

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

The February 21, 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 (*Absent*)

Hugh Jones

Linda Kreischer

Karl Meyer

Ronald Savitski (*Absent*)

Richard Swank

Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Joseph Springer, Business Manager; 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.) Mr. Caputo reported that the grades in the failing range (0-69) seem to be decreasing. He needed to do some more research and check the trends in the higher grade ranges. He will provide a detailed report in the near future.

2.) Dr. Lonoconus noted that there is a consultant available to provide bid specifications for the Auditorium Lighting project, but the cost would be \$7,000. The Board needs to make a decision as whether to move ahead with the project. Mr. Springer noted that he was able to successfully use the bid specs from vendors for the sound and roof projects, but the lighting project was too structurally involved for the vendors to handle. R. A. Clapp Associates can provide bid specs and project monitoring. They would act as an engineer. The options are to have the Board go ahead and make a decision or to have the Facilities Committee discuss the matter and make a recommendation to the full Board. President Meyer asked that it be sent to the Facilities Committee. Mr. Yeager noted that some groups would like to make donations for the project, which could possibly be used for this purpose.

3.) In reference to a discussion during the Policy Committee meeting, Dr. Lonoconus asked if information should be distributed to all Board members when one member requests specific information. He noted that in the past, when one member requested information, all members received that information. Mrs. Kreischer asked if it would be costly. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it would depend on the request. Mr. Jones noted that it would be unfair to have staff provide voluminous information immediately upon request. Dr. Lonoconus noted that requested information is usually provided within five working days. Board members agreed that all Board members should be receiving the same information.

4.) Dr. Lonoconus requested an executive session following the meeting to consult with counsel regarding potential litigation involving a student.

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5.) Mrs. Lombardo reported that the Communities That Care (CTC) Board determined that there was a need for educational and developmental services for preschool children in the community. In collaboration with Columbia County, the Southern Columbia Family Center was established in Numidia. Mrs. Jayme Toczylousky and Ms. Amber Reese are instrumental in providing programs through the Family Center. Ms. Reese reported that one of the Family Center's main goals is to make parents aware of the programs and services available throughout the community. A Play Group is held at the Family Center twice weekly for preschool age children and Mrs. Jean Atherton (School Nurse) has provided CPR and First Aide courses for staff and families. They offer a Lending Library, which allows students to borrow books for use at home. Ms. Reese organizes regular monthly programs on various parent/child related topics and performs regularly scheduled home visits to families. The Family Center also provides evening and weekend activities through a Fatherhood Initiative. There are 25 families actively involved in the Parents As Teachers (PAT) program and 3 families enrolled in the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), which is sponsored by CSIU. National Statistics show that children involved in such activities are much more socially and educationally prepared for school. Southern Columbia has the most successful family center in the area based on participation. President Meyer congratulated Ms. Reese on the success of the program and questioned its mission. Ms. Reese responded that they target learning disabilities and try to get early intervention services to assist students at an early age. Mrs. Laurie Morris (parent) noted that she loves the program and her children look forward to Play Group each week. Mrs. Toczylousky thanked the Board for giving them the opportunity to offer services through the Family Center. As a new parent, she feels the program is very beneficial. It allows parents to take advantage of free activities for their children. Most of the children may not otherwise have the opportunity for such socialization with children of their same age group.

Mrs. Jennifer Hunsinger (parent) stated that she is a stay at home mother. She noted that there are a lot of preschool programs available in the area, but there is a cost. She said that she feels very fortunate to have the Family Center activities available at no charge.

Mr. Yeager noted that the success of the program is quite a compliment to Ms. Reese and a compliment to the community in that individuals feel comfortable enough to just stop by the Family Center. He also noted that the CTC grant makes the Family Center possible and questioned the duration of the grant. Mrs. Lombardo replied that the grant would end in June. There may or may not be funds available, but she is looking into other options. The grant provided enough equipment and supplies to maintain the Family Center. Funds will be needed for rent and the \$2,500 payment to the Columbia County Family Center for Ms. Reese's services. Mrs. Lombardo agreed to keep the Board updated.

6.) Dr. Lonoconus noted that a public meeting regarding Act 72 would be held on February 24th at the Danville Middle School. District residents are welcome to attend. Three Act 72 booklets from PSBA are also available for Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Linda Kreischer, Chairperson, reported that Mr. Sharrow, Mrs. Bell-Perry, Mr. Shifron and she attended the last meeting. They discussed concerns from parents of football cheerleaders. Each cheerleader is assigned to two or three football players and they are responsible for decorating their lockers and for other activities throughout the season. It has been reported that some cheerleaders are spending up to \$500 over the course of the season. The intent was not to burden the cheerleaders with such an expense, but it may have gotten out of hand. Mr. Yeager noted that his wife had the opportunity to speak with two of the parents and their concerns

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were not strictly financial, there are some other issues. Some of the players are not even aware of or acknowledging what the girls are doing for them. Mr. Sharrow will provide more information at the next meeting.

Mrs. Kreisler also reported that most coaches get paid for the post-season, but the Head Cheerleading Coach does not. She has requested compensation. She would be entitled to \$225 for the post-season games.

Bowling will move to Midway Lanes for the next season because it is less expensive. Dr. Lonoconus noted that they had a good experience with Crown Lanes, the reason for the move is strictly financial. Swimmer, Brianna Jones, qualified for district competition. The committee has not yet heard if the GoGirlGo! grant application to fund a Junior High Girls Soccer program was successful, but should be notified sometime in March. The track is in need of maintenance. There are very few cinders in some areas. There is talk of putting sod on the baseball infield, but not this year.

Curriculum - Mike Yeager, Committee member, reported that the committee discussed the PA Value Added System, which looks at students' yearly progress. It tracks every student every year based on the PSSA. He noted that it would be very time consuming to compile the information. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the State is looking at a database right now, but they are not sure how the information will be compiled at this point. Mr. Clippinger noted that schools that are piloting the program are given approximately \$6,000 for clerical support of the program.

Program Assessment was discussed. Assessments need to cover all components of a program and teachers need to instruct at the same level in which students are being assessed. Special Education Assessment was also discussed. Mr. Dunkelberger noted that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDIA) requires the district to have a comprehensive program that promotes social, emotional, behavioral, psychological and developmental progress. No Child Left Behind (NCLB) is only looking at test scores. In Special Education, there are times when academics need to be put on hold in order to deal with other problems. There are fundamental differences between the two Acts. He noted that there is an entire rainbow of colors, but only one color is being used for program evaluation under NCLB. President Meyer asked how the changes would affect special education enrollment. Mr. Dunkelberger noted that it would be hard to say. It could increase enrollment considerably. Mr. Yeager noted that a Special Education teacher that used to have a class would now be a co-teacher. Mr. Dunkelberger noted that the number of students being included for math would probably increase each year. In some cases, the students can do the math, but have difficulty reading the problem. The following items will continue to be addressed: increasing progress monitoring, making specific instructional changes, writing specific IEP goals and differentiated instruction. President Meyer questioned the regular education teachers' reception to the changes. Mr. Dunkelberger noted that the regular education teachers are extremely accommodating and work well with the special education staff.

Mr. Yeager also reported that the stipulation regarding the music course in the Course Selection Booklet was rewritten. Mr. Caputo noted that it now simply states that a student cannot drop the course after June 1st.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting and Mrs. Kreisler, Mr. Swank, Dr. Lonoconus and he were present. They reviewed a draft of a contract for security personnel. They are recommending that all employees now working be required to have clearances.

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The following policies were discussed:

- 105.2 Exemption From Instruction
- 116 Tutoring
- 117 Homebound Instruction
- 137 Home Education Programs
- 201 Admission of Students
- 202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students
- 203 Communicable Diseases and Immunization
- 204 Attendance
- 217 Graduation Requirements
- 803 School Calendar
- 804 School Day
- 203.1 HIV Infection
- 200 Enrollment in the District (New Policy)
- 210.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers (New Policy)

Weather or not information requested by one Board member should be disseminated to all Board members was also discussed. Mr. Yeager asked if the policy change recommendations were from PSBA. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it is a combination of PSBA's recommendations and things that the administrators have dealt with recently. He noted that it was good timing for the revisions.

CSIU - Linda Kreischer noted that January was School Directors Appreciation Month and at the last meeting, she was presented with a dry-erase board, which was made by one of the students at the Work Activity Center.

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank reported that the main topics discussed were the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project Performance Contract with PPL and the budget, which are on the agenda as action items. Mr. Swank gave a slide presentation regarding the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project. He noted that CMAVTS looked at three different companies and decided to move ahead with PPL. The project will entail upgrades of lighting, toilets, ceiling tiles, air conditioning and improved indoor air quality. The premise is that the energy savings will be used to fund the project. Mr. Yeager questioned the results of a similar project that was done at Southern Columbia several years ago. Mr. Springer replied that lighting was upgraded, the HVAC system was upgraded from a fixed drive to a variable speed drive and the chillers in the elementary were replaced. The project cost \$750,000 and paid itself off one and one-half years early. Dr. Lonoconus noted that he would look into the possibility of a similar project for the installation of a chiller for the middle school wing.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, the minutes of January 10 and 17, 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$338,835.32 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$6,225.00 were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Kreisler and second by Yeager, Brewer, Gehrig & Johnson, LLC was appointed to audit the financial records for the local tax collectors for the year ended December 31, 2004, as required by the Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law, at a cost of \$1,875. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the resolution regarding collection of delinquent personal taxes (**Exhibit B**) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, the Administrative Director of Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School was authorized to negotiate the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project Performance Contract with PPL Energy Services. The amount of the award for the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project shall not exceed \$335,647. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the 2005-2006 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,153,382 was approved. Southern Columbia Area School District's cost is \$447,510. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Jones and second by Kreisler, the resignation of Terri L. Hertzog was accepted from the position of 3-Hour Elementary Cafeteria Worker effective February 25, 2005. Ms. Hertzog has been in this position since August 15, 1994. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Kreisler, Thomas Donlan, Jr. (Guidance Counselor) was approved as a Volunteer Track and Field Coach for the 2004-2005 school year. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreisler and second by Swank, adding Tiffany Reidinger (Elementary/Special Education) to the 2004-2005 Substitute List effective February 22, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements), was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, a Secondary Art Field trip to New York City on May 5, 2005, to visit the Museum of Modern Art and other attractions was approved. District expense to include substitute costs. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager asked if the district could look at the possibility of not offering a Driver's Education program. Dr. Lonoconus replied that he is actually looking at adding a retired Driver's Education teacher who would be willing to help with the over-the-road training. The district would not be paying him. He would accept the student fee. Mr. Yeager noted that

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students in other districts pay for the cost of the course. He was just looking at a way to save money for academics. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the option would be taken into consideration in the budget process.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Lonoconus expressed his appreciation to the Board for their focus on academics. He thanked them for allowing extended time for some excellent discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Jones, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary