

SOUTHERN COLUMBIA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
800 SOUTHERN DRIVE
CATAWISSA, PA 17820

The January 17, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 p.m. with President Karl Meyer in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Meyer welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amanda Bell-Perry

Elsie Bittner

Hugh Jones

Linda Kreisler

Karl Meyer

Ronald Savitski

Richard Swank

Michael Yeager (*Absent*)

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Pat Shultz, James Becker, Paul Caputo, James Dunkelberger and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) The 7-year agreement with Coca-Cola has expired. Representatives would like to present a proposal. They are willing to attend a Finance Committee meeting. President Meyer agreed to run it through the Finance Committee first and they will report to the full Board.

2.) An open house will be held at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) on Sunday February 13, 2005. It is open to students, parents and the public.

The CMAVTS will be offering a Career Camp. The camp gives students in grades 6, 7 and 8 an opportunity to spend time in various shop areas. They have unofficially started their budget process. Unfortunately, our enrollment numbers have been dropping over the past few years, but Southern's portion of their budget is based on a four-year average. The district portion should remain roughly the same. President Meyer asked if the district makes an effort to encourage students to take advantage of the Vo-Tech school. Dr. Lonoconus responded affirmatively. Students are given tours and encouraged to attend. Overall, there is a 4.5 percent increase over their current budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Kreisler and second by Bittner, the Treasurer's Reports were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Kreisler and second by Savitski, the minutes of November 8 and 11, 2004, December 6, 2004 (Reorganization meeting) and December 6, 2004 (regular meeting) were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$850,065.95 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$53,970.31 were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, adding the following individuals to the 2004-2005 Substitute List effective January 18, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was approved:

- Susan Lazarsky (clerical)
- Sheila Schmid (Elementary)
- Lee Oldt (Elementary/Special Education)
- Renee McMurtrie (Elementary/Special Education)
- Robert Reed (Secondary Mathematics)
- Margaret Demko (K-12)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, the following individuals were approved as after school tutors effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements), at the rates indicated, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:

- Bethany Light - effective January 12, 2005 (\$10/hour)
- Erin Stone - effective January 18, 2005 (\$20/hour)
- Dustin Henry - effective January 18, 2005 (\$10/hour)
- Blaire Balliet - effective January 18, 2005 (\$10/hour)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the American Drug and Alcohol Survey to be administered to students in grades 6, 8 and 10 was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, a 7th Grade class trip to Inner Harbor, Maryland, to visit the National Aquarium and other sites on May 20, 2005, was approved. District expense to include possible substitute costs. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Savitski, the addition of the "Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills" (DIBELS) assessments and the AIMSWeb Reading Probes to the list of Frequently Used Assessments was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, a license agreement with the CSIU (**Exhibit A**) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, Homebound instruction was approved for a high school student until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of 6 hours per week at a rate of \$20/hour. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, authorizing Douglas Jones to attend school in the district through the end of the second marking period with no tuition was approved. Prior to the vote, Dr. Lonoconus explained that the student's family owned a house in the district, but is in the process of moving to the Warrior Run school district. Their house sold sooner than anticipated, therefore they had to move into temporary housing until their new home is complete. The temporary housing is not in the Southern Columbia district. Solicitor Roberts noted that School Code allows tuition to be waived at the discretion of the Board. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Bell-Perry requested an executive session to discuss a confidential discipline issue following the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Richard Gotshall, asked for clarification on the \$600,000 grant that Dr. Lonoconus discussed at a prior meeting. Dr. Lonoconus explained that he is a member of the Executive Board of Partners in Distance Learning (PDL). A federal grant of \$1.5 million was received to start the PDL Consortium. For joining the Consortium districts received \$50,000 to purchase Distance Learning equipment. Matching funds were approximately \$15,000. Distance Learning allows the district to offer courses that couldn't otherwise be offered. Dr. Paul, Executive Director of PDL, asked if any members would like to house the grant. For hosting the grant, the district would receive between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to upgrade PDL equipment. New microphones are needed. A change from the current ISDN lines to an IP address to allow internet connection would also be considered. Dr. Paul will try to come in to meet with the Board in February. As the hosting district, Mr. Springer would be required to issue some disbursement checks, but the district would be reimbursed for his time. The district would serve as a fiscal agent. Mr. Gotshall asked how many members were in the consortium. Dr. Lonoconus responded that it consisted of 121 members. President Meyer noted that his daughter benefited greatly from taking a PDL course in Physiology while she attended Southern Columbia. Mr. Gotshall commented that he wasn't aware that the district had already been involved in PDL for eight years.

Mr. Porter asked for an explanation of the Licensing Agreement with CSIU. Dr. Lonoconus explained that Mrs. Shively would be teaching a Dreamweaver course through CSIU, but would be teaching it on campus. The agreement involved the use of district facilities. Dreamweaver is a web page development program.

Mr. Porter asked if it would be helpful for the Board to know the cost of refurbishing the current home side bleachers when making their decision on the total project. The Board agreed to pursue the matter.

Mr. Porter wanted to know who directs the 21st Century Grant. Dr. Lonoconus responded that Mr. Clippinger was the director of the old grant and Mrs. Lombardo is director of the current grant. Mr. Porter asked if grant funds could pay for homebound instruction. Dr. Lonoconus responded negatively and added that homebound instruction is a district responsibility.

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary