

**Council Rock School District**  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

Newtown, Pennsylvania  
Thursday, April 17, 2008

MINUTES – Public Board Meeting

**I. Call to Order** – Mr. Richard Abramson, President presided over the regular public monthly meeting of the Council Rock Board of School Directors. He convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Chancellor Center, 30 North Chancellor Street, Newtown, PA. The meeting was broadcast “live” in all municipalities. The following individuals were present:

School Board

Richard Abramson, Esquire, President  
Dr. Paul Anagnostakos, Vice President  
Mr. Christopher Ayoub  
Mr. Robert Donnelly  
Mr. Jerold Grupp  
Mrs. Bernadette Heenan  
Mr. J. Dennis McMenamin  
Mrs. Patricia Vaccaro-Sexton  
Mrs. Susan Vicedomini

Mark J. Klein, Esquire, Superintendent  
Mrs. Patty Small, Board Secretary Pro-Tem  
Mr. Robert Riegel, Asst. Business Administrator & Board Treasurer  
Mr. Robert Cox, Esquire, Solicitor

Staff:

Mr. Barry Desko, Director of Secondary Education  
Mrs. Joy McClendon, Director of Elementary Education  
Mr. Robert Schoch, Director of Business Administration  
Mr. David M. Bollinger, Director of Human Resources & Staff Development  
Dr. Charles Lambert, Director of Special Services  
Mr. Matthew Frederickson, Director of Information Technology - absent  
Mr. Thomas Schneider, Supervisor of Operational Services  
Mr. Thomas Crow, Supervisor of Maintenance

**II. Routine Actions**

The Richboro Middle School’s string quartet played the National Anthem and another ensemble. They were directed by Ms. Scheible.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, Mrs. Small called the roll call and reported that all board members were in attendance.

Superintendent’s Report - Mr. Klein reported.....

I want to call your attention to one of the great showcases of student work in Council Rock. Beginning tonight and running through Saturday, the Council Rock District Art show takes place at Council Rock High School South. Artwork from all schools and from students K-12 is on display. I highly recommend that parents and community attend this wonderful showcase of student artwork. It will be time well spent.

I am pleased to announce to the Board and our community two special awards for Council Rock. Council Rock has been named one of the top 100 Stand Hosts by the Alex Lemonade Stand Foundation for 2007. With thousands of stands held each year, this distinction is recognized by the Foundation as an extraordinary accomplishment. The award comes with a plaque that will be proudly displayed in Chancellor Center as a testimony to the work we did and continue to do with Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.

The second award comes from the Pennsylvania School Board Association. Council Rock has been named a School District of Excellence in Technology. This annual award recognizes a school district's ability to distinguish itself among peer districts in the integration and use of technology in classrooms. We are one of only three districts to be recognized across the state of Pennsylvania. A representative of PSBA has asked to visit us on May 15<sup>th</sup> to make this award presentation. Council Rock will be showcased in the PSBA state publication and we will be invited to present in October's PSBA conference.

Recognition of Energy Award – Mr. McGarvey from Aramark addressed the board. Bob Schoch introduced and recognized the following students: Theodore Caputi, Alexandra Wheatley, Sydney Saltzman, Marris Higgins and Lauren Tannenbaum.

Public Comment - none

### **III. Discussion Item – Air Conditioning**

Mr. Schneider gave an extensive presentation as an explanation on this topic. Many questions were posed to him.

Following much discussion among the board members, the board was polled to move forward on estimates for renovations at Churchville and Holland Elementary Schools.

Aye	Nay	Absent (for this vote)
Mr. Grupp	Dr. Anagnostakos	Mrs. Heenan
Mr. Donnally	Mrs. Vicedomini	
Mr. McMenamin		
Mrs. Sexton		
Mr. Abramson		
Mr. Ayoub		

President Abramson offered another opportunity for public comment on the discussion item of air conditioning at Churchville and Holland Elementary Schools.

A resident commented on the unfairness that has been created between the school buildings that already have air conditioning and the school buildings that do not have air conditioning. She also loved Mrs. Heenan's comment about turning off the air conditioning at the Chancellor Center, and thought it should be turned off at Rolling Hills and Welch Elementary too.

Seymour Joseph from Newtown mentioned the federal funding that is currently available for the air conditioning project and how the planet will be a warmer planet in the future and that needs to be factored into the calculations.

Jennifer from Churchville reported that she is new to the district from North Carolina. She gave an example of her son pouring his water bottle on himself to cool down after school. She also asked the question, "why would you build a new school with air conditioning but not include air conditioning when renovating a school?"

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Grupp moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed with a roll call vote for the approval of the following consent agenda items A-E, subject to audit:

A). Minutes – Approval was granted for approval of the minutes from March 6, 2008 and March 27, 2008 meetings. *(It was noted that Messrs. Abramson & Ayoub abstained from voting on the minutes of 3/27/08 due to being absent from that meeting)*

B). Treasurer's Report – (*Attachment #*) - Approval was granted for approval of the Treasurer's report reflecting a balance as of March 31, 2008 of \$340,407.53 subject to audit.

C). Approval was granted for the following:

- General Fund Bills..... \$7,190,518.42
- General Fund Payroll..... \$8,357,170.59
- Athletic Fund Bills..... \$ 46,716.96
- Athletic Fund Payroll..... \$ 15,938.51
- Capital Reserve – Bond Issue..... \$ 260,518.89
- Construction- CRHS-South..... \$ 490,000.00
- Construction – Holland Elementary Renovations..... \$ 41,255.00
- Construction – Churchville Elementary Renovations..... \$ 43,200.00
- Student Activities..... \$ 162,278.26

D). Tax Duplicates – Approval was granted for the following adjustments and refunds to various tax duplicates as listed, subject to audit: Adjustments: Occupation Tax: (-) \$28,110.00; Personal Per Capita Tax: (-) \$2,300.00; Refunds: Real Estate Tax: \$13,901.70; Occupation Tax: \$470.40.

E). Budgetary Transfers – Approval was granted to make budgetary transfers within the 2007-08 school year budget in the amount of \$116,332,68, subject to audit.

**V. Items for Board Approval**

- 1). Appointment of Hillcrest Elementary School Principal  
Mr. Ayoub moved, seconded by Mrs. Sexton, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the appointment of **Nakia Jones-Tate** as the Principal at Hillcrest Elementary School at a starting salary of \$105,000.00 effective July 1, 2008. See details below:

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**A. Appointments**

1. Name: **Nakia Jones-Tate**  
Education: Cheyney University, B.S. Elementary Ed  
Eastern College, M.Ed, Multicultural Ed  
Eastern College, Ed Leadership Certificate  
Experience: Assistant Principal, Eisenhower Middle  
School, Norristown School District, July  
2005- Present;  
Kindergarten Teacher, Cole Manor  
Elementary, Norristown S.D. August 2002-  
June 2005  
Position: Principal, Hillcrest Elementary School  
Compensation: \$105,000 per year  
Reason: To replace a staff member who is retiring  
(P. Carney-Dalton).  
Effective: July 1, 2008

- 2). Personnel Actions – Mrs. Vicedomini moved, seconded by Mrs. Heenan, passed with unanimous roll call vote, for approval of the following personnel actions:

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>A. Resignations</b>                     | <b>No Actions Recommended</b> |
| <b>B. Retirements</b>                      | “                             |
| <b>C. Sabbatical Leave of Absence</b>      | “                             |
| <b>D. Unpaid Leave of Absence</b>          | “                             |
| <b>E. Assignment/Classification Change</b> | “                             |
| <b>F. Appointments</b>                     | “                             |

**III. PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

- |                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>A. Resignations</b> | <b>No Action Recommended</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|

**B. Retirements**

- Name: **Andrea Lamberth**  
Position: English Teacher, CRHS – North  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **Gail Mastropietro**  
Position: Elementary Teacher, Goodnoe Elementary  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **Dennis Matika**  
Position: Biology Teacher, CRHS – South  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **James McMonegal**  
Position: Elementary Teacher, Churchville Elementary  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **Mary Nathewitch**  
Position: Elementary Teacher, Sol Feinstone Elementary  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **Carol Sheehan**  
Position: Elementary Teacher, Hillcrest Elementary  
Effective: June 17, 2008
- Name: **Sally Walker**  
Position: Elementary Teacher, Richboro Elementary  
Effective: June 17, 2008

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>C. Sabbatical Leave of Absence</b> | <b>No Actions Recommended</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|

**D. Unpaid Leave of Absence**

- Name: **Melissa Hecht**  
Position: Biology Teacher, CRHS – North  
Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009

2. Name: **Michele Lecker**  
 Position: Special Ed Teacher, CRHS – North  
 Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence (.2) due to family/medical reasons. Voluntary reduction in status to .8.  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009
3. Name: **Andrea Levin**  
 Position: Music Teacher, Sol Feinstone & Rolling Hills  
 Reason: Unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009
4. Name: **Nicole Macrone**  
 Position: Spanish Teacher, CRHS – North  
 Reason: Unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – November 30, 2008
5. Name: **Abby Rogers**  
 Position: Guidance Counselor, CRHS – North  
 Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence (.4) due to family/medical reasons. Voluntary reduction in status to .6.  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009
6. Name: **Kelly Schubert**  
 Position: Special Ed Teacher, Wrightstown Elementary  
 Reason: (.5) Unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons. Voluntary reduction in status to .5 time.  
 Effective: August 16, 2008 – June 30, 2009
7. Name: **Ann Marie Strauss**  
 Position: Guidance Counselor, CRHS – North  
 Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009
8. Name: **Joanne Upham**  
 Position: Special Ed Teacher, CRHS – South  
 Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
 Effective: May 29, 2008 – June 17, 2008

**E. Compensated Leave of Absence**

1. Name: **Tiffany Mannino**  
 Position: Elementary Teacher, Welch Elementary  
 Reason: To obtain additional certification at the graduate school level.  
 Compensation: \$46,188 per year (1/2 pay).  
 Effective: August 26, 2008 – June 30, 2009

**F. Assignment/Classification Change                      No Actions Recommended**

### G. Assignment Ended

1. Name: **Jonathan Holloran**  
Position: Social Studies Teacher, CRHS – South  
Effective: April 11, 2008

### H. Appointments

1. Name: **Trish Verdi**  
Education: Temple University, B.A. American Studies  
Experience: Long Term Substitute, St. Katherine Drexel School  
Bensalem, PA Sept. – Dec. 2007  
Per Diem Substitute, Council Rock School Dist.  
Feb. 2008 – present  
Certification: Intern Certificate – Social Studies  
Emergency Certificate – English  
Position: English Teacher (.3)  
Location: CRHS – South  
Compensation: \$44,421 per year (pro-rated)  
Actual Rate: \$5,302.52  
Reason: To replace a staff member who resigned (P. Handel).  
(continued Trish Verdi)  
Effective: February 27, 2008

## IV. SUPPORT STAFF

### A. Resignations

**No Actions Recommended**

### B. Retirements

1. Name: **Emily Bilotta**  
Position: Clerk Typist, CRHS – South  
Effective: June 16, 2008

### C. Unpaid Leave of Absence

1. Name: **Dolores Fann**  
Position: Bus Monitor, Chancellor Center  
Reason: Unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
Effective: April 23, 2008 – June 17, 2008
2. Name: **Adele Fletcher**  
Position: Recess Aide, Sol Feinstone Elementary  
Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
Effective: April 2, 2008 – June 17, 2008
3. Name: **Catherine Taylor**  
Position: Teacher Assistant, Richboro Middle School  
Reason: Extension of unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
Effective: April 1, 2008 – May 2, 2008

4. Name: **Susan Woehr**  
 Position: Teacher Assistant, CRHS – North  
 Reason: Unpaid leave of absence due to family/medical reasons.  
 Effective: June 9, 2008 – June 30, 2009

<b>D. Assignment Ended</b>	<b>No Actions Recommended</b>
<b>E. Assignment/Classification Change</b>	“ “
<b>F. Appointments</b>	<b>No Actions Recommended</b>

- 3). School Board Policy #906- Public Complaints (Attachment #6)  
 Mr. Donnelly moved, seconded by Dr. Anagnostakos, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of School Board Policy #906 relative to Public Complaints.
- 4). Textbooks Approval 2008-09 (Attachment #7)  
 Mrs. Sexton moved, seconded by Mrs. Heenan, passed unanimously with a roll call vote, for the approval of the Textbook Recommendations for the 2008-09 school year.
- 5). Bid Approvals (Attachments #8, #9 and #10)  
 Dr Anagnostakos moved, seconded by Mr. Ayoub, passed with a roll call vote of, (8/1 with Mr. Grupp approving Attachments #8 & #10 only) for the approval of the Visual Arts Bid, Student Handbook Bid and Physical Education Supply Bid.
- Visual Arts Bid –Approval of the 2008-09 school year **Visual Arts** Bid to be awarded to the vendors listed in the Total Low Acceptable Bid column, in an amount not to exceed **\$47,531.82**, subject to audit.
  - Student Handbook Bid –Approval of the 2008-09 school year **Student Handbook** bid to be awarded to **Academic Planners Plus for Middle Schools** in an amount not to exceed **\$19,038.50**, subject to audit, and **Premier Agendas for High Schools** in an amount not to exceed **\$35,964.00**, subject to audit.
  - Physical Education Supply Bid – Approval of the 2008-09 school year **Physical Education** bid to be awarded to the vendors listed in the Total Low Acceptable Bid column in an amount not to exceed **\$22,359.68**, subject to audit.

**VI. Solicitor’s Report** – Mr. Cox mentioned Mr. Reid’s letter and noted for the record that there was an executive session held prior to tonight’s meeting for the purpose of discussion of a personnel matter.

**VII. Public Comment**

John Rasiej from Wrightstown Township was concerned and upset about the public comment offered during the air conditioning debate. Also, requested clarification about the Finance Committee’s meeting on May 23 before the May 1 budget discussion.

Mr. Abramson did address and take responsibility for the public comment during the air conditioning debate.

Mr. Klein addressed the date of the Finance Committee meeting, it will be held on May 23.

Mr. Klein also addressed the issue of Cyber Charter Schools legislation.

## **VIII. Board Comments**

Mrs. Sexton commented on the Channel 6 news story on artificial turf contamination.

Mr. Grupp pointed out the poor sound quality on our District channel. Also commented on the public comment portion of the Board Meeting.

Mr. Donnally proudly noted that on April 7 he had one of his most satisfying opportunities as a Board Member when a group of concerned citizens and students participated in an “Engage in a Community” discussion at the Northampton Library.

Dr. Agnagnostakos was at the National Honor Society Induction and offered his best wishes and congratulations.

Mr. Ayoub asked about the vote that was taken relative to the Bond Offering. Also commented that all are served better when all the Board members are on the same page.

Mrs. Heenan is very proud that the MBIT students are going to Texas for the National Competition.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Small, Secretary Pro-Tem