHOOL

On motion by Mrs. Boujoukos, seconded by Mrs. Grosheider, the Board approved the appointment of Kristen Silbaugh to the position of Assistant Principal, Ingomar Middle School, effective June 10, 2008, at an annual salary of \$81,500. The salary will be adjusted annually as directed by the Administrative Compensation and Performance Plan.

Ms. Silbaugh was first employed by North Allegheny in the 2003-04 year as a Long-term Substitute German Teacher and began contract employment as a German Teacher at the Intermediate High School in 2006. In the intervening years, she was employed by the Norwin School District. During the 2007-08 year, she has served as Lead Teacher at Ingomar Middle School. Ms. Silbaugh holds her B.S. in German Education from Penn State and she will complete the Masters program in Curriculum Design at St. Vincent College this August. She is certified as a German teacher and as a K-12 Principal.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 8-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

Ms. Silbaugh received the congratulations from the Board. Mrs. Bishop said the Board had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Silbaugh in Executive Session and everyone is delighted that she will be the new Assistant Principal at IMS. Mrs. Bishop thanked the other principals who were present for their support.

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Dr. Green then introduced the Preliminary Budget presentation by explaining that the process of developing the budget begins in August of the year prior. The North Allegheny School District uses a Zero-Based Budget process to develop its budget and lines up every expenditure to the goals of the Strategic Plan before any one is considered for inclusion in the budget. She recognized Mr. Michael Hopkins, Manager of Financial Services and Ms. Sherri Ludwig, Assistant Manager, for their work on the budget. She noted that she and Mr. Hopkins received clear direction from the Board last July to present a balanced budget this May and that has been the goal of their work during the course of the year. She said that they have tried to be good stewards with the money and funds provided by the taxpayers who support this School District. She then turned the floor over to Mike Hopkins.

Mr. Hopkins reviewed the Budget Process using the Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB). He announced that the District is proposing a millage decrease for the second time in two years. That decrease will be in the amount of .35 mill, which is equal to \$1.2M. The 2008-2009 Preliminary Budget is balanced at \$114,695,606.

Following Mr. Hopkins' presentation, the voting item was introduced.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I. PRELIMINARY BUDGET

On motion by Mrs. Grosheider and seconded by Mr. Shuckrow, the Board considered the 2009-09 Preliminary Budget in accordance with Section 687 of the School Laws of Pennsylvania and requested authorization for the budget to be made available for public inspection for 20 days beginning not later that Friday, May 30, 2008.

For Information

The 2008-09 Preliminary Budget is estimated at \$114,695,606. The approval of the 2008-09 final General Fund Budget is scheduled for June 25, 2008.

Before voting, the Board engaged in conversation.

Questions from the Board

The Board had questions regarding wage taxes, COLA, the fund balance, capital expenditures and other items that will impact the budget. Mr. Hopkins provided explanations to all the questions.

Mrs. Bishop commented that we are currently aware of only three districts in Allegheny County that are contemplating a tax reduction but was pleased that North Allegheny will be reducing the millage for our property owners. She thanked Mr. Hopkins and Mrs. Ludwig for their work on the ZBB process.

Before voting, Dr. Green explained that at the last Superintendent's Advisory Council in Pittsburgh which she attended and included all 42 Superintendents, and since it was budget time, they polled the group about tax increases or decreases in each of the districts. Someone noted that Dr. Green did not vote and she was proud to say that North Allegheny is lowering their taxes for the second year in a row. She commended the leadership of our Business Office.

Mrs. Grosheider agreed and also commented that the ZBB process has helped to make this possible. It has taken us several years to appreciate its value, but now we can really look at trend lines over time, which is helpful in making decisions.

The Board took the following action: **Roll Call Vote. Results: 8-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.**

Mrs. Bishop then asked Mr. Schwartzmier to introduce the next voting item on the Special Meeting agenda.

PROPERTY AND SUPPLIES REPORT

On motion by Mr. Schwartzmier, seconded by Mr. Pagone, the Board considered the bid from the following contractor as the lowest bidder meeting the specifications for the replacement of the turf and repairs to the track at Newman Stadium.

General Contractor

Sports Construction Group	-	\$859,990.00
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For Information:

This project was included in the 2008-2009 Capital Funding Plan.

Before voting, a presentation was made.

TURF REPLACEMENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Gaertner and Mr. Bozzuto proceeded to share the details of the in-depth Turf Investigation that they have conducted over the last several months. They conducted research, visited nine fields, and met with coaches of various sports to gather their information. They explained that after their investigation and research, a consultant was retained to assist in the decision-making process. First bids on the project were rejected on April 23 and the second round of bids was opened on May 12. The bid from one contractor is recommended for acceptance.

Mr. Gaertner introduced the consultant, Mr. Steve Parks, who provided samples of the recommended turf. The recommended turf system would contain 19 mm elastic layer, monofilament fibers and 100% rubber infill.

Following the presentation, there was some discussion.

Questions from the Board

Mrs. Bishop asked for confirmation that they were very comfortable with their choice, and they agreed. The Board was mainly concerned with the product and its warranty. Eight years is the standard warranty, but this product will probably last longer than 10 years due to the e-layer under the field, as proved by research.

The Board commended them for the exceptional and thorough job they did in researching this system and it was very much appreciated. They were also commended for involving all the users who had a vested interest. Much collaboration was involved. The cost of this contract will be \$859,990, and with a 5% contingency, it will total \$902,990. The project is scheduled to begin on June 9 and will be completed by August 11, 2008.

The Board took the following action: **Roll Call Vote. Results: 8-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.**

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder of May 28, 2008. There was some discussion by the Board Members.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Lisa Czerniewski announced that this coming Saturday is the Senior Prom at the William Penn. Then the students will return to NASH for the

after-Prom, which is entitled, "A Night on the Town," which is a very anticipated event. She also mentioned the Grim Reaper activity which will take place on Friday and it is a very somber way to warn kids not to drink and drive

Ross Hackett reported on activities at NAI. The Dodge Ball tournament raised \$600 to benefit Save Darfur Foundation. There will be an end-of-the-year staff barbeque and all Student Council members bring a picnic item. NAI had their awards night on May 17 which coincided with the arts show, which was a nice event. The students are looking forward to the dinner next Wednesday in which the Student Council will host the School Board Members and Administrators.

Mrs. Bishop also made a plea to any Board Members or parents who would be willing to help to prepare for the Post-Prom this Friday afternoon. She assured all that there would be work for them to do in preparing for this event.

Also of note, there will be tours of the Post Prom decorations at NASH from 7-9 pm on Saturday, May 24th. Mrs. Bishop asked to please consider dropping by to see how the school has been transformed for an exciting evening for the students for "A Night on the Town!"

Dr. Green reviewed her **Superintendent's Report** including the Good News Report:

- ★ **Mr. Zach Hull, a first year teacher at MMS and CMS**, recently won the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Leadership Development Award for the State of Pennsylvania. This award is given to an early career teacher in each state who has demonstrated a capacity for professional leadership. The award is \$500 to attend the NCTE Annual Convention in San Antonio in November 2008 and a ticket to the Affiliate Breakfast at which awardees will be recognized.
- ★ **Mrs. Judy Braden, Student Council Advisor and Guidance Counselor at MMS**, was recently recognized as Advisor of the Year in the middle school division for District 3 of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. Nominations for the award are submitted by students and reviewed by a panel of student judges, which makes this award very meaningful to its recipients.
- ★ **Mr. David Forsyth, a teacher at FES**, was recently accepted to the "Landmarks of the Underground Railroad: From Christiana to Harper's Ferry." The workshop will be held at Dickinson College and is a part of the Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshop Program, which is fully funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This will be Mr. Forsyth's second national workshop experience. Last year, he was accepted as a participant in a program in Philadelphia which focused on Benjamin Franklin, during which he created packets of information for use in all grade levels.
- ★ **The North Allegheny Senior High School Honors Wind Ensemble** has been named the High School Classical Group winner in the **31st Annual Student Music Awards Program sponsored by *Downbeat Magazine***. *Downbeat Magazine* is an internationally recognized publication for music that is issued on a monthly basis. Bands from around the country, Canada and Austria submitted entries for this year's program. An experienced and sophisticated panel reviewed each submission, considering the following criteria: overall

sound, presence/authority, interpretation of idiom, improvisation/creativity, technique, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, accurate rhythm/time and material. A winner is not guaranteed in this competition. If the panel feels that no submission has adequately met the defined criteria, there is no declared winner. This fact ensures that only the finest bands in the country are recognized.

- ★ **The North Allegheny School District** has been recognized on the **2008 'Best Communities for Music Education' by the NAMM Foundation**, the charitable branch of the association of the international music products industry. Only 110 school districts across the U.S. are recognized on the 2008 list. Those included exemplify community commitment to include music education as part of a quality education for all children.

Hundreds of teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders, representing communities in all 50 states, participated in a Web-based survey to apply for consideration for this honor. Districts were measured across a variety of criteria, including programmatic development, curricular offerings, budgetary appropriations, and community involvement. Results were measured proportionally, so that communities of different sizes were compared equally.

- ★ **The North Allegheny School District** was also recently recognized in a widely recognized local business publication which ranked the District No. 4 out of 106 school districts in the seven-county region of western Pennsylvania. This study in the ***Pittsburgh Business Times' Guide to Western Pennsylvania Schools*** was published May 9 and receives a great deal of local and state attention. Other significant rankings in this publication include:

- North Allegheny School District ranks No. 8 out of 500 school districts statewide
- NASH (Grade 11) ranks No. 5 out of 123 local high schools
- Our middle schools (Grade 8) rank Nos. 2, 4 and 12 out of 140 local middle schools
 - IMS – No. 2
 - MMS – No. 4
 - CMS – No. 12

- ★ **The North Allegheny Senior High School** has been named one America's Best High Schools for 2008 by ***Newsweek***. This year's list was published in the May 18 issue of ***Newsweek***, in which 1,300 of the top U.S. high schools were identified. The ***Newsweek*** formula is based primarily upon student participation in Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate testing.

Also, although not received in time for the report, in the May 18, 2008 issue of ***Newsweek***, NASH was named as one of America's best high schools for 2008, and is listed in the top 5% of the nation's high schools. Congratulations to all the staff!

SPEAKERS

George Muhlberg - congratulated NA on its use of ZBB and noted that our success in identifying trends and savings as a result mirrors his experience in the corporate world in prior years.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at **10:20 p.m.** The Board met in Executive Session following the meeting to discuss contract negotiations with a bargaining unit, a litigation matter, and a contract matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board