

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

**April 26, 2011**

The April 2011 Legislative Meeting of the Wilkinsburg School District Board of Directors was called to order by the President, Karen Payne at 7:14 p.m., in the Administration Building, 718 Wallace Avenue, with the Pledge of Allegiance. The following board members were in attendance: Jean Dexheimer, Carole Lee, LaTonya Washington, Raymond Griffith, Donora Craighead and Nanet Hamlin-Black. Archie D. Perrin, Superintendent, Bruce Dakan, Director of Business Affairs and the Solicitor Matthew Hoffman, of the firm Tucker Arensberg, P.C., were also present.

### **INVITATION TO PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Richard Bradford addressed the Board in regards to "*Blessings in a Backpack.*"

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Jean Dexheimer, seconded by Nanet Hamlin-Black to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2011 Legislative meeting.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTATIONS**

Student of the Month Awards: Jacqueline Blakey-Tate, Assistant to the Superintendent, Callie Dixon, Guidance Counselor at Turner Elementary, Terri Ayers, Principal at the Jr./Sr. High School, Rosalind Fisher, Principal at Johnston Elementary School and Christine French, Principal at Kelly Elementary School all presented Student of the Month Awards to students from their respective schools.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SCHOOL IMAGE COMMITTEE

Carol Lee, Nanet Hamlin-Black, Co-Chairs

April 12, 2011

Attendance: Jerome Garrett, Nanet Hamlin-Black, Carolee Lee, Brian Tarrant, Velma Parker, Terry Ayers, Rosalind Fisher, Tanya Smith, Ella Rawlings, Archie Perrin, Karen Payne, Clifford Simon, Lindsey, Neyland.

#### **FUN FAIR**

The High School will host the Fun Fair this year. It will be held on June 4, 2011 at Graham Field.

Mrs. Rawlings stated that the Fun Fair Book has not been able to be located. She will keep a running total of amount spent.

Mr. Perrin will donate the tent, Port-a-John's will be ordered, Bingo will be held by Ms. Karen Payne, and there will be hats by Ms. Velma Parker.

Food will be provided by Ardella DiBernardo of Nutrition, Inc., tables & chairs provided by Chujko Brothers, D.J. Duane Wilder will be located in the bleachers. Games and prizes booked from J. Robins, Rock Climb Slide booked with United Inflatables, The High School T-shirts contest was completed on 4-12-11 and will be ordered, and in larger sizes; will inquire with Challenge Printing. Clubs that will be involved: key Clubs, Student Council, and the Senior Class.

We discussed different activities to take place, such as Petting Zoo, field games, relay races, 40 yard dash, broad jump as well as pie in the face. Medallions will be given as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes.

#### **ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL**

Brian Tarrant is the Coordinator. The season will begin on April 20, 2011-May 25, 2011. Playoffs will be May 31, 2011 and the Championship game will be on June 3, 2011. All games will be played at the High School and all games begin at 3:30 p.m.

#### **SHINING STARS**

The High School will receive trophies for Academic & Athletics; the Middle School will receive Certificates. Mr. Elliot Lightfoot will be the speaker. He is a Wilkinsburg Graduate and is currently employed at Lincoln University.

**EASTERN AREA SPECIAL SCHOOLS JOINT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Thompson, Chairperson  
No Report

**FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Karen E. Payne, Chairperson  
April 12, 2011 5:30 pm

In attendance: Karen Payne, Chair, Jerome Garrett, James Richard, Board Treasurer, Bruce Dakan, Business Manager and Superintendent Archie Perrin

Business Department Agenda:

The committee reviewed and discussed the items listed on the business agenda and recommended that the items be approved, pending any questions from the Board. Mr. Mike McCage of PNC Bank, and Mr. Anthony Didka from the Bond Counsel addressed the committee on restructuring the Bond. (This will appear on the Business Department agenda)

\*\*\*\*\*Mr. Richard left at this time.

Personnel Department Agenda:

The committee reviewed and discussed the items on the personnel agenda. The committee recommended that the items be approved, pending any questions from the board.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be May 10, at 5:30 p.m.

All Board Members are invited to attend.

Submitted by Karen E. Payne, Chair

**LEGISLATIVE**

Raymond Griffith, PSBA Liaison  
April 28, 2011

1. Board members' attention is called to Action Item A. on the Superintendent's Agenda – Resolution in Opposition to Proposed Reductions in State Education Funding for 2011-2012 school year.
2. On April 17-18 I attended PSBA's Legislative Advocacy conference in Harrisburg. The first conference speaker was state Senator Daylin Leach from Montgomery & Delaware Counties. Sen. Leach reported that the voucher bill, SB-1, had been considered a sure thing when first introduced, but it had met with so much public opposition that it had not been brought to a vote on the Senate floor. Capitol observers expect the bill to be reintroduced when the legislature returns from Easter recess.

Our after dinner speaker was nationally-known education historian Diane Ravitch (via teleconference). She critiqued the punitive uses of accountability to fire teachers and close schools as well as replacing public schools with charter schools. Ms. Ravitch made the point that merit pay has already been tried in many private businesses and had been abandoned because it fosters a 'me first' spirit rather than a spirit of

teamwork which is essential in education. Ms. Ravitch further stated that most troubled schools are high poverty schools and the proper solution might be to attack poverty rather than simply attack teachers.

The conference also heard from Ron Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Labor and Industry, Ronald Tomalis, Secretary of Education designate and Jack Wagner, Auditor General. Among other points, Mr. Wagner stated that his office has calculated that a fair tuition rate for cyber charter schools would be approximately \$4500 per student.

3. During the conference I served as one of the Legislative Action Council members for Allegheny County. The Legislative Action Council meets at the Legislative Advocacy Conference each year to choose the top three priorities front PSBA's Legislative Platform. School Boards submit items for the Platform every year. The Platform is formally adopted every autumn at the Leadership Conference and then the overall priorities are set at county meetings and by the Legislative Action Council in the spring.

At the meeting that I attended, the top three planks selected were: D1, anti voucher; E1, support for more equitable special education funding; and I2, support for improvements in state education funding.

**POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Barbara Thompson, Chair

No Report

**CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair to be determined

April 7, 2011 Meeting Summary

Prepared by Patricia Grey, Curriculum Director

Ray Griffith called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM. Present were Karen Payne, Ray Griffith, Jerome Garrett, Patricia Grey, Jacqueline Blakey-Tate and Kevin Fortuna.

Patricia Grey reviewed the Agenda items and began with three Updates. (a,b) Pre-K – 12 Literacy Curriculum Framework Development Committee has 24 members representing all schools, grade spans, the AIU3 Technical Assistant and the Distinguished Educators. The work will be completed by May 31, 2011. So far, seven all-day meetings are planned to map the Standards, Anchors and Eligible Content and review considerations for Textbook and resources. (c) Bel Mor's Profession Development will begin for all teachers and continue with Phase Two for the Lead Teachers. All administrators would be trained in the summer.

Kevin Fortuna presented the current working draft of the HS Course of Studies noting the significance of preparing for the Keystones. He updated all on the Secondary eight-day rotation and explained how students would be grouped for reading while always taking English. The Board recommended the following for the next meeting:

1. Seeing the Middle School Program of Studies at the next meeting.
2. Consider the following two additional High School Science Course Sequences: (1.) Biology- 9<sup>th</sup>, Chemistry 10<sup>th</sup>, Physics 11, and Physical Science, Physics, Biology 2, Environmental AND Earth & Space, Astrology, Forensics, Human Anatomy and Physiology 12<sup>th</sup>. (2.) Biology I- 9<sup>th</sup>, Chemistry 10<sup>th</sup>, Biology II 11<sup>th</sup>, and Physical Science, Physics 12<sup>th</sup>.
3. Start a Secondary Book Club. Look into Junior Toastmasters for those who test out of E-F Reading before the course ends. Check AmeriCorps.
4. Karen asked when we will be enhancing the Business Department. Patricia, suggesting that less is more, noted that all students needed to graduate strong in the basics before adding choices and other electives. Bring copy of Elementary Report Card to see where writing and speaking across the curriculum are reflected on it.
5. It was commented that Middle School students can fail one Core class. Board agreed that this practice should be stopped, and that secondary teachers need to come to the next meeting to share.
6. When is Pennsylvania History taught? When do students learn about Wilkinsburg, Elizabeth and Allegheny County? Do these things need to be in Civics?

The next meeting may be on April 21.

**FORBES ROAD CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

Jerome Garrett, Chair

The Combined Planning/Board meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. The minutes of the February 24, 2011 were approved. Mr. Balint provided New Student Application Reports to the members. He informed the members of the upcoming Budget Meetings. The Joint Board will receive the full approved budget proposal for approval at the April 24, 2011 Board Meeting. Forbes was awarded a \$400.00 "Great Idea Grant" called "Eyes on the Road. Don't Drink Drive and Text." The grant will be used to conduct an accident re-enactment on May 4, 2011 which will include participation of the Monroeville E.M.T. service, Police and Fire departments and Life Flight. Students and staff recently participated in a weather disaster drill. The Summer Creativity/Technology Camp will be held June 13-16, 2011. The camp is geared to grades 6-9 and is designated to excite and inspire youth as they explore career interests. Forbes is working with Massaro Construction Company to renovate a "green" mobile trailer to be used by the company on job sites. Materials and the trailer will be donated by Massaro and other companies, and they will provide mentors to oversee the project. The 2011 Certificate Ceremony will be held on May 24, 2011 tentatively at Plum Senior high School. P.D.E. awarded Forbes C.T.C. with a Certificate of Achievement for exceeding the expected P.D.E. increase in levels of Performance occupational Skill Attainment. The Building Construction and Technology Instructors will be holding a Weekend Construction Workshop on April 30, 2011. Students and parents will be given the opportunity to participate in constructing an 8x10 utility shed/children's playhouse. We will be bidding a fond farewell to Barry Balas, Guidance Counselor and James Gould, H.V.A.C. Instructor who have chosen to retire in June. The next Combined Planning/Board Meeting will be Thursday April 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**OTHER BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Nanet Hamlin-Black

NSBA Conference, San Francisco, CA

Session-Pazant on Urban Schools Achievement Gap

There were many sessions and speakers at this conference, but what peaked my interest were urban school districts and gaps in achievements. Although Wilkinsburg is a small urban school district, we are similar to Connecticut, Maryland, Texas and California to name a few. Our students have low achievement, higher drop-out rates and so many socio-economic problems, that add to our crisis as well as so many others.

In this session, it was brought out that one of the most powerful tools we have that sometimes goes unnoticed, is the human capacity factor. For many of our students, time spent in school, is the most person to person contact they have each day. Many go home to places without supervision or guidance. Sometimes not even love or nourishment waits for them. Those six hours spent a day in school carries so much power to influence student learning. Speaker Pazant advised we have to reach our students where he or she is, and bring them along to our goals for them. It takes all of our employees to be compassionate and available to help, sometimes going outside our usual job duties. As urban school district leaders, we have to hire good people and provide great coaching, student mentoring and good professional development. Speaker Pazant also noted, as school board we set policies and step back and allow those we hired do their job. He likened school boards to master

chefs, who have the best people to cook and get them good results. Boards can't have their hands in the pot on everything.

Through this lesson, I had to shake my head in agreement that progress takes time. So often in our district we have tried so many things, but possible didn't give them enough time to bear any fruit. I realize in today's society we all want quick fixes on everything and when we don't see results in a year we want to pull the method and try something else. We must give achievement time to produce, it may not happen in a year or even three, but anything worthwhile takes time.

The last bullet touched upon, was parental and community involvement. Some way, somehow, we MUST get our parents, guardians, families and community on board, and encourage them to take ownership of our district. We need to build positive publicity without tearing one another down. It may take having tutoring class for parents and mentors, community socials, or Saturday school for families. Anything that we can do for our students to achieve and grow is our responsibility to our community.

Jerome Garrett  
Forbes Road Career and Technology Center  
Construction Career Day

On Tuesday April 12, 2011 I attended Construction Career Day. It was a well attended event with a majority of the construction unions participating. Some of the presentations were hands-on. They were well received by the students. I only wish that all of our students could have come and my hope is that we at least garnered the interests of one student, as these are well paying jobs. The weather did not hinder the event. Approximately 1200 students from all over the state had the opportunity to visit with highway, civil, traffic and structural engineers, carpenters, heavy equipment operators, project managers, surveyors, computer specialists, concrete finishers, truck drivers and equipment mechanics. The event was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation., the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, the Department of Education, the Federal Highway Administration, Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board and The APC Educational Trust Fund. Several of our board members attended and the event was covered by the local news agencies.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Raymond Griffith to approve the Resolution in State Education Funding for 2011-2012 school-year. Attachment Supt. #1

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Carole Lee to approve the adjudication for student "A". The hearing was held on April 18, 2011.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Raymond Griffith, seconded by Nanet Hamlin-Black to approve the adjudication for student "B". The hearing was held on April 18, 2010.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

**Informational Items:**

- School Enrollment Data (In the Reports Tab section)
- Solicitor's Report (In the Report Tab section)
- Maintenance Report (In the Report Tab section)



**BUSINESS OFFICE AGENDA**

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Carole Lee to ratify and confirm the March 2011 General Fund payments of \$3,149,550.37 for payroll, benefits, and other operational expense.

- Attachment Bus. #1

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The following reports will be made a matter of record in the minutes:

Treasurer’s Report	Attachment Bus. #2
EIT/EMST Report	Attachment Bus. #3
Current R.E. Collections Report	Attachment Bus. #4
Delinquent R.E. Collections Report	Attachment Bus. #5
Deed Transfer Tax Report	Attachment Bus. #6
Monthly Statement of Expenditures and Revenues	Attachment Bus. #7
Student Activity Report – Secondary	Attachment Bus. #8
Student Activity Report – Elementary	Attachment Bus. #9

Motion was made by Raymond Griffith, seconded by Nanet Hamlin-Black to approve budget transfers from March 2011 for the 2010/2011 fiscal year for the General Fund as per the attached Budget Transfer Transaction Detail Report.

-Attachment Bus. #10

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Jean Dexheimer, seconded by Donora Craighead to approve the 2011/2012 Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) Program of Service Budget as per section 914-A (6) 9 (I) Act 102 of 1970. The total budgeted expenditures are \$3,815,375. There is no increase in the total District allocation. The District’s share is \$13,407.62, comprised of \$1,371.00 for Instructional Media Services and \$12,036.62 for PDE withholding allocation for the formula of shared services cost. The AIU budget was provided to all Board members for review.

- Attachment Bus. #11

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Raymond Griffith, seconded by Jean Dexheimer to approve six (6) properties for the Sherriff sale process as recommended by Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd., as all are delinquent with their real estate taxes, as per the attached.

- Attachment Bus. #12

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Carole Lee to award the contract for Food Service management Contractor to Nutrition, Inc. for the 2011/2012 school year, and authorizes the Director of Business Affairs to execute all required documents.

– Attachment Bus. #13

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Raymond Griffith, seconded by Nanet Hamlin-Black to approve the annual contract with Prosoft for various software used by District personnel for the fiscal year July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 with an annual cost of \$17,640.00, as per the attached.

– Attachment Bus. #14

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Raymond Griffith to approve the attached resolution constituting a debt ordinance for the refinancing of the debt outstanding of the General Obligation Bonds Series of 2006.

–Attachment Bus. #15

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Motion was made by Raymond Griffith, seconded by Nanet Hamlin-Black to appoint Maher Duessel as the District Financial Auditors for the three (3) fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, 2012, and 2013 with respective annual cost of \$22,250, \$23,000 and \$23,500. As the prior Auditors annual fee was \$24,900, then the cost savings over the three year period is \$5,950.

–Attachment Bus. #16

Motion carried by unanimous vote

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

As requested by the Board, attached is a letter from Portnoff Law Associates, Inc. addressing repeatedly delinquent properties and “under water” perspective, for consideration.

–Attachment Bus. #17

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS REPORT**

No Report

**PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Carole Lee to ratify and confirm the following appointments, leaves of absence and resignations:

**WILKINSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING – April 26, 2011**

**Item A. – Board action is requested to ratify and confirm the following appointments, and leaves of absence:**

**Personnel Report**

		APPOINTMENTS		
NAME	Budget	POSITION	SALARY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Vanessa Johnson	Y	Game Helper/Basketball Statistician	\$680.00	11-16-2010
Howard Ellerby	Y	Game Helper/Basketball Statistician	\$680.00	11-15-2010
Leslie Harris	Y	Associate Teacher/High School	\$100.00/day	03-21-2011
Andrea Davis	Y	Music Teacher/Choir Director High School	\$720.25 (Pro-Rated)	04-05-2011
Weatherly Krieger	Y	Long Term Substitute Teacher Kelly Elementary	\$90.80/day	01-03-2011
*Courtney Smith	Y	Cheerleading Coach/Johnston Elementary	\$502.50	2010-2011
*Brian Tarrant	Y	Program Coordinator/Basketball Coach Johnston Elementary	\$502.20	2010-2011
*Robin Middleton	Y	Cheerleading Coach/Turner Elementary	\$502.20	2010-2011
*Raymond Clemons	Y	Basketball Coach/Turner Elementary	\$502.20	2010-2011
*Kelly Polosky	Y	Cheerleading Coach/Kelly Elementary	\$502.20	2010-2011
*Reuben Coleman	Y	Basketball Coach/Kelly Elementary	\$502.20	2010-2011
<b>PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE</b>				
*Jeffrey Yankech	Y	Physical Education Teacher Turner Elementary	\$74,570.00/Year	05-09-2011
*Alma Lucas	Y	Teacher/Library Assistant Turner Elementary	\$13,308.79/Year	05-18-2011/08-2011
*Terrence Smith	Y	Student Service Assistant/High School	\$47,568.60/Year	04-18-2011/05-02-2011
<b>RETIREMENTS</b>				
Barbara Bell	Y	Teacher/Kelly Elementary	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Catherine Coles	Y	Teacher/Turner Elementary	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Darlene Hogg	Y	Teacher/High School	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Marcia Jones	Y	Teacher/Kelly Elementary	\$76,470.00/Year	06-10-2011

Sarah Jones	Y	Teacher/Turner Elementary	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Gurjit Mahli	Y	Teacher/Kelly Elementary	\$74,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Carole Miller-Yates	Y	Teacher/High School	\$70,620.00/Year	05-06-2011
Ruthie Neafach	Y	Guidance Counselor/Middle School	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
*Carolyn Perrin	Y	Teacher/Kelly Elementary	\$76,770.00/Year	06-10-2011
Dennis Rockwell	Y	Teacher/High School	\$74,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Clifford Simon	Y	Teacher/Alternative Education	\$74,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Cheryl Teaman	Y	Teacher/Johnston Elementary	\$74,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Tedd Zalewski	Y	Teacher/High School/Middle School	\$74,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
Andrew Yalch	Y	Teacher/Turner Elementary	\$75,570.00/Year	06-10-2011
*Linda Yorkshire	Y	Teacher/Kelly Elementary	\$76,470.00/Year	06-10-2011

\*Denotes change from previous report

RESIGNATIONS				
Kathleen Capehart	Y	Teacher/Library Assistant/High School	\$16,275.84/Year	04-27-2011

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**ITEM B. The following teachers have achieved tenure, based upon satisfactory evaluation and approval of the Superintendent.**

Name	Seniority Date	Tenure Date
<b>NONE AT THIS TIME</b>		

**JOB OPENINGS  
2011-2012 School-Year**

Secondary Reading Specialist Substitute	Middle/ High School
Secondary Homebound Instructor	Middle/ High School
*Athletic Director	Middle/ High School
*Girls Volleyball Coach	High School
*Football Coach	Middle School
*Assistant Football Coach	Middle School

*Football Coach	High School
*Assistant Football Coach (3)	High School
*Girls Basketball Coach	Middle School
*Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	Middle School
*Game Help Football	High School
*Track Coach	High School
*Assistant Track Coach	High School
*Equipment Manager	Middle/High School
*Girls Basketball Coach	High School
*Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	High School
*Boys Basketball Coach	High School
*Boys Assistant Basketball Coach (2)	Middle School
*Statistician	High School
*Game Photographer	High School
*Ticket Taker (2)	High School
*Announcer	High School
*Field Marker/Holder (3 Students)	High School

**\*Denotes changes in report**

### NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Donora Craighead to excuse Jerome Garrett and Barbara Thompson from the April 26, 2011 Legislative Session.

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Marching Band will perform in Little League Parade. The League is having T-ball try-outs on May 7, 2011 at 10am.

**STAFF REPORTS**

No Report

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Report included in packets

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Nanet Hamlin-Black, seconded by Carole Lee to adjourn.

Motion carried by unanimous vote

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.  
Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

*Darnica Spradley*

Darnica Spradley  
School Board Secretary