

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**SPECIAL PUBLIC ACTION MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2012  
6:05 P.M.**

A Special Public Action Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Chester Upland School District was held this evening at the Administration Building of the Chester Upland School District, located at 1720 Melrose Avenue, Chester, Pennsylvania, with the following members of the Board of School Directors in attendance:

Ms. Wanda Mann, President  
Ms. Lakisha Blackwell, Secretary  
Ms. Virginia Pilkington, Treasurer  
Ms. Donna Davis, Member  
Mr. Cephus Richardson, Member  
Mr. Anthony Johnson, Member  
Ms. Bettie McClairen, Member  
Mr. Charlie L. Warren II, Member

Executive Staff Present: Dr. Tony L. Watson, Acting Superintendent

Special Counsel: George B. Dawson, Esquire

Absent: Dr. Thomas Persing, Acting Deputy Superintendent/Acting CFO  
Mr. Brian Feick, Assistant Business Manager  
Solicitor Leo A. Hackett, Esquire

The meeting of the Board of School Directors opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

**NOTICE OF ADVERTISED MEETING**

The meeting of the Board of School Directors opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

(COPY OF ADVERTISED NOTICE ATTACHED)

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken. Present were Ms. Wanda Mann, Ms. LaKisha Blackwell, Ms. Donna Davis, Ms. Virginia Pilkington, Mr. Cephus Richardson, Mr. Anthony Johnson, Ms. Bettie McClairen, and Mr. Charlie L. Warren II. Mr. Baltazar Rubio, Esq., was Absent

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

George Dawson, Esq., Special Counsel, announced topics discussed in the Executive Session prior to the Action Meeting:

- \* Confidential Personnel Matters
- \* Confidential Student Matters

**REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Community Transitions Program**, directed by Dr. Darryl James, aims to assist the students in alternative education with a treatment/educational initiative that will be both cost effective and responsive to each disruptive student by providing intervention services that will assist program participants in overcoming their academic, behavioral, social and emotional obstacles. The programs goals and objectives are as follows:

- \* to help youth learn healthy coping mechanisms to effectively manage their individual, family, or social difficulties through intensive individual, family, or group therapy.
- \* to improve the social and life skills of each youth in order to develop positive social and family networks that reinforce positive and productive behavior.
- \* to help each program participant to realize their intellectual potential through participation in the academic, technology, and workforce development components, and exposure to college and career opportunities.

**Keystone Mercy’s “Chester Smiles Program”** is willing to provide the State required dental screenings for first, third and sixth grade students during the 2012-2013 school year at no cost to the District.

*Audience applause.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

**Deborah Whitsett** – Spoke on the Chester Smiles/Keystone Mercy Dental Program.

**Lawrence Hamm** – Regarding Item #A-1, questioned the Recovery Officer’s acceptance and what that means for the District? Inquired about the District’s new Director of Security & the new Principal at Chester High School? Questioned the opening of CUSA?

**President Mann** responded.

President Mann introduced the District’s new Director of Security, Elijah Thompson, to the community.

*Audience Applause.*

Dr. Watson introduced the District’s new Principal at Main Street Elementary School, Nancy Butcher-Perez and the new Principal at the STEM Magnet School, Dr. Robin Laysears-Smith. The newly appointed Principal at Chester High School, Kevin Wallace, regretrfully was not able to attend this meeting.

*Audience Applause.*

**Calvin Williams** – Questioned if the District is going to fight to keep our children? Asked what he can do to help? Inquired as to how he can encourage the students in the District?

**President Mann** stated that the School Board is going to continue to fight for the community as well as for the students of the Chester Upland School District.

**Dr. Watson** asked that the community focus on working with the District’s children on increasing their skills in math and reading.

## **EDUCATION AGENDA**

### **A-1 Chief Recovery Officer Acceptance**

Whereas, on August 14, 2012 the Secretary of Education issued a Declaration of Financial Recovery Status (the Declaration) for the School District pursuant to Act 141 of 2012 (the Act), and

Whereas, the Secretary of Education has designated a Chief Recovery Officer for the School District pursuant to the Act, and

Whereas, the Board of School Directors is required to make an election under Section 662-A of the Act within 14 days of the Declaration relating to cooperation with the Chief Recovery Officer or the appointment of a receiver under the Act.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the Board of Directors approves to proceed pursuant to Section 662-A(A)(1) of the Act which provides the following:

Cooperation with the Chief Recovery Officer appointed under Subdivision (II) of the Act and the development, approval on implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan (the Plan) under Section 663-A and 664-A of the Act.

The Plan may be approved or rejected by the Board of School Directors pursuant to Section 663-A(C)(1)(I) of the Act and the provisions of the Act related to such action.

**Executive Sponsor:** Dr. Tony L. Watson

**A-1**  
*Wanda Mann called for a Motion. Motion to approve by Cephus Richardson, Seconded by LaKisha Blackwell.*  
*VOTE-Wanda Mann, Donna Davis, LaKisha Blackwell, Virginia Pilkington, Cephus Richardson, Anthony Johnson, Bettie McClairen and Charlie L. Warren II-Aye. Nays-None.*

**BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF EIGHT(8) “IN FAVOR”, THE EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM #A-1 WAS APPROVED.**

**PERSONNEL AGENDA**

**B-1 General/Categorical Funds. Approval of appointments, correction of appointment dates, leave of absence, resignations, reassignment, and completion of probation.**

RESOLVED, that the following **appointments** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>New Position or Replacement</u>
Butcher-Perez, Nancy	Principal Main Street School	\$95,000 12 months	09/01/12	Replacement 2012-2013 G.F.B.
Laysears-Smith, Robin	Principal STEM Magnet School	\$102,000 12 months	08/27/12	Replacement 2012-2013 G.F.B.
Wallace, Kevin	Principal Chester High School	\$110,000 12 months	08/27/12	Replacement 2012-2013 G.F.B.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **correction of appointment dates** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(a) Professional

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Position/Location</b></u>	<u><b>Effective Date</b></u>
Morgan, Carita	Program Director Administration Building	08/27/12
Raiders, Susan	Special Education Supervisor Administration Building	08/29/12
Thompson, Elijah	Director of Security School Safety Department	08/20/12

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **leave of absence** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(a) Non Professional

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Position/Location</b></u>	<u><b>Effective Date</b></u>
Montes, Carmen	Executive Assistant Administration Building	05/30/12 – 10/01/12 (Intermittent FMLA)

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **resignations** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(b) Professional

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Position/Location</b></u>	<u><b>Effective Date</b></u>
Simmons, John	Teacher, Math Columbus School	08/15/12
Tierney, Ryan	Teacher, English Toby Farms School	08/30/12

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **reassignment** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(a) Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Ferguson, Sara	Teacher, Elementary Toby Farms School 10 months	Assistant Principal Chester Upland School of the Arts 12 months	08/29/12

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following **completion of probation** be approved on the effective date respectively noted:

(a) Non Professional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position/Location</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maldonado Montez, Irvin	Utility Glazier Maintenance Department	08/20/12

**Executive Sponsor:** Michelle R. Chapman

**B-2 General Fund: \$12,755 - Salary Adjustment.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors grant approval for employee listed below to receive a salary adjustment based on attainment of additional credits for the 2011-2012 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Jackson, Dariah	\$45,321 (B+24/1; additional \$200)	\$58,076 (M/2; additional \$200)

**Executive Sponsor:** Michelle R. Chapman

***B-1 – B-2***

***Wanda Mann called for a Motion. Motion to approve by Virginia Pilkington, Seconded by LaKisha Blackwell.***

***VOTE-Wanda Mann, Donna Davis, LaKisha Blackwell, Virginia Pilkington, Cephus Richardson, Anthony Johnson, Bettie McClairen and Charlie L. Warren II-Aye. Nays-None.***

**BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF EIGHT (8) “IN FAVOR”, PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEMS #B-1 THRU #B-2 WERE APPROVED.**

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**C-1 Approval of agreement with Omni Health Services, Inc.**

RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors approve an agreement with Omni Health Services, Inc., to provide mental health services to students in the New Pathways Program for the 2012-2013 school year at no cost to the district.

**Executive Sponsor:** Dr. Anthony Georeno

**C-1**  
*Wanda Mann called for a Motion. Motion to approve by Cephus Richardson, Seconded by Donna Davis. VOTE-Wanda Mann, Donna Davis, LaKisha Blackwell, Virginia Pilkington, Cephus Richardson, Bettie McClairen and Charlie L. Warren II-Aye. Nays-None. Anthony Johnson Abstained.*

**BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF SEVEN (7) “IN FAVOR” TO ONE (1) “ABSTAINING”, BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM #C-1 WAS APPROVED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business *Wanda Mann, President, called for a Motion to adjourn. The Motion was made by Donna Davis, Seconded by LaKisha Blackwell. VOTE-Wanda Mann, Donna Davis, LaKisha Blackwell, Virginia Pilkington, Cephus Richardson, Anthony Johnson, Bettie McClairen and Charlie L. Warren II-Aye. Nays-None.*

**BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF EIGHT(8) “IN FAVOR”, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM.**

**CHESTER UPLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

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**LaKisha E.S. Blackwell, Secretary**