

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

OCTOBER 22, 2008 –WORK SESSION

MINUTES

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

Board Absent: Mrs. Boujoukos

Students in Attendance: Mr. Hamm–NASH; Ms. Peng-NAI

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

Other Administrators: None.

The Board of School Directors of the North Allegheny School District convened for a **Work Session** on **Wednesday, October 22, 2008** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Prior to the meeting, the following students and staff members were honored for their achievements:

2008 Junior Classical League's State Championship

Submitted by: Ms. Terry Klein, Ms. Melody Hannegan,
Ms. Angela Bergen and Ms. Connie Sobieralski

Academic Champion

Jason Chen

First Place

Andrew Adam
Megan Doerzbacher
Jenna Mulligan
Sean Radermacher

Second Place

Michael Sinko
David Tobias
Albert Wang

2008 Letters About Literature Contest

Submitted by: Ms. Sharon Kroll

State Finalist

Haley Lindberg

2008 National Spanish Exam

Submitted by: Ms. Rose Mantella and Mr. Domenico DiBacco

Level 1

Gold Medal

Rose Devine

Aarohee Fulay

Margaret Haughney

Anusha Nagabandi

Rona Sun

Silver Medal

Akshaya Arjunan

Erin Norwig

Jeffrey Daye

Samantha Sartori

Rebecca Fritsch

Brittany Wilson

Sydney Micucci

Level 2

Gold Medal

Alexandra Bursic

Julie Henderson

Hannah Webber

Sophia Ciocca

Nicole Kurtanich

Bonnie Yan

Daniel Coombs

Aarthi Ramesh

Liyang Yu

Leah Dutton

Matthew Randall

Marco Zenz

Lauren Gabriel

Rebecca Scherder

Kyle Zhu

Tyler Hall

Carrie Vereide

Silver Medal

Leslie Barksdale

Katherine Edwards

Hyunyoung Kim

Katrina Baumann

Samuel Ewell

Maria Munsch

Christina Boada

Isaac Frank

Eliana Rabinowitz

Ryan Brady

Joseph Helbling

Mark Silvester

Jonathan Du

Keith Hoover

Robert Sittig

Merel Duursma

Level 3
Gold Medal

Arundhati Bharati	Katherine Luo
Stacey Chen	Dana Preston
Melissa Dias-Mandoly	Kenneth Sandala
Douglas Healy	Alyssa Shaw
Michael Heckmann	Rachel Simeone
Lauryn Lepere	Angela Sipes
Kevin Liu	Alaina Strickler

Silver Medal

Derrick Alvarez	Shawn Malik
Bahar Ataii	Madison Micucci
Michael Baldonieri	Ian Preston
Sea Dong	Sarah Samuels
Andrew Ho	Christopher Trapuzzano

2008 National Geographic Bee

Pennsylvania Winner
Joey Zou

2008 Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence

Selected to Participate

April Cummins
Brett Freithaler
Katherine Luo
Madison Micucci
Nimish Telang
Albert Wang
Kerri Woodward

2008 Spring Knowledge Master Open

Submitted by: Ms. Janet Serdy

Second Place in Pennsylvania

Konstantin Borisov	Adam Majewski
Jason Chen	Anusha Nagabandi
Steven Cunningham	Nicole Olson
Marina Fang	Benjamin Peters
Richard Gayler	Rona Sun

24th Annual Chemathon

Submitted by: Mr. Mark Anticole

First Place

Andrew Adam	Liyang Yu
Stephen Guo	Qichu Yuan
Bonnie Yan	Qishu Yuan

74th Annual State Meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science

Submitted by: Ms. Anne Marklewicz

Zappa Junior Award

Richard Gayler

First Place Award, Perfect Score

Richard Gayler
Julie Wu

First Place Award

Skanda Koppula
Jay Sehgal
Jonathan Lin

Second Place Award

Katherine Luo

High School Writer Senior High Edition

Submitted by: Ms. Patricia Kramer

Published

Erin Cassetori
Eric Harbison

Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Talent Search 2007

Score of Distinction

Brecken Blackburn	Leqi Huang	Richard McCoy	Krista Taynor
Maxwell Blechman	Sai Karwande	Jeremy Miller	Sravya Vishnubhatla
Shawn Brannon	Jess Keeley	Ria Mulherkar	Anjie Wang
Nathan Christie	Noel Kim	Michael Murphy	Melik Yuksel
Joseph Eisner	Skanda Koppula	Connor Phillips	Dennis Zhang
Suyash Fulay	Evan Lee	Bonnie Pierson	Lily Zhang
Geneva Gausman	Cathy Li	Anjali Premkumar	Linda Zheng
Connor Goodman	Erik Liu	Piyusha Sane	Katherine Zhou
Niklaus Hamilton	Martin Majewski	Nicholas Sullivan	Kevin Zhu

2008 National School Public Relations Association**Conference Presenter**

Ms. Joy Ed

Management Science Associates**Sports Cup Quad A Championship**

Mr. Bob Bozzuto

National Council of Teachers of English**Pennsylvania Leadership Development Award**

Mr. Zach Hull

WORK SESSION

Mrs. Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:52 *p.m.* and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. She announced that the Board met in Executive Session at the conclusion of our last meeting on September 24, 2008 to discuss a real estate matter and contract negotiations with a bargaining unit. The Board will meet in Executive Session at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss a real estate matter.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Bishop reviewed the Agenda for this meeting and the Calendar for October and November 2008. She mentioned that prior to this meeting, the Board had a delightful ceremony to recognize 134 students and staff members for honors that they received at the state and national levels in a wide variety of academic, athletic or artistic pursuits. There are no reports scheduled for this meeting. Next week, the Board will hear the Report of Student Achievement. Mrs. Bishop encouraged people to attend as learning of the students' impressive achievements is one of the highlights on the Board's calendar. There are no reports scheduled for November 12 but on November 19, the Board will be presented with the Annual Report to the Board of the North Allegheny Foundation. Mrs. Bishop reminded everyone that Election Day is on November 4, 2008 and she encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

No Speakers.

REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder of October 29, 2008. There was a minimum of discussion.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Andy Hamm and Lili Peng, student representatives, reported on the following:

- Homecoming weekend was a huge success at both NAI and NASH. The students thanked everyone who was involved who worked so diligently to make this a memorable occasion.
- The NAI Fall Play, *Anne of Green Gables*, begins this week on October 23 through Saturday, October 25.
- NAI Student Council will be going to Clarion this weekend for a Student Council retreat.
- NAI's National Junior Honor Society just completed a Coat Drive, which was also very successful.
- Carson Middle School hosted a workshop for PASC entitled, "How to Do a Workshop," which was a great learning experience for 7th, 8th and 9th graders as they prepare for leadership events. Andy Hamm was a presenter.
- The NASH Fall Play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, will be presented on Thursday, November 20 through Saturday, November 22.
- Mr. Hamm thanked the Board for the eSembler program and said that he has heard many positive comments from students and teachers and it is an excellent communication tool.

Mrs. Bishop mentioned that the NA Band is in contention of the "Band of the Week" this week on WPXI and she encouraged NA supporters to vote online to support our band.

Dr. Green commented that the extension off of the NASH stage was installed and it is portable. It will be a great addition to the NASH Auditorium and was used for the first time for the Community Connections Seminar this past week.

Mr. Pagone asked if there was going to be a Coat Drive at one of the football games this year, as was done last year, and Dr. Green said that will occur at the Friday, October 24 away game at North Hills, along with other activities that North Allegheny and North Hills will jointly engage in performing.

During review of the **Superintendent's Report**, Dr. Green gave her Good News Report, as follows:

- ★ **Mr. Bob Tozier, Music Department Chair and teacher at NASH**, was recently named a 2008 Pennsylvania Keystone Technology Integrator. This is the fifth year of this program that celebrates model practice teachers throughout the state. These teachers bring to the classroom content, motivational and management expertise to capture students' imaginations and harness learning in our children. The network of "Keystones" continues to grow and will be featured at the annual PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference.
- ★ **Mr. John Yastion, custodian at CMS**, was able to utilize the crisis response training he received from School Nurse Kay Marcinick several years ago to help save the life of a local resident while he was out to dinner on his 50th birthday a few weeks ago. "This shows that crisis training is really worthwhile," John says, "and that anyone who keeps their cool can make a difference in an emergency situation."

- ★ **Ms. Karen Sanguigni, teacher at IES, and Ms. Claudia Warkaske, teacher at IMS,** both won OfficeMax national grants for \$1,000 for school supplies for their classrooms. They were both nominated by their Principals during the summer on the basis of excellent performance in the classroom to qualify for these grants and were completely surprised by the presentations by local OfficeMax representatives a few weeks ago.

- ★ **Ms. Janice Spohn, teacher at PES,** was recently highlighted in the National Council of Teachers of English online publication, due to the quality of her recently posted post-convention blog on the “Clay Shirky video.” It’s great to have the opinions and expertise of our teachers recognized on a national basis.

Announcements

- Mrs. Bishop acknowledged that three Board Members, Mrs. Grosheider, Mrs. Ludwig and Mr. Hubert, and our Superintendent, Dr. Green, represented the District this past week at the PSBA-PASA Conference in Hershey. Mr. Maiello was also in attendance at this conference. The Board Members and Dr. Green gave a presentation entitled “The Governance Mosaic,” which is the presentation that was done in Florida and New Orleans. It was very well received and the Board Members also represented the District at the Legislative Policy Council Meeting for PSBA on Thursday of this week, and she thanked them for their time and participation in this conference. A more detailed report will be given next week on the conference.

- Mrs. Bishop also reported that State Senator Jim Rhoades was tragically killed in an automobile accident over the past weekend. His wife was also injured in that accident. Senator Rhoades served in the Senate for 28 years and was a champion for public education in the state, and, as a former teacher and principal, truly understood the issues relative to public education. He was instrumental with the passage of Act 61 in Pennsylvania, which is the legislation that imposed a one-year moratorium on the implementation of the Graduation Competency Assessments by the Department of Education. Our School Board and Dr. Green have advocated very strongly and actively against the implementation of the GCAs and they wrote to Senator Rhoades several times, as well as to Senator Orie, and we received several supportive responses from Senator Rhoades on this issue. Ultimately, the passage of Act 61, which had a lot to do with Senator Rhoades, put a one-year moratorium on the development of the GCAs.

- Last month, PSBA informed us that despite the passage of Act 61, the Department of Education is moving forward with the development of the Graduation Competency exams at a cost to Pennsylvania taxpayers of \$9 million, even though they were under a one-year moratorium. They solicited proposals for companies to develop these exams, even though they were under a one-year moratorium, so that they will be ready to implement the GCAs at the end of the moratorium. This was contrary to the spirit of the law that was passed.

Mrs. Bishop mentioned this to a member of Senator Orie’s staff, and he informed Senator Orie, who then sent a letter to Senator Rhoades about this matter, and last week, Senator Orie, Senator Rhoades, and the Majority Leader of the Senate, Senator Pileggi, sent a letter to Governor Rendell to immediately order the Department of Education to cease any further activity related to

the development and implementation of the GCAs. Senator Orié also released a Press Release on this topic and the protest has been noted.

Mrs. Bishop asked the Board if they wished to take further action and Mr. Shuckrow said he would take the lead on drafting a letter to the Governor on this. He commended Senator Orié and Mrs. Bishop for the work they have done thus far.

- Dr. Green announced that this Friday, October 24, Dr. Brian Miller will be honored as the 2008 Pennsylvania Principal of the Year in Washington, D.C. When he took the job as Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, he withdrew from the national competition for Principal of the Year, but he will still attend the national ceremonies this week. The Board commended him for this honor and for his outstanding representation of the District. Dr. Miller received a round of applause.

SPEAKERS

There were no speakers who came forth.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bishop adjourned the meeting at **8:32 p.m.** The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board