



Customizing Learning,
Nurturing Potential...
Delivering Excellence

**UPPER ST. CLAIR BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 - 7:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM**

Notice having been advertised and posted and members duly notified, the reorganization meeting of the Board of School Directors was held on December 5, 2016 in the Central Office Board Room.

School Board Members in attendance:

Mrs. Amy L. Billerbeck
Mrs. Barbara L. Bolas
Mr. Phillip J. Elias
Mrs. Buffy Z. Hasco
Mr. Patrick A. Hewitt
Mr. Frank J. Kerber
Mr. Harry F. Kunselman
Mr. Louis P. Mafrice, Jr.
Mrs. Angela B. Petersen

School personnel in attendance:

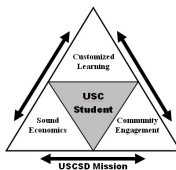
Dr. Patrick O'Toole, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Sharon Suritsky, Assistant/Deputy Superintendent
Dr. John Rozzo, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Frosina Cordisco, Director of Business & Finance
Dr. Judith Bulazo, Director of Curriculum & Professional Development
Mr. Raymond Berrott, Director of Technology
Mrs. Amy Pfender, Director of Student Support Services
Mrs. Mary Ann Stabile, Stenographer
Mr. Robert Prorok, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Prorok)

Mr. Prorok called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

READING OF THE MISSION

Mr. Kerber read the following School District Mission Statement:



Developing lifelong learners and responsible citizens for a global society is the mission of the Upper St. Clair School District, served by a responsive and innovative staff who in partnership with the community provides learning experiences that nurture the uniqueness of each child and promotes happiness and success.

SHARED BELIEF STATEMENT #17 FROM STRATEGIC PLAN

Mrs. Billerbeck read the following Shared Belief Statement #17 from the Strategic Plan:

We believe that:

effective education fosters students' abilities to listen and communicate, think critically and creatively, and apply their knowledge to all of their decision-making.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS (REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Steve Lynch, Manordale Road, commented regarding the proposed swimming pool and distributed information in support of a "best in class" aquatics center at the high school.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Prorok)

MOTION: By Bolas: I move that the Board approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Mafrice, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

NOMINATION/ELECTION OF TEMPORARY PRESIDENT (Prorok)

MOTION: By Kerber: I nominate Barbara Bolas to act as Temporary President of this meeting. Seconded by Kunselman, and carried on unanimous voice vote.

REPORT FROM STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES (Joshua Meyer)

Joshua Meyer, student board representative, reported on various activities at the high school.

RECOGNITION OF BUFFY Z. HASCO, 2016 BOARD PRESIDENT AND 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW (O'Toole) - ATTACHED

Dr. O'Toole stated that it is with great pride that he recognize Mrs. Hasco for serving as the School Board President for 2016. Dr. O'Toole shared the accomplishments of the Board, the School District, and the staff in 2016 under Mrs. Hasco's leadership AS ATTACHED.

RECOGNITION OF PSBA HONOR ROLL OF SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE (O'Toole)

Dr. O'Toole recognized the following Board members on behalf of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for their Honor Roll of School Board Service and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Frank Kerber – 8 Years

Mr. Kerber has been a member of the Board since September 2008 and served as President in 2014.

Angela Petersen – 20 Years

Mrs. Petersen has been a member of the Board since February 1997. She has served as President in 2001, 2005, and 2008.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017 (Temporary President)

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

MOTION: By Hasco: I nominate Angela Petersen as President of the Board of School Directors. Seconded by Kunselman and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. O'Toole noted that this is Mrs. Petersen's fourth term serving as Board President.

ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

MOTION: By Mafrice: I nominate Amy Billerbeck as Vice-President of the Board of School Directors. Seconded by Kunselman.

MOTION: By Kerber: I move that the nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a ballot for the election of Amy Billerbeck as Vice-President of the Board of School Directors. Seconded by Kunselman, and carried on unanimous roll call vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (O'Toole)

REVIEW OF CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMUNITY INPUT FORUM OF NOVEMBER 29

Dr. O'Toole stated that a Capital Projects Community Input Forum was held on November 29 at the High School LGI Room. He thanked Mr. Dave McLean of McLean Architects, Mr. Mike Bova of Boenning & Scattergood, and Ms. Cordisco for their presentations at the Forum. He also thanked Mrs. Stabile, Communications Specialist Tina Vojtko, and Director of Advancement Sheila Gorgonio for their assistance in organizing the event.

Dr. O'Toole explained that more people attended the forum than expected, which necessitated last minute adjustments and program changes. He thanked the attendees for registering to attend the Forum and providing their email addresses and comments prior to the event. Dr. O'Toole noted that having email addresses of attendees assists the school district with ongoing communications. He thanked Mrs. Vojtko for creating and managing the follow-up survey for individuals to provide feedback regarding the Forum and to share additional comments. Dr. O'Toole noted that a webpage has also been designed to share up-to-date information with the community regarding the proposed capital projects, including a complete video of the Forum. He also shared information with the Board regarding a petition for a new pool that was submitted to him.

Dr. O'Toole requested Board members to contact him if they have questions or need any additional information regarding the capital projects.

REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR DECEMBER 12 BOARD MEETING

Dr. O'Toole reviewed the agenda items of the December 12 Board meeting, noting that included on the agenda is a preliminary review of the Act 1 Budget process.

Dr. O'Toole explained that in order for the proposed capital projects to begin on a timely schedule that the Board would need to make a decision during the first quarter of 2017 whether to approve the proposed capital projects in total, in part, or not at all and that the proposed capital projects would need to be included in the 2017-18 budget. He stated that the Board would be required to adopt an Act 1 Budget in January and make the proposed preliminary budget available for the public. Dr. O'Toole stated that Ms. Cordisco is working hard to provide a good understanding of the district's budget with her successor, Mr. Scott Burchill who will take over as Director of Business & Finance in January.

Dr. O'Toole also reviewed proposed dates for the 2017 schedule of Committee of the Whole and Regular Board meetings. He explained that some changes were made to meeting dates to avoid conflicts with the same dates as Board of Commissioners meetings. In addition, Dr. O'Toole noted that he is suggesting that a few meetings during the summer months be held in the morning rather than the evening and requested comments from Board members regarding those meeting date changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Mafrice stated that he was at the PPG Wintergarden today when the musical students from Boyce Middle School were performing and noted that they did an excellent job.

RESIDENTS' COMMENTS - REGARDING ANY ITEM

Doug Shaffer, resident, thanked Dr. O'Toole, the Board and the administration for the community forum. He also commented regarding the proposed swimming pool and distributed information regarding the benefits of swimming and having a new pool at the high school.

MATTERS OF INFORMATION - SUPERINTENDENT & ADMINISTRATION

Dr. O'Toole announced that a reception would be held following the executive session to honor the outgoing and newly elected Board officers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - NEGOTIATIONS MATTERS

The Board met in executive session to discuss negotiations matters.

Barbara L. Bolas, Temporary President
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Frosina C. Cordisco, Secretary
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW UNDER LEADERSHIP OF BUFFY Z. HASCO, SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Administrative Leadership

- Tina Vojtko Hired as Communications Specialist
- Act 93 Plans for Administrators and Curriculum Leaders Extended
- Scott Burchill Elected Director of Business & Finance effective January 3, 2017 Following Retirement of Frosina Cordisco

Advancement

- USC High School Received \$3,000 Environmental Education Grant Award from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to Establish Recycling Effort at High School
- As Part of Reimagining the High School Initiative and Through a Generous Contribution, the High School Commons Transformed into Cafe321
- SHOP@USC Expands Capabilities to Purchase Single Sleeve Pallet Thanks to Generous Donation from Coldwell Banker
- USC Selected as One of 13 Schools and Universities Throughout Nation to Receive Installation of Active Learning Classroom Grant Valued at \$62,000 from Steelcase Education Used to Implement Innovation Hub at Boyce Middle School
- A \$45,000 contribution from an anonymous donor will enable USC to host a national Professional Learning Communities conference in July 2017. The donor's contribution underwrites the registration cost for 80 USC faculty and administrators – significantly advancing a goal of USC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

Awards & Recognitions

District

- USC Received Best Communities for Music Education Designation by NAMM Foundation
- Newsweek Ranked USC High School #113 in Nation and #5 in Pennsylvania
- U.S. News & World Report Ranked USC High School #638 of 29,070 Nationally, #11 in Pennsylvania and #3 in Allegheny County
- 245 High School Students Who Took SAT Exam Ranked #6 in Pennsylvania and #1 in Pittsburgh Region

Students

- USC High School Class of 2016 Earned School's Highest Average ACT Scores in Last Five-Year Period
- 139 Students Inducted Into National Honor Society
- High School Girls' Soccer Team Won PIAA AAA Championship
- High School Girls' Varsity Soccer Team Selected as One of 10 Teams in Country for 5th Annual MaxPrep Girls Soccer "Tour of Champions" by Army National Guard
- 12 Students Named National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and 13 Commended Students
- High School Junior Tyler Clark Earned National President's Volunteer Service Award
- High School Senior Kevin Liu Made Trial Cut for U.S. Olympic Swim Team
- High School Senior Yein Christina Park Named National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Recipient (One of Only 2,500 in Country)
- Sixth Grader Milan Giroux Scored Among Top Two Percent of Nation in Math Olympiad
- High School Freshman Sam Ding Scored Among Top Ten Percent in Nation in USA Biology Olympiad
- Team of Fort Couch Middle School Students Finished Third Among 60 Teams at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals
- High School Senior Saraj Quinto Finished Seventh in Nation in Dramatic Performer Category of National Catholic Forensic League Grand Nationals
- High School Junior Mahima Reddy Published Poem Titled, "Monsoon Season" in May 2016 Issue of Teen Ink Magazine
- High School Girls' Volleyball Team Selected as One of Only 260 Teams in Nation to Earn American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award
- Emerging High School Senior Murphy Miller Earned Highest Possible ACT Composite Score of 36 – an Achievement Reached by Less than One-Tenth of One Percent of Test Takers
- High School Senior Amatheon Bohan Finished 11th in the 2016 National Age Group Triathlon Championship
- High School Senior Chase Miller Finished 16th Out of 300 in Domestic Extemporaneous Event at 2016 National Speech & Debate Tournament
- High School Junior Robbie Halpner Spent Summer Performing Throughout Nation with Academy Drum and Bugle Corp
- Streams Elementary School Second Grader Natalie Barefoot Had Artwork Displayed at A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn, New York

Staff

- Superintendent Dr. Patrick O'Toole Received Clarion University's Distinguished Alumni Award

- Deputy Superintendent Dr. Sharon Suritsky Received Tri-State Distinguished Female Educator Award
- Assistant Superintendent Dr. John Rozzo Received Penn State Alumni Society Leadership & Service Award
- Chief of School Police Joseph Connors Received Champions of Learning Award
- USC High School Assistant Speech and Debate Sponsor David Watson Earned First Diamond Award from National Speech and Debate Association for Achieving 1,000 Career Coaching Points
- High School Associate Principal for Program Planning and Innovation Dr. Timothy Wagner Named an Emerging Leader by Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
- High School Teacher Laura Moeller Selected for Outstanding Educator Award from University of Chicago

Budget/Operations

- 2011 Series B Bonds Refinanced
- Early Retirement Incentive for Classified Staff
- New POS System for Nutrition Center with Primero Edge
- Energy Savings Contract with Aramark

Capital Projects

- Capital Projects Review Ad Hoc Committee Established – December 2015
- High School Stadium Turf Replaced
- Recommendation from Capital Projects Review Ad Hoc Committee
- McLean Architects Approved for Preliminary Architectural Services for Capital Improvements Projects
- Capital Projects Community Forum Held – November 29

Collective Bargaining Agreement

- Collective Bargaining Agreement Approved with USC Education Association (2016-17 through 2021-22)

Communications Initiatives Under Tina Vojtko's Leadership

- Back-to-School Online Process – Online Completion Rate (98%) was the Highest and Most Timely To Date.
- Comprehensive Weekly Recap That Includes Links to Website and Calendar of Upcoming Events
- Daily News Clippings of USC, Neighboring Schools, and Education-Related Articles
- Comprehensive Press Releases and News Worthy Items Completed Timely

- District Website Improvements
- Social Media Engagement on Facebook and Twitter
- Communications Ambassador for School District to News Media
- Crisis Communications Support for Leadership Team Communications with Parents and USC Community
- Re-designed District Stationery to Consistently Reflect District Logo and Tagline.
- Improved District Content in USC Today Magazine.
- Strengthened Collaboration/Support to Community Partners – USC PTC, USC Community Foundation and USC Youth Steering Committee.

Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan Visioning Team Goals Adopted – January 2016

School Board Policies

- Adopted Policy #6022 – Administering Naloxone
- Adopted Policy #6009 - Hazing

Technology and Academics

- Chapter 339 Career Education & Work Plan for K-12 Counseling Program Approved

Workshops

- Board Goals Workshop – January 18 (Goals Adopted 1-25-16)
- Board Breakfast Workshop – February 4 (Strategic Plan Update)
- Board Breakfast Workshop – May 26 (Proposed Capital Projects)
- Board Self-Evaluation Workshop – September 19
- Board Breakfast Workshop – October 20 (Boyce Innovation Hub)