

NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 28, 2012 –REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

Board in Attendance: Mrs. Grosheider, Mr. Hubert, Mrs. Bishop,
Mrs. Blackburn, Dr. Greenberg, Mr. Jacobs,
Mrs. Ludwig, Mr. Pagone, Mr. Schwartzmier

Board Absent: None.

Students in Attendance: Jackie Bursic–NASH; John Gnalian-NAI

Also in Attendance: Dr. Gualtieri, Mr. Brungo (Solicitor), Dr. Andreyko,
Mr. Botti, Dr. Bradley, Mr. Gaertner, Mr. Hopkins, Dr. Miller,
Dr. Wheat, Mrs. Ryan (Secretary)

MST in Attendance: Mrs. Bjalobok, Principal – PES

WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING

Mrs. Grosheider called the meeting to order at **7:04 p.m.** and all stood and recited *The Pledge of Allegiance*. She began by congratulating the NASH Varsity Football Team and their Coach, Art Walker, upon their recent WPIAL championship. The NASH Football Team is the first team in WPIAL history to win three consecutive WPIAL titles and she said this accomplishment is indicative of the breadth and strength of the programs we offer to our students in academics, the arts and athletics. She went on to say that outstanding achievements are the result of hard work and dedication, as well as superior programs and instruction, and we are very proud of these young men.

Mrs. Grosheider also announced that the Board met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss a personnel matter and a legal matter.

CALENDAR AND AGENDA

Mrs. Grosheider announced that tonight's meeting was the Regular Voting Meeting of the Board. At tonight's meeting, the Board would be hearing a series of reports. The first is on the Capital Funding Plan, an annual report; a Technology Update; and an Update on the Demographic and Feasibility Study.

In December, there will be two meetings. December 5 will be the Board's Reorganization Meeting, which is required by the School Code that all school boards re-organize during the first week of December. This meeting will be in the Board Room. The December 19, 2012 meeting will be a combined Work Session/Regular Meeting in the CMS Auditorium. At this meeting, the Board will

be hearing a Preliminary Budget presentation and an Update of the Demographics and Feasibility Study, as well as voting on the items for December.

CAPITAL FUNDING AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Dr. Gualtieri introduced this report by reminding the Board and the community that the District's economic and budgetary challenges require the maintenance of resources to preserve the overall life of our investments and to enable the full utilization of each facility and asset. He explained the criteria that was used to determine the recommendations in the plan.

The report consisted of three parts: **Facilities, Transportation and Information Technology.**

Mr. Rob Gaertner, Director of Facilities, provided:

- background regarding how the District has used the Capital Funding Plan in the past,
- what investments the District has made in assets and maintenance in the past several decades,
- the estimated value of current facilities and vehicles, and
- a summary of the projects funded through this plan that were recently completed.

Mr. Roger Botti, Director of Transportation and Operations, summarized an overview of the bus fleet, vehicle replacement guidelines, and the proposed five year plan for maintaining the fleet through lease replacement. The purchase cost for 2013-2014 would be \$856,500.

There was also a list of proposed projects for the 2013-2014 for facilities maintenance District-wide, which Mr. Gaertner reviewed. The total cost of completing those projects would be \$2,676,700.

Mr. Bill Phillips, Senior Manager of Information Technology, presented an overview of five areas of focus for development by the IT Department:

- The wireless network
- Digital classrooms
- Disaster recovery
- IP Telephony

In an effort to move the IT plans forward, Mr. Phillips put forward a list of proposed projects for 2013-2014 that totaled \$1,150,797. Funding for some of those projects will be provided by the NA Foundation and E-Rate funds.

The total funding requested to complete all of the projects in this report was \$4,686,997.

Questions from the Board

Mr. Pagone asked about the backstops and HES and PES and wondered if any of our athletic associations in our community use these fields. If so, could we reach out to them and ask them to help pay as part of the plan instead of having North Allegheny pay the total cost for them.

Mr. Gaertner said those fields are not used by the local athletic clubs on a regular basis.

Mr. Pagone asked about the worth of some items that were mentioned in the report that dealt with athletics and **Mr. Gaertner** said they are all listed in the report.

Mr. Pagone mentioned that nothing is being done at Bradford Woods Elementary.

Mr. Gaertner said that work has been deferred until 5 years out.

Mr. Schwartzmier asked for clarification of the projects that came to \$2.4 Million.

Mr. Jacobs asked if it was realistic to wait until 2017-2018 to defer costs at BWE, MES and MMS and will we find ourselves with a balloon expense for these major repairs.

Mr. Gaertner said that due to the uncertainty of elementary school utilization, he did not feel that he wanted to segregate projects inside of the buildings until he had a clearer understanding of how things were going to work out. There are probably some of the projects that will need to be done before the five years. He said he will be able to strategize these in next year's plan and to sort through budgetary issues.

Mrs. Bishop asked about the windows at MMS and asked why it is critical that we replace those windows this year.

Mr. Gaertner said there is severe deterioration in various areas which leads to other problems.

Mrs. Bishop said with respect for funding that will be coming from the Foundation and the E-Rate funding, she wondered what we were anticipating from those sources.

Dr. Gualtieri said there is \$350,000 in the E-Rate account and the Foundation has raised about \$60,000 last year and is hoping to match that this year.

Mrs. Bishop said many community members have advocated for outsourcing of transportation. Do we need to wait for the new collective bargaining agreement in 2014, or should we move it up.

Mr. Botti said in the past we have always looked at that during the collective bargaining agreement.

Dr. Greenberg had a concern about disaster recovery for technology and where we are today. He asked if we maintain records onsite or offsite.

Mr. Phillips said all of our servers and data are stored at CAO and back-up tapes are sent to McKnight and there are various levels of recovery. They are looking at more secure locations in the event of a natural disaster.

Mrs. Grosheider asked about the bus leasing where we do them for 5 years and wondered if we could stretch the lease out to 7 years.

Mr. Botti said when they do the bid for buses, they do it for 5 years, but it is possible to go further.

Mrs. Grosheider pointed out that we have been very judicious in how our funds are expended and she thanked the Administration for the presentation and report.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Dr. Gualtieri introduced this report by thanking the Board for the two year period that has been allotted to the Administration to conduct this study. He indicated that he was proud to have this last installment of the study coming forward tonight. He also underscored the fact that Dr. Miller has been designated as the primary presenter tonight, but that Dr. Miller speaks on behalf of the entire Administration as he shares this summative and concluding report.

Dr. Miller began the report with historical context beginning with 1997 and the decisions that were made by the School Board at that time relative to renovations, redistricting, and the potential closing of two schools – specifically Espe and Peebles. Only Espe was closed in 1997.

He continued by summarizing the work and findings of the two consultants in 2011 and 2012 on the topic of demographics and enrollment projections. The findings were similar to the prediction in 1997 that enrollment would decline and that NASD has excess capacity at the elementary level.

There have been three Administrative Reports in the fall of 2012 to share the detailed follow-up work that has been done in response to these findings. The Administration and the School Board has toured the elementary buildings, in some cases several times. Enrollment projections were validated, enrollment targets were developed, sample re-districting scenarios were created, and building utilization targets were identified.

For the purposes of tonight's report, the Administration took the 2012-2013 enrollment numbers and placed them into the Re-districting Scenario #1 example to create a 'real life model' to illustrate the impact of closing either PES or HES, if enrollment were to remain stable in years to come. Several issues were illustrated:

- Class size impact by school and by grade level
- Specific room utilization for each special area and support programming by building
- Average class size District-wise
- Impact on middle school enrollment

While it was emphasized that this exercise was done for demonstration purposes only, Dr. Miller indicated that the assignment of rooms was based upon very specific knowledge of the schools. The enrollment projections and student assignments may need to be fine-tuned in the future, but the exercise provided a valuable illustration of the issues noted.

A number of significant observations were able to be made as a result of this exercise:

- Operational efficiency was improved.
- Class size was maintained within District guidelines.
- The scenario leaves 11 spares remaining across the District.
- All regular classrooms would have windows and more than adequate space.
- The middle school feeder program is improved.
- PES would not have a spare in this scenario.

Dr. Miller followed the analysis of this exercise with an explanation of why the Administration did not select Scenarios #2-4 for this exercise. He also outlined the alternatives the Administration has identified for implementation, should unexpected situations arise relative to enrollment following the closure of a small school.

Dr. Gualtieri then took over the presentation to provide an overview of the financial analysis related to estimated savings and costs of closing Peebles Elementary School. He estimated the annual total to be \$850,000.

There were 11 conclusions and recommendations that Dr. Gualtieri presented following the financial analysis to wrap up this presentation, and they are as follows:

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Fifteen years is a sufficient amount of time to study enrollment and capacity issues. The District has done due diligence, utilizing multiple experts, in addressing this issue.
- NASD has been operating with excess elementary capacity.
- The closing of Peebles Elementary School will not compromise the excellence of our program.
- If the School Board votes to close Peebles Elementary School, NASD will continue its tradition of a high level of achievement, just as we did in 1997 when we went from 8 elementary buildings to 7 with the closing of Espe.
- NASD can and will deliver the high quality program in 6 elementary buildings and continue to maintain our competitive edge among western PA school districts.
- NASD has an obligation to all of our constituents to operate in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner possible.
- NASD's enrollment has remained stable over the last 15 years, but our economic circumstances have changed. Consequently, the closing of PES will save the taxpayers approximately a net of \$850K a year.
- Based on all the data presented over the last 15 months, I can recommend the closure of PES with confidence. I also recommend the immediate conversion of the facility into an income-producing property.
- I further recommend that at the December 19th Board meeting, a date should be established in early 2013 for the mandated public hearing to close PES. Setting the date to hold a hearing regarding the closure of PES does not force or commit the Board to vote to close.
- After the hearing is held, the Board will have the opportunity to continue to gather information to assist them in making the decision about whether or not to close PES. They will not be asked to vote on the closure until 90 days after the hearing.
- As Superintendent of Schools, I recommend that the Board of School Directors:
 - complete the mandated process for closing PES and
 - assign the Administration to design the necessary redistricting of elementary students to be effective in the 2013-2014 school yearto enable the District to operate at maximum efficiency as it continues to support outstanding academic achievement through the provision of exemplary educational opportunities.

Proposed School Closure Timeline is as follows:

- December 19, 2012
 - Pass motion to set the date for the Public Hearing – January 30
 - Advertise for Public Hearing in early January 2013 for at least 15 days
- January 30, 2013
 - Special Meeting/Public Hearing
- April 30, 2013
 - Special Meeting/Formal Board Action for School Closure
- Closure effective 2013/2014 School Year

Questions from the Board

Mr. Pagone commented that the slides show the breakdown regarding staff savings and utilities, but it does not show us the cost that will be incurred if a decision is made to close a building and other schools will need to absorb costs of incoming students that currently do not go there.

Dr. Gualtieri said that all the students can fit in the other buildings without a cost. There are currently 33 spare classrooms and 22 would be used if we closed Peebles, with 11 spare classrooms. There is no expense other than re-doing the bus routes.

Dr. Greenberg asked how many years out the projection was in the slide about the historical enrollment projection accuracy that was compared to actuals.

Mr. Botti said it was a one year projection.

Dr. Greenberg would like the Administration to take a look at further years' out projections.

Mr. Jacobs referred to the financial slide and asked if it was tailored toward the recommended closure of Peebles, or was that an estimate for any of the smaller elementary schools.

Dr. Gualtieri said it was specific to Peebles because it dealt with the debt service to Peebles.

Mr. Jacobs said it might be interesting to see what the variance might be if the other smaller schools were calculated also.

Mr. Jacobs stated that there is \$825,000 in savings identified for staffing with the closure of PES and he wanted to know what positions would they be and would they be uniform in any small school closure.

Dr. Gualtieri said they used the specific salaries that were related to Peebles which included the principal, secretaries, some special area teachers, a nursing assistant, PE, librarian, custodians, and on down the line, and the salaries related specifically to that building.

Mr. Jacobs asked for clarification that the path that would be recommended would be to lease Peebles if it were closed rather than a sale.

Dr. Gualtieri said the Administration would recommend a lease at this time for income property.

Mrs. Ludwig asked if we leased a building, would we be responsible for bringing it up to speed regarding technology, as in making the building wireless.

Dr. Gualtieri said that would be the responsibility of the tenant.

Mr. Pagone said it would be helpful to see the financial aspects of the report that were given that related to Peebles to be also done for Hosack and Bradford Woods.

Mrs. Grosheider thanked the staff for all the work that was done on this report. She appreciated all the time that staff members took to visit the buildings multiple times to review the space available so that appropriate data could be provided.

RECESS

Mrs. Grosheider called for a recess at *9:15 p.m.*

RECONVENED

The Board reconvened at *9:25 p.m.*

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Hubert, seconded by Mrs. Bishop, the Board approved the published minutes of the October 24, 2012 combined Work Session/Regular Meeting and approved them with the understanding that the Directors read the minutes as published and, further, that the Solicitor, also having read the minutes, had no comments or corrections.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

SPEAKERS (Agenda Items)

No Speakers.

VOTING ITEMS

CURRICULUM REPORT

On motion by Mrs. Bishop, seconded by Mrs. Ludwig, the Board approved Items I and II as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. Honoraria

The Board approved payment of \$75 for one night and \$150 for two nights for the following staff members who taught and provided overnight supervision for fifth graders at Camp Kon-O-Kwee during the 2012/2013 school year:

Bradford Woods Elementary

Bielawski, Michael (2)
Bielawski, Rhonda (2)
Cooper, Diana (2)
Flaherty, Mimi (1)
Kilar, James (2)
Krepp, Denise (2)
Luce, Jennifer (2)
Lundy, Ryan (2)
Miko, Ashley (1)
Neumeyer, Renae (2)
Woods, Colleen (2)

Franklin Elementary

Aber, Leslie (2)
Beierle, Jennifer (2)
Borkowski, Danielle (1)
Butts, Jocelyn (2)
Casciotti, Ryan (2)
Keefer, Holly (2)
Koma, Susan (2)
Kraniou, Dean (2)
Pendergast, Brian (1)
Price, Carly (2)
Sanguigni, Karen (2)
Schlenke, Elizabeth (2)
Schramm, Lisa (2)

Hosack Elementary

Bricker, Robert (2)
Gabriel, Caterina (1)
Kralic, Christina (1)
Moses, Rayne (1)
Petrini, Jenna (2)
Sundo, Debora (2)
Yeakel, Harry (1)

Ingomar Elementary

Boronyak, Dean (2)
Giglio, Flo (2)
Miller, Kathy (2)
Mounts, Dustin (2)
Smoyer, James (2)
Wally, Barbara (2)
Zinsser, Erica (2)

Marshall Elementary

Babusci, Matt (2)
Clements, Patrick (2)
Daniels, Gail (2)
Esswein, Heather (2)
Herrnberger, Darla (2)
Hudec, Brian (2)
Hutton, Cristina (2)
Lepant, Charlene (2)
McLaughlin, Julie (2)
Prozenjak, James (2)
Rich, Susan (2)
Volland, James (2)
Werner, Barbara (2)
Zaccari, Kristen (2)
Zallow, Denise (2)

McKnight Elementary

Anderson, Beth (2)
Berendowski, Diana (2)
Biro, Christie (2)
Buches, Steve (2)
Doran, Rachel (2)
Frank, Patrick (2)
Goehring, Debra (1)
Graner, Jan (2)
Hudec, Brian (2)
Kozak, Carol (2)
Smith, Erin (2)
Stewart, Kelly (2)
Vandergrift, Joann (2)
Zaspel, Kurt (2)

Peebles Elementary

Antoon, Lynn (2)
Dunmire, Danielle (2)
Jackson, Chris (1)
Kraus, Steve (2)
Landy, Danielle (2)
Oldham, Scott (2)
Zunski, Penny (1)

II. NASH Spring Musical – Footloose

The Board approved the NASH Spring Musical, *Footloose* to be presented in the NASH Auditorium on **Wednesday, March 13; Thursday, March 14; Friday, March 15; Saturday, March 16; and Sunday, March 17, 2013.**

For Information

This play was reviewed by the NASH Play Selection Committee that is made up of staff, parents, and Board Members and was unanimously approved. This play will provide an opportunity for 40-50 students on stage, 50-70 musicians, 20-30 students as stage hands, and 10-20 other students serving in a variety of roles (costumes, student directing, publicity, gophers, etc.). The Senior Citizens performance will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

On motion by Mr. Hubert, seconded by Mr. Schwartzmier, the Board approved Items I through IV as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. Accounts Payable Approval Lists

The Board approved the following Accounts Payable lists:

- A. Supplemental Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$15,592,746.91.
- B. Accounts Payable list dated November 2012, in the amount of \$111,530.09.
- C. Supplemental Capital Reserve Fund Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$38,876.40.

- D. Supplemental Technology Fund Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$7,703.88.
- E. Supplemental 2000 NASH/Newman Stadium Construction Fund Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$4,700.00.
- F. Supplemental CMS/IMS Construction Fund Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$0.00.
- G. Supplemental Cafeteria Fund Accounts Payable dated October 2012, in the amount of \$1,346.20.

II. Budgetary Transfers

The Board approved the following budgetary transfers within the framework of the 2012-2013 General Fund Budget, in accordance with the provision of Section 687 of the School Laws of Pennsylvania:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
2300-600 Supplies Support Services-Administration	2300-800 Other Objects Support Services-Administration	\$ 100
1100-300 Purch Prof & Tech Svcs Regular Programs-Elem/Sec	2800-600 Supplies Support Services-Central	\$ 283
1300-600 Supplies Vocational Education Programs	1100-400 Purchased Property Svcs Regular Programs-Elem/Sec	\$ 2,450
TOTAL TRANSFERS FOR THE MONTH:	2,833	PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET: 0.0022%
TOTAL TRANSFERS YEAR TO DATE:	30,509	PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET: 0.0241%

III. Collateral Security Reports

The Board approved the collateral securities reports submitted by the depositories for the quarter ended September 30, 2012, which are included with this report.

IV. Student Activities Accounts Expenditures

The Board approved acknowledgement of the student activities expenditure listings for the months of July 2012 through September 2012.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

On motion by Mrs. Ludwig, seconded by Mr. Hubert, the Board approved Items I through VI, and the Addendum Items I through I through VI, as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. Resignations

The Board approved the following Resignation(s):

Beth Leckey	Music - Chorus, CMS/IMS Effective 11/7/12	Resignation
Mary Kate Peters	Day-to-Day Paraprofessional Substitute Effective 11/7/12	Resignation

II. Appointments

The Board approved the following Appointment(s):

Administrator

Shelley Strobel	School Psychologist, IES/FES/IMS (for B. Klaus) Effective 10/31/12-6/6/13	Substitute Step 1 Column I \$23,659
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Professional

Amy Coss	Music - Chorus, MCK/MES (for D. Litz) Effective 9/13/12-6/6/13	Substitute Step 1 Column A \$27,482 (Pro-rated)
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The Board approved the following Professional Substitute(s) to work on an as-needed basis starting at \$75.00/day.

Tiffany Bergman	Cara Buddenbohn	Jessica Cupka
Bruno Curcio	Julie Gallagher	Emily Harford
Stefanie Ising	Brian Moriarty	Kathleen Noel
Lauren Phillipps	Aubrey Rader	Kayla Shultz
Bailey Steinhauser	Justin Yeckel	

III. Wage/Status Changes

The Board approved the following wage/status changes:

Paraprofessional

Sandra Krah	Transfer from Special Education Assistant, PES to Assistant Principal Secretary, NAI Effective 11/19/12 (Replaces S. Kuhlber)	\$18.63/hr. Class I-B 8 Hours/Day 260 Days/Yr.
Beth Whisler	Special Education Assistant, PES Effective 11/12/12-6/5/13	\$12.71/hr. Class II-C 7 Hours/Day 187 Days/Yr.

The Board approved a wage increase for the following Paraprofessional Employee(s) based on anniversary date of hire:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Terry Capuzzi	\$14.40/hr.	\$16.94/hr.	12/5/2012
Janice Huwe	\$14.40/hr.	\$16.94/hr.	12/22/2012

IV. Child Rearing Leaves of Absence – Mitchell

The Board approved an unpaid Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Jamie Mitchell, Special Ed. Assistant, Franklin Elementary School, effective November 28, 2012 (p.m.) through March 1, 2013.

V. Honoraria

The Board approved the following Honoraria Application(s):

		<u>PROJECT PERIOD</u>	
Michelle Backauskas	National Academic League	11/29/12-3/31/13	\$ 1,000.00
Karen Sanguigni	Study Group Leader	11/13/12-4/30/13	\$ 150.00
Jan Spohn	Study Group Leader	11/13/12-4/30/13	\$ 150.00

VI. Supplemental Contracts

The Board approved the following Winter Semester Supplemental Contract(s):

* Not a District Employee

¹ First Time Supplemental Contract Holder for a specific contract

^(s) One contract shared by more than one person

Supplemental Contract Additions/Changes

^{1*} J. Ardie Dillen	Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach, (F) ^(s)	\$ 800.00
^{1*} David Sylvester	Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach, (F) ^(s)	\$ 3,600.00
^{1*} Justin Lasky	Assistant Wrestling Coach, NASH/NAI	Volunteer
^{1*} Matthew Heckmann	8 th Grade Assistant Basketball Coach (M), CMS	Volunteer

* Not a District Employee

¹ First Time Supplemental Contract Holder for a specific contract

^(s) One contract shared by more than one person

ADDENDUM**I. Resignations**

The Board approved the following Resignation(s):

Jack Hernon	Bus Driver, Transportation Effective 12/21/12 7 Years @ NA	Retirement
Brenda Mahon	Temporary Custodian, MMS Effective 11/11/12	Resignation
Denise Veselic	Assistant Principal Secretary, IMS Effective 11/29/12	Resignation
Meghan Wallace	School Counselor, IMS Long-Term Substitute Effective 11/30/12	Resignation

The Board approved the letter of resignation of Shawn Lydon, effective November 28, 2012, pursuant to the terms and conditions agreed to by the parties.

II. Appointments

The Board approved the following Appointment(s):

Professional

The Board approved the following Professional Substitute(s) to work on an as-needed basis starting at \$75.00/day.

Samantha Schenk

Paraprofessional

Jane Swedish	Special Education Assistant, PES Effective 11/29/12 – 6/5/13	\$12.71/hr. Class II-C 7 Hours/Day 187 Days/Yr.
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The Board approved the following Paraprofessional Substitutes to work on an as-needed basis starting at \$8.50/hour.

Elizabeth Ferree

Classified

Dwayne Nasiadka	Temporary Custodian, NASH Effective 12/3/12	\$10.50/hr.
Jeffrey Stabile	Temporary Custodian, NAI Effective 12/2/12	\$10.50/hr.

III. Wage/Status Changes

The Board approved a change from the day-to-day substitute rate to \$156.15 for Sharon Cready, substituting at MMS. The effective date for this change is 10/3/12.

The Board approved a change from the day-to-day substitute rate to \$160.41 for Allison Hoffman, substituting at NAI. The effective date for this change is 10/2/12.

The Board approved a change from the day-to-day substitute rate to \$160.41 for Christine Myers, substituting at NAI. The effective date for this change is 10/12/12.

The Board approved a wage increase for the following Classified Employee(s) based on anniversary date of hire:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Jay Nestor	\$17.42/hr.	\$19.59/hr.	11/10/12

IV. Leaves of Absence – Garber

The Board approved an unpaid Leave of Absence for Jody Garber, Special Education Assistant, Bradford Woods Elementary School, effective November 15, 2012 (p.m.) through December 21, 2012.

V. Extension of Leaves of Absence – Moon, Stinelli

The Board approved an Extension of unpaid Leave of Absence for William Moon, Utility Custodian, Facilities Department, from August 17, 2012 through November 30, 2012 to August 17, 2012 through December 27, 2012.

The Board approved an Extension of an unpaid Child Rearing Leave of Absence for Amy Stinelli, Teacher, McKnight Elementary School, from November 9, 2012 through December 21, 2012 to November 9, 2012 through January 18, 2013.

VI. Honoraria

The Board approved the following Honoraria Application(s):

		<u>PROJECT PERIOD</u>	
Daniel Williams	National Academic League	11/29/12-3/31/13	\$ 500.00

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

PROPERTY AND SUPPLIES REPORT

On motion by Mr. Schwartzmier, seconded by Mr. Pagone, the Board approved Item I as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. McKnight Elementary, Carson Middle and NAI – Easements

The Board approved the execution of the following easements upon final review and approval of documents acceptable to the Solicitor.

- **McKnight Elementary**
 - Two easements with McCandless Sanitary Authority for the future installation of a sanitary line from Lot 1R located in the McCandless Crossing development.
- **Carson Middle School**
 - Easement for the access and maintenance of the slope excavation that was done by AdVenture Development for the construction of the Duncan Avenue extension as part of the McCandless Crossing development.
 - Easement for the drainage of the storm water from the detention pond located adjacent to the Gym parking lot onto the property owned by AdVenture Development.
- **NAI**
 - Easement from AdVenture Development for the District to continue to use a portion of the existing Nature Trail that was constructed in this area and is located on the property that AdVenture Development purchased from the North Allegheny School District.

For Information

The construction at the new McCandless Crossing development has required the execution of these easements to address the issues that are indicated. The completed Easement Agreements have been reviewed and approved by the Solicitor and the executed easements will be attached to the official minutes.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND PUPIL SERVICES REPORT

On motion by Dr. Greenberg, seconded by Mr. Hubert, the Board approved Items I and II as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. Transition Service Agreement with Goodwill Industries

The Board approved the Transition Services Agreement with Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania's Transition WORKS! program for one additional student. This agreement will cover a nine-week workforce readiness training rotation that includes hands-on training; workforce readiness classes; class notes; written progress reports and evaluations; interest assessments; follow-up meetings and other on-site programming needs; job coaching; and other on-site programming needs. The cost of the three-day per week program is \$2,287.50 per nine week rotation for a total cost of \$9,150.00 for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.

II. Agreement between North Allegheny School District and Total Learning Centers

The Board approved the Enrollment Agreement with Total Learning Center for remediation and related services for one additional student, which includes curriculum and licensing fees of \$21,580.00 for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year. The fee was calculated according to the needs written in the student's IEP.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On motion by Mr. Schwartzmier, seconded by Mrs. Bishop, the Board approved Items I through III as contained in the Board Folder and as listed below:

I. Professional Seminar Requests

The Board approved the following professional seminar requests:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Shannon Connor (MMS)	School Counselors: Beacons of Light through Changes and Challenges Sponsor: Pennsylvania School Counselors Association Lancaster, PA	11/28- 11/30/2012	\$ 393.08

Dennis Brayley (MES)	New Social Skills Interventions for Counseling, Classroom and Home	11/29/2012	\$ 85.00*
Rachel Tengowski (NAI)	for Children and Teens on the Autism Spectrum Sponsor: Autism Services by Klaw Sewickley, PA		\$ 85.00*
Todd Fuller (NAI)	2012 State Convention: All for One: That's How We Roll Sponsor: PSAHPERD Champion, PA	12/1/2012	\$ 60.00
Raymond Gualtieri (CAO)	PA Department of Education's SAS Institute	12/2-12/4/2012	\$ 375.00
Cynthia Kainaroi (MMS)	Sponsor: PA Department of Education Hershey, PA	12/3-12/4/2012	\$ 244.30
Jaclyn Murphy Joanne Sullivan (NASH)	DECA District 2 Career Development Conference Sponsor: District 2 DECA Coraopolis, PA	12/5/2012	\$ 38.00
Guinevere Maximo (CAO)	Gifted Due Process: A Hearing Officer's Perspective Sponsor: Pennsylvania Bar Institute Pittsburgh, PA	3/7/2013	\$ 249.00*

*ACCESS Funds

II. Second Reading and Request for Adoption – Revised Board Policy #3700 – Enrollment of Students

In accordance with Board Policy #1710, the Board adopted revised Board Policy #3700 – Enrollment of Students.

For Information

This policy combines and supersedes policies listed in section 4.0 of this policy.

III. Second Reading and Request for Adoption – Revised Board Policy #3705 – Eligibility of Nonresident Students

In accordance with Board Policy #1710, the Board adopted revised Board Policy #3705 – Eligibility of Nonresident students.

For Information

This policy combines and supersedes policies listed in section 5.0 of this policy.

Roll Call Vote. Results: 9-Yes; 0-No. Motion Carried.

LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Lucas submitted a check for \$152,784 for delinquent taxes collected. A written report will be submitted by the end of the week.

SPECIAL REPORTS BY THE BOARD

Mr. Schwartzmeir reported that the last meeting was held on November 15 with routine business. There will be a special committee meeting tomorrow evening to discuss programs. The next meeting will be held on December 20 for Reorganization.

North Allegheny Foundation

Mrs. Ludwig reported that that they met on November 13 and finalized plans for the Retiree Holiday Luncheon on December 6 and the Trustees are looking forward to a good turnout. One Trustee resigned this month, so there is an opening for a new Trustee. Funds raised this year included the Day of Giving - \$7,672; Whole Foods - \$2,845; Membership Drive – all listed on the website, and all monies will go toward elementary technology this year. The Foundation sincerely appreciates all the community support. Mrs. Ludwig encouraged the community to check out the website where there is a lot of information posted about current and past happenings. The next meeting of the Trustees will be held on December 11th.

North Allegheny Hall of Fame

Mr. Schwartzmier reported that they had a wrap-up meeting from this year's banquet in October. They will meet in January for the final selection of candidates for the ballot for the banquet for next year.

Legislative Report

Mrs. Bishop reported on the following and submitted a written report:

While the legislative session in Harrisburg does not expire until Nov. 30, leadership announced earlier this fall that they would not hold any post-election votes. Republicans maintained majority control in both the House and Senate, and Mike Turzai was re-elected Majority leader. The Democrats picked up three seats in the Senate, narrowing the Republican edge to 4 seats (27-23). In the House, Republicans hold 111 of the 203 seats.

On Monday, PA Budget Secretary Charles Zogby released a report on the pension crisis, which concludes that if the problem remains unaddressed, the "state's general fund budget is on a very predictable path that will force a choice between either fully funding pension obligations or making cuts to the core functions of government." The report says the Corbett administration will prioritize pension reform based on certain principles: no tax increases, no loss to retirees, no change to benefits already earned by current employees. But the report made no such promise about the future earnings of current employees, emphasizing that reducing benefits only for future employees would have a very minimal effect on the unfunded

liability. Mike Crossey, president of the PSEA, said suggesting a future reduction in benefits of current employees sets up false expectations, since Pennsylvania courts have consistently held that pension benefits of public employees cannot be reduced. The Trib Review reported yesterday that while the report offers a framework for discussion, state legislators seek more concrete proposals from the Governor's office. Today, however, it was reported that the governor will not issue specific recommendations, instead leaving it to the legislature and other stakeholders to develop concrete ways to address the pension issue. "It's not just a hot potato, it's a monster hot potato," said political analyst Terry Madonna of Franklin & Marshall College.

In August, I reported that Joe Watkins, former head of the pro-voucher, pro-charter schools Student First PA PAC, was appointed by PA Education Secretary Ron Tomalis as the recovery officer for the financially distressed Chester Upland School District. This week, the Chester Upland school board voted 5-4 to reject the recovery plan put forth by Mr. Watkins. Approval of the plan was needed for the Board to have a role in implementing it. The vote was along party lines, with the Republicans on the Board voting against the plan and Democrats in favor of it. By rejecting the plan, the Board paved the way for state Education Secretary Ron Tomalis to place Chester Upland under receivership and total state control.

Last week the PA Department of Education announced that the US DOE rejected PA Secretary Tomalis' decision this fall to ease the reporting rules only for charter schools to make their student achievement rates look better. Mr. Tomalis had changed the methodology for calculating AYP for charter schools without first getting federal approval, announcing that 59% of charter schools made Adequate Yearly Progress on the PSSAs, up from 37% last year, and comparing favorably to traditional public schools at 50%. The federal government has now ordered Pennsylvania to re-evaluate the charter schools using the same rules applied to other public schools, saying that "Pennsylvania is obligated to make AYP decisions for all schools and hold all schools to the same standards."

Hearings are being conducted in Harrisburg this week on applications for 8 new cyber charter schools. Pennsylvania already has 16 cyber charter schools, more than any other state in the country, including 4 approved this past summer. Only one of those schools made AYP this year. The Education Law Center will testify at the hearings this week, calling for a moratorium on the approval of any new cyber charter schools. "Cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania have longstanding problems with poor academic outcomes for students, and the Department (DOE) does not appear to have the current capacity to handle its legally mandated and critical oversight and accountability functions for these taxpayer-funded schools," according to Ed. Law Center's Executive Director.

As I reported last month, the PA House of Representatives failed to take action on SB 1115, a charter school "reform" bill that would have vastly benefited charter schools at the expense of public school districts by failing to provide critical funding reforms and accountability measures for charter schools. While the failure of this bill is good news for us, the charter school provisions had been tacked onto the original bill, whose purpose was to change the special education funding formula for PA public schools. According to the sponsor of the House version of the bill, Rep. Bernie O'Neill, the result of the bill's failure is that "six years of work went down the drain." O'Neill, a former special education teacher, plans to introduce the original bill again in January when the new session starts. The idea is to develop a two-tiered

approach to funding special education, whereby districts would receive more funding for students with greater need.

President Obama has three serious education issues to address as he begins his second term:

- 1. **The Fiscal Cliff:** The impact of an 8.2% cut to programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students would mean a cut of more than \$1 billion, affecting nearly 2 million students. Special education grants would be reduced by more than \$900 million, impacting nearly 500,000 children with disabilities. These budget cuts would take place during the 2013-14 school year.*
- 2. **No Child Left Behind:** Congressional action is long overdue on NCLB, which calls for all students to test proficient in reading and math on the PSSAs by 2014. In September 2011, the Obama administration made available to the states an option to request a waiver from the provisions of NCLB. So far, all but three states have applied for a waiver. Pennsylvania was one of the last holdouts. Last week, PA Education Secretary Ron Tomalis said his department will seek a waiver this year. Tomalis previously resisted, saying he was waiting to see if Congressional action on the reauthorization of NCLB would be forthcoming.*
- 3. **Race to the Top:** President Obama's signature program, which requires participating states to evaluate teachers based on student test scores, has come under fire from many educators. Some have called for the ouster of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, which is unlikely to happen. The Administration is being called upon to re-evaluate and revise this program*

SPEAKERS

The following residents came forward to address the Board at the end of the meeting.

William Dougherty – was asked to speak on behalf of a group of parents from Bradford Woods Elementary regarding class size. He expressed experiences of his own daughter going from a 3rd grade class size of 25 which enabled his daughter to get the help she needed to succeed. He feels class size at this grade level should be about 25 students or less, particularly based upon his daughters' experiences. He requested that the Board revisit class size guidelines and targets.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider commented that the Administration has attempted to keep 3rd grade enrollments closer to K-2 guidelines over the past 10 years. Part of the goal of recent recommendations is to make this possible in more cases.

Ralph LaDonne – identified himself as a neighbor of PES, a real estate agent in the area, and a Councilman representing the Sixth Ward in the Township of McCandless. In all of his community roles, he sees reason for the District to maintain PES as a school. He commended Mrs. Bjalabok for the work she does there and is concerned for the burden a closure would bring to families whose children would have to transition to a new school. He asked the Board to go back to the drawing board to find funds to keep PES open.

Christopher Disque – is of the opinion that the forecasting that has been done to date relative to District enrollment is inadequate. He has reviewed projections from 1997 through 2010 and finds them to be about 5% under the actuals. This discrepancy he has calculated indicates to him that there is too much inherent risk to consider giving up the space at PES.

Daneen Leya – believes 3rd grade should be considered a primary grade, not an intermediate grade, for the sake of class size targets. She believes the District is currently operating at 95% capacity and may need to use rooms not designed as classrooms for instruction if enrollments increase after a school closure, which she believes it will. In her opinion this will prevent the District from accommodating the same model of quality elementary education if a school closes.

Lisa Link – lives directly behind PES and has a concern for her children who attend the school, as well as for the value of her home and the safety of her family, should PES close. She is afraid class size will increase if a school closes and shared that large class size has affected her child this year already. She fears that leasing the PES property will depreciate the value of her home and/or put her family at risk due to the nature of the organization the District selects to rent the facility, or the possibility that the facility will sit vacant.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider noted that most school districts have some kind of class size guidelines and people tend to have differing opinions as to what guidelines are the best. However, the Administration keeps careful tabs on a year round basis on student enrollment so they can make the difficult decisions relative to class size in an appropriate manner. She assured Ms. Link that it is not the Administration's intention to leave the PES facility vacant.

Raymond Heil - asked the Board who they intended to lease the building to and whether or not turning the property into something other than a school would affect the value of the homes around it. He indicated that, as a neighbor, he has strong opinions about what would be appropriate to go into that location.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider responded that the Board cannot provide any answers to Mr. Heil because they have not yet decided whether or not they will even hold a hearing. No decisions on this matter have been made. There is a legal process that must be followed relative to the closing of a building and that process has not even been started.

Timothy Zimmerman – is a CPA and the president of a community bank, Mr. Zimmerman urged the Board to slow down their decision-making process and make time to conduct the study relative to the outsourcing of transportation. He would also like to see an analysis of the cost savings relative to the closure of HES and BWE. In his opinion, the Board should not close a school without a guarantee of a lease for that property, since the prospect of savings depends on the existence of a lease.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider indicated that the Board has studied outsourcing transportation in the past, only to find that the cost savings are not significantly beneficial to the District. The big advantage of the concept is in the one-time sale of the fleet. She also emphasized that the Board did not begin to look at the possible closure of a school because they thought the District could make money...the driving factor was the issue of excess capacity.

Mrs. Grosheider also emphasized that Dr. Miller had carefully laid out in his presentation that class sizes do not increase as a result of closing a building. She identified that concept as false and urged people to stop reinforcing this misrepresentation of the truth.

Tara Fisher – distributed a report to the Board which framed another perspective relative to the Demographic and Feasibility Study. She highlighted several aspects of the report, all of which reinforce her conclusion that there is not sufficient excess capacity to close a school. She believes that closing a school should be the very last resort of a school district and, in this case, the Board should first consider outsourcing transportation. She estimates that \$8M - \$10M could be garnered. She stated that parents care more about what happens in the classroom than how their children get there.

Kelly Ubinger – is saddened to have the Board consider indoor batting cages and new scoreboards at the same time that they are considering closing a school. She asked the Board again to allow a community committee to participate in the decision to close a school. She believes the community has been given flawed information. She regards PES as a shining star in the community where students excel. She believes that a successful small elementary school should not be shut down but used as an example for others to follow so a large elementary school that is not a school of excellence can be helped.

Jill Baran – cited a number of concerns about a potential closing of PES including the possible oversight of hidden costs, the lack of time for an adequate transition plan, the existence of a back-up plan in the event that enrollment increases, increases in operational costs at other schools when the new redistricting plan is implemented, and a lack of concern for children's lives.

Karen Rosella – suggested that the projected leasing income quoted in the presentation was too high, based on her professional experience. She also cited the PDE recommendations for class size in the elementary and questioned why the NASD guidelines differ from them. She believes that neighboring school districts that have lower class size guidelines have a competitive edge.

Eileen Russell – wanted to state for the record that her son who attends a special education program on the Marshall campus and rides a small bus with four students from Tallybrook has a bus ride that is routinely over the 30 minute time limit that Mr. Botti quoted earlier in the evening.

Timothy DiMartino – has a daughter who is a 5th grader at HES and is concerned about the transition that students have to make when they move on to the middle school level. His older son had a difficult time transitioning to middle school, where he found he knew no one, and does not want to see his daughter having similar problems as she transitions from a small elementary school to a large elementary school. He asked the Board to look at other areas to reduce spending.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider enumerated a number of steps the Board has taken in the past several years, including a pay freeze for all employees, an ERIP that encouraged staff at the high end of the salary scale to retire, the furloughing of paraprofessionals, a campaign to identify advertising in several venues, a Shopping Portal on our website, and a number of other efforts. She explained to Mr. DiMartino that this recommendation from the Administration is in support of operational efficiency that will save money over the course of year upon year.

Janeen Atkins – stated that she feels many Board Members have already made up their minds about the issue of school closure. She asked them to take the children who are currently in the 4th grade into special consideration and find a way to keep them together through redistricting. It is her opinion that children have a difficult time transitioning from 5th to 6th. She feels it would be unfair

to put them through the same transition from 4th to 5th because they lost their friendship support system due to this school closure.

Tony Berarducci – asked the Board to provide information about the budget deficit for 2013-2014. He remembered hearing some figures about the current year’s budget this time last year.

Response

Mrs. Grosheider indicated that there will be a Preliminary Budget Report on December 19. There will be no budget information available until that time.

Conclusion

Mrs. Grosheider concluded the meeting by reminding those in attendance that if the Board decides to move forward to set a date for a hearing on the issue of closing PES, that action does not indicate that PES will close. If the Board holds a hearing, there cannot be any action to vote for 90 days. At any point in the mandated legal process for considering this issue, the Board may choose to stop the process and opt not to continue. The community needs to be very careful not to assume anything through this process. The Board is committed to taking all of the comments and input provided to them by residents, the Administration, and other experts under consideration. This is a very important situation and the Board takes their responsibility to make an informed and careful decision very seriously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Grosheider adjourned the meeting at **11:05 p.m.** The Board did not meet in Executive Session following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Mary Ryan, Secretary
North Allegheny School Board