

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

The March 21, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:32 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 (*Absent*)

Linda Kreischer
Karl Meyer
Ronald Savitski

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, James Becker, Paul Caputo, James Dunkelberger and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Linda Kreischer, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Monday. Dr. Lonoconus, Alex Krankoski, Amanda Bell-Perry, Simon Shifrin and Mrs. Kreischer were in attendance. There is no word yet on the GoGirlGo! Grant. She deferred to Mr. Caputo to report on the cheerleading issue. He noted that he and Mr. Sharrow have been meeting with cheerleaders. They will compile facts and report at the next meeting. Mr. Caputo agreed to provide a written report. He also noted that the parents should have followed the chain of command. Mrs. Roth was not aware of the complaint until she read it in the newspaper. He emphasized that parents need to follow the proper channels. Dr. Lonoconus asked the Board members to inform parents to contact the person immediately in charge of a program first.

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked why the cheerleaders were asked to sign their names to their statements. Mr. Caputo noted that it adds legitimacy to the statements. The signatures will not be disclosed. The report will be anonymous.

Curriculum - Elsie Bittner, Chairperson, reported that Integrated Math has been implemented in grades 5 and 6. Seventh grade will be included next year. The third edition of Saxon Math will be used for 5th grade next year. Mr. Clippinger and the Curriculum Committee strongly favor hiring a 9th Grade English Teacher and a part-time Elementary Guidance Counselor.

Mr. Dunkelberger reported that they discussed some of the strategies in effect to improve PSSA test scores for Special Education students. Last year there were approximately 23 special education students in general curriculum Math. Currently, there are 27 and there will be 44 next year. They are moving toward a co-teaching model and adding an extra section of applied pre-

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2005

Page 2

algebra. Math Support programs will be implemented to assist the students in the general curriculum Math classes. There would still be some Special Education Math classes for lower functioning students.

Policy - There was no report given due to the absence of Mr. Jones, however President Meyer asked that a copy of the mission statement be available for Board members during meetings.

CSIU - Linda Kreischer noted that she had nothing to report that was not included on the Board Briefs.

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank noted that he was quite proud of the students who spoke at the last meeting regarding the Auto Mechanics program. Several local businessmen were also present and voiced their opinions. A lot more information will be presented at the next meeting to determine the exact cost of keeping the program running.

Dr. Lonoconus requested a brief executive session following the meeting to consult with counsel regarding potential litigation and terms of employment. He also asked Mrs. Lombardo to report on the recent craft show. She reported that the first and hopefully annual Southern Columbia Community Craft Show was held on March 19th. There were 61 vender spaces. Approximately \$2,000 was raised to continue the prevention programs now in force. The generosity of local businesses was very impressive. President Meyer congratulated her on the success of the event.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, 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 Swank, the minutes of February 14 (as amended) and 21, 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$337,417.37 were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, budgetary transfers in the 2004-05 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Savitski, awarding the bid for High School Gym Re-Roofing to Budget Renovations & Roofing, Inc., Shamokin, at a cost of \$32,696.00 pending receipt of approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education was approved. (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit B**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, awarding the base bid for High School Auditorium Sound to Guyette Communications, Inc., Plymouth, at a cost of \$75,570 and to accept Alternate 3 at a cost reduction of \$8,895 and Alternate 4 at a cost reduction of \$2,263 pending receipt of approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education was approved. The net cost of the project is \$64,412 (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit C**). By roll call vote: 6-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2005

Page 3

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, rejecting all bids for the High School Gym HVAC Replacement (Bid Tabulation per Exhibit D) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bittner, a pouring rights agreement with Coca-Cola for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2012 (**Exhibit E**) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, the 2005-2006 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,149,759 was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Yeager, adding the following individuals to the 2004-2005 Instructional Substitute List effective March 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements) was approved:

- Joshua Bankus (Mathematics)
- Lori Doney (Communications)
- Katie Gresh (Elementary)
- Jerry Waltman (Biology)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the following individuals were approved as After School Tutors effective March 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant was approved:

- Linda Jones - \$20 per hour
- Scott Engle - \$10 per hour
- Jason Fosselman - \$10 per hour
- Carly Graber - \$10 per hour
- Lara Williams - \$10 per hour

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the resignation for retirement of Clarence J. Nixon was accepted from the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Mr. Nixon has been with the district since August 1986. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the resignation for retirement of Gloria Dailey was accepted from the position of Kindergarten Teacher effective at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Mrs. Dailey has been with the district since August 1971. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Amy Bender beginning on or about April 26, 2005, and continuing through the remainder of the school year was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2005

Page 4

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, a Memorandum of Understanding between Southern Columbia Area School District and AFSCME Local 1864 (Exhibit F) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Kreisler and second by Bittner, the 2005-2006 School Year Calendar (Exhibit G) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, a Senior Class Trip to Washington, D.C. on March 28, 2005 to visit the Holocaust Museum and other sites was approved. Teachers and parents will chaperone. District expense will include transportation. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the 2005 Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program for grades K-12 was approved. The program will run June 20th through July 28th, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (with the exception of July 4th). Transportation will be provided and all costs will be covered by proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant with the exception of a possible distance learning class. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bittner, the Summer Arts Program 2005 through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit was approved. Southern Columbia's cost is \$1,500. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by x and second by x, an 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington, D.C. on April 29, 2005 to visit the Air and Space Museum was approved. Teachers and parents will chaperone. District expense will include possible substitute costs. Prior to the vote, Mr. Yeager asked if the class pays for the trip. Mr. Becker replied that S.M.A.R.T. pays for all Middle School trips. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager asked how swimmer Brianna Jones did in district competition. Mr. Sharrow replied that she placed 5th and 7th in two of her competitions.

As a reminder to the public, President Meyer announced that an Act 72 information meeting would be held on March 29th.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Gotshall asked how many students the district sends to Vo-Tech and Dr. Lonoconus' reply was 36. He questioned the status of the \$600,000 grant. Dr. Lonoconus reported that Dr. Paul would be available in April to answer questions regarding the PDL grant. Mr. Gotshall asked if he would be able to account for all of the \$600,000. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it would have to be accounted for and would be audited.

District resident, Mr. Alex Krankoski, asked if things could be done now to get a junior high girls soccer program underway, since time is of the essence, and the administration would not know about the GoGirlGo! Grant until the end of the month. Solicitor Roberts explained that the Board would first have to take action to implement the program and also to accept the grant if necessary. Mr. Krankoski said that he e-mailed an attorney on November 10th regarding the

Board Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2005

Page 5

district not complying with Title IX. He said he doesn't want to pursue the issue, but will have to if the district doesn't comply. Mrs. Kreischer asked that Board members be notified immediately regarding the outcome of the grant. The Board must act as soon as possible if the grant is approved.

District resident, Mr. Dave Litwhiler, noted that his daughter Alyse, a cheerleader, came home very upset because she was called into the office and asked questions regarding cheerleading and was required to sign her name to her statement. He felt it was unnecessary. He never heard his daughter complain about decorating lockers. President Meyer noted that he was not sure how many parents actually complained about the issue, but further information would be provided.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary