Chairman Rick Pierchalski called a special meeting for 4:30 PM on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 for the purpose of considering an appointment to the Board of the Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA). In addition to Mr. Pierchalski, board members present were Dan Griffin, Rob Jones, Stan Parker and Connie Yarris. Also in attendance were Jim Norris, Chief Counsel and Executive Director David Donahoe, members of the public and staff. Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Act and By Laws and on the District’s web site.

**Public Comment**

No speakers registered for the public comment period.

**Appointment of ACLA Board Member**

Mr. Pierchalski said that a provision of the ACLA by laws provided for The District to appoint at large member to the Board. Some months ago Pittsburgh attorney Shawn Flaherty approached members and volunteered to serve in this position. Members had worked with Mr. Flaherty during the discussion on the ACLA formula revision. Mr. Pierchalski felt he demonstrated a keen interest in the future of libraries and, therefore, wished to nominate him to the ACLA board seat. He then called on Mr. Flaherty for remarks.

Mr. Flaherty said that he was very interested in serving in the position and recognized that it was a dynamic time for libraries in the county. He said that he recognized the need to work on building a consensus on the formula and other issues and that he wanted to be a strong voice in that effort.

Mr. Parker asked ACLA Executive Director Marilyn Jenkins if the organization had a position on the naming of Mr. Flaherty. A letter from ACLA Board Chairman Wendy Smith was also distributed encouraging the District Board to name an impartial representative. Ms. Jenkins said that ACLA would not have a position on the nominee as they were not involved in the selection but that they respected RAD’s right to name someone to this position. She also spoke of the need for impartiality and consensus building.
Mr. Parker asked Mr. Flaherty to explain his view of his role on the ACLA Board. Mr. Parker said that once appointed, the ACLA board member should carry out his or her duties with a fiduciary responsibility to ACLA board only. Mr. Flaherty said that he agreed and that the person appointed by RAD should not then feel subservient to RAD noting that RAD members may have differing opinion on issues from time to time.

Ms. Yarris asked Mr. Flaherty to outline his past association with libraries. Mr. Flaherty said that he was a member of the Laurie Ann West Board but would resign from same if named to the ACLA Board. He worked with a number of community members on the formula development debate due to concerns raised about decreased funding. Mr. Griffin advised that he attended a meeting organized by Mr. Flaherty in Pine Township and was impressed with the interest he demonstrated on the library formula issue.

Ms. Yarris asked if Mr. Flaherty was familiar with the consultant study on the formula. Mr. Flaherty said that while he had not seen the final study he was interviewed by the consultant. He understood that the formula development process was starting fresh, an approach which he would support.

Mr. R. Jones asked if Mr. Flaherty had past interaction with RAD. Mr. Flaherty noted that he was committed to the RAD concept, which his father as county commissioner helped to create.

Mr. Pierchalski asked Ms. Jenkins to outline the current ACLA board make up. Ms Jenkins outline the board indicating that terms were for three years, a member could serve two terms and that the appointing authority could recall the member.

Mr. Pierchalski said that he felt any concerns about conflict of interest would melt away and that Mr. Flaherty would provide to be a capable and valuable member of the ACLA board.

Mr. Griffin then seconded the nomination of Shawn Flaherty of Pittsburgh to the seat on the ACLA Board and the chair called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Griffin voted yes.

Mr. R. Jones voted yes noting that a conflict is only a conflict if not disclosed and that he believed that Mr. Flaherty understood his role if appointed.

Ms. Yarris voted yes.
Mr. Parker voted yes. He noted that his vote was based on his respect for Mr. Flaherty and that he continued to be concerned about an appointee serving two masters. He said the sole responsibility of an ACLA board member was to serve the mission of that organization.

Mr. Pierchalski voted yes and the motion was passed 5-0.

Mr. Pierchalski asked the executive director to notify ACLA of the action.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Donahoe
Assistant Secretary