

*NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT*

*SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 – WORK SESSION*

*MINUTES*

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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: Mr. Hamm–NASH; Ms. Peng-NAI

Also in Attendance: Dr. Green, Mr. Maiello (Solicitor), Mr. Botti, Mr. Devlin,  
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, September 17, 2008** in the **Board Room** of the **Central Administrative Offices**.

**WORK SESSION**

Mrs. Bishop called the meeting to order at **7:32 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 August 27, 2008 to discuss a real estate matter, contract negotiations with a bargaining unit, and two items of potential litigation. The Board will not be meeting in Executive Session after this meeting.

**CALENDAR AND AGENDA**

Mrs. Bishop reviewed the Agenda for this meeting and the Calendar for September and October 2008. There is one report scheduled for this meeting, which is an update on Human Resources. Next week, the Board will have two reports: the Capital Funding Plan and the Enrollment and Facilities Report. In October, there are no reports scheduled for October 22. At the October 29, 2008 meeting, the Board will be presented with the Report of Student Achievement. Mrs. Bishop encouraged people to attend as it is one of the highlights on the Board's calendar.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

No Speakers.

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## **HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

Dr. Green introduced this report by reminding the Board that each year Mr. Devlin makes this concise and important overview of staffing available shortly after the start of the school year.

In summary, and for this 60<sup>th</sup> NA Anniversary year, Mr. Devlin offered the following numbers:

- Total Administration : 37 full-time, with one vacancy (decrease of 1 from last year)
- Total Professional Staff: 596 full-time and 28 part-time (increase of 2 from last year)
- 52 new Professional Staff Members were hired over the summer
- The teacher:student ratio at NASD for 2007-2008 was 1:12.9
- The administrator:student ratio at NASD for 2007-2008 was 1:212
- The administrator: teacher ratio at NASD for 2007-2008 was 1:16.4
- Total Paraprofessionals: 192 (increase of 10 from last year)
- Total Confidentials: 33 (increase of 2 from last year)
- Total Transportation Department: 111 (decrease of 1 from last year)
- Total Facilities Department: 83 (same as last year)
- Total Employees: **1080** (increase of 12 from last year)

### **Questions from the Board**

**Mrs. Boujoukos** asked how many Special Education Assistants that we had last year.

**Mr. Devlin** said we had 78 last year and currently we have 85.

**Mrs. Boujoukos** asked if we advertised at schools of education when we have openings, or are teachers made aware of openings by professional ads.

**Mr. Devlin** said our website is our predominant way to get the word out on our positions. All inquiries by phone or mail are directed to our website where there is a complete listing of all positions. Mr. Devlin also networks with the College Placement Offices of all colleges that issue certifications in Western Pennsylvania. We also notify people through PA Educator. We do not advertise in local newspapers and everyone seems to know that the website is the place to go for information.

**Mrs. Ludwig** asked how many new hires were NA graduates.

**Mr. Devlin** said 11 of the 52 were NA grads. The majority of the new hires have 3 to 7 years experience, but there are a few who are new graduates and who have been highly recommended by their colleges and universities and their cooperating teachers. About half of the 52 hired have Masters Degrees.

**Mrs. Bishop** asked how we did with our diversity initiative this year.

**Mr. Devlin** said that we were not as successful as last year, although we have a more diverse group, with 2 Asians, 2 Hispanics and we have 1 African-American who started this year on our Administrative Staff.

**Mrs. Bishop** thanked Mr. Devlin for his report and for the hard work that it took to fill all of those positions over the summer.

### **REVIEW OF BOARD FOLDER**

The Board reviewed all items as contained in the Board Folder of September 24, 2008. There was a minimum of discussion.

During review of the **Student Activities Report**, Mrs. Boujoukos commented on teachers who will chaperoning a student trip to New York City, and although she recognizes that it is difficult to get adults to chaperone, she suggested that it is more important for our math teachers to be here teaching math rather than chaperoning a field trip to NYC. Perhaps the Administration and Building Principals can work on this and send those who have less of an impact on our students.

Andy Hamm and Lili Peng, student representatives, reported on the following:

- The various high school clubs are meeting to elect officers and get organized for the year.
- The NAI fall play will be “Anne of Green Gables.”
- “Homecoming Hop” will be the theme of the homecoming parade on October 3 and the homecoming dance at NASH on October 4;
- “Hollywood” will be the theme of the homecoming dance at NAI on October 3;
- The Mandarin Chinese and International Business classes, which are new this year, are both going well.

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

- ★ **Ms. Joy Manesiotis and Mr. Mike Buchert, mathematics teachers at NASH**, were awarded a **\$4,000 Classroom Innovators grant from the Toshiba America Foundation** early in September. Their funded project proposal is titled “Live from NASH, It’s Math and Science!” Students in grades 8, 11 and 12 will participate. The objective of the project is to enhance the math curriculum by incorporating practical applications from the science curriculum, as well as new technologies that will help students gather and analyze data more efficiently. One of the most exciting endeavors of this project will occur when students from NASH will share their experience and knowledge via a live telecast with NA middle school students and teachers.
  
- ★ **The Office of Communications and Public Relations** was recently notified that the North Allegheny School District **Activities Calendar for the 2007-2008 school year** was honored with an **Award of Excellence by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association**. The PSBA traditionally opens their publications contest at the end of each school year, so their results were only just released. Less than 3% of the districts in the state received an Award of Excellence for their activities calendars this year.

**Announcement**

Mr. Schwartzmier reminded those at the meeting that tickets for the NA Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet will be sold at Friday night's home football game. The Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, October 2, 2008 at the Chadwick and the community is invited to attend this annual event.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Bishop adjourned the meeting at **8:30 p.m.** The Board did not meet in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary  
North Allegheny School Board