

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6495
Fax (412) 350-6499*



Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 6, 2006

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

John DeFazio - Chair; Committee of the Whole

I. Call To Order

Summary: *The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM*

Invited Guests:

Jim Flynn, County Manager or Designee

Shawn Fox, Executive Assistant

Summary: *Invited Guests Present: Mr. Flynn and Mr. Fox*

Council Staff Present: John Mascio and Jared Barker

II. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Council Member Caldwell, Council Member Cleary, Council Member Finnerty, Council Member Fitzgerald, Council Member Frazier, Council Member Rea, and Council Member Robinson
Absent: Council Member Burn, Council Member DeFazio, Council Member Drozd, Council Member Fawcett, Council Member Gastgeb, Council Member Martoni, and Council Member Nerone

III. Approval of Minutes

2520-06 Motion to approve the Minutes of March 23, and March 30, 2005 Appointment Review Committee Meetings.

Action: **A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by Frazier, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Agenda Items**Proposed Appointments**

2438-06 Appointment - Approving the reappointment of Jerry Fedeles to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Community College Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2011.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Mr. Fedeles provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and highlights of his accomplishments on the board. Mr. Fitzgerald asked him about the accreditation status of the college. Mr. Fedeles said that he reviewed the report which contained some recommendations and he was happy with the report and does not think that accreditation will be a problem.*

Mr. Fitzgerald asked him to comment on the timing of a bonus that was given to the President of the college. Mr. Fedeles said that he had no comment on the timing of the bonus but that he believes that the President was doing a wonderful job and that the college made great progress under his reign. He said that he believed that the bonus was merited by the job he has done. He said that maybe the timing of the bonus was unfortunate but he supported the bonus in substance.

Mr. Fitzgerald asked him to comment on the decline in enrollment. Mr. Fedele said that he did not know the answer to that question, but he suspected that one of the reasons was that many people are moving out of Allegheny County.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that he hopes that he will encourage dialogue between the board and the staff and students. Mr. Fedele said that he does support that communication. He said that all the board meetings are open to the public and the media. He said that he was concerned about some of the comments made by the staff regarding communication. He said that while he did support their input they also need to have strong leadership on the board.

Ms. Frazier asked if there was any retaliation against some of the staff who voiced displeasure. Mr. Fedele said not that he was aware of. He also said that he believed that senior management and the board could probably be a little better at communicating.

Mr. Finnerty asked him if he inquired into the comments made by the staff. Mr. Fedele said that he regarded himself as no longer being on the board since there was a controversy about his reappointment, therefore he has not been active in the past few months.

Mr. Robinson said that one of the reasons that he supported Mr. Fedele's reappointment is that he has exercised good judgement and that his answer to Mr. Finnerty shows just that. He said that he hopes that his colleagues return him to the board because he has continued his commitment to the college and has been very forthright. He said that he has confidence in him.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2454-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Diane Lally to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Arts Board for a term to expire three years from the approval of this appointment.

Sponsors: Vince Gastgeb

Summary: *Ms. Lally provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications, and highlights of her aspirations and goals for the board.*

Mr. Fitzgerald read an e-mail dated April 4, 2006, addressed to the Committee Chair John DeFazio . The letter explains that he could not be present for the meeting but requests the committee to give Ms. Lally an affirmative recommendation to the full Council.

Mr. Finnerty spoke very highly of Ms. Lally and supported her appointment.

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2455-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Billy Jackson to serve as a Member of the Allegheny County Arts Board for a term to expire three years from the approval of this appointment.

Sponsors: William Russell Robinson

Summary: *Because Mr. Jackson could not be present at the meeting, the sponsor of the bill requested that the bill be withdrawn. He said that he would resubmit the bill at a later date.*

Action: **Withdrawn**

2478-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Lisa M. Colautti to serve as a member of the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Colautti provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and highlights of her goals and aspirations for the board.*

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2479-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Dr. Diego Chaves-Gnecco to serve as a member of the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Chaves-Gnecco provided the committee with a summary of his background and qualifications and highlights of his goals and aspirations for the board.*

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2480-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Dr. Mary Carrasco to serve as a member of the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Dr. Carrasco provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and highlights of her goals and aspirations for the board.*

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

2481-06 Appointment - Approving the appointment of Avis B. Kotovsky to serve as a member of the Children Youth and Families Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2008.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Summary: *Ms. Kotovsky provided the committee with a summary of her background and qualifications and highlights of her goals and aspirations for the board.*

Action: **A motion was made that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Adjournment

Summary: *The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM*

