

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

The April 18, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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

Richard Swank (*Absent*)

Michael Yeager

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Joseph Springer, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Pat Shultz, James Becker, Paul Caputo and James Dunkelberger, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Mrs. Victoria Kozlek (Middle School Technology Teacher) introduced her students who were first place winners at the CSIU Computer Fair competition. The following students presented their projects:

- Courtney Heitzman displayed her t-shirt logo, which she and Kayla McCloskey designed using Adobe PhotoShop.
- Sam Springer, Colin Klebon, Tyler Scicchitano, Davis Blass and Paul Gregorowicz developed an Anti-bullying computer game. They created links and recorded video clips and incorporated them into the game. Sam Springer presented the game.
- Jennifer Simchock presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Centralia mine fire, which she and Megan Rose developed.

Mrs. Kozlek noted that the students would be traveling to Harrisburg to participate in the state competition.

2.) Dr. Lonoconus aired a portion of Governor Rendell's teleconference regarding Act 72. The presentation ran from 7:55 to 8:13 p.m. He noted that the CSIU would be presenting information on Act 72 on the evening of April 27<sup>th</sup> and Board members are invited to attend.

3.) He noted that there are several pieces of legislation that the House Education Committee has approved, but would still need final approval. The Pennsylvania School Boards Association filed a petition to extend the deadline for opting into Act 72 until the courts can properly review the case. House Bill 100 would increase reimbursement for school lunches from 10 cents to 12 cents and school breakfasts from 10 cents to 11 cents. House Bill 185 would establish rules for competitive food, beverage or advertising contracts. Public hearings would be required to designate a vendor. House Bill 189 would require schools to develop a physical

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education curriculum that includes various specific goals and objectives. House Bill 327 would provide reimbursement to school districts for the two first class mailings required under Act 72 legislation.

3.) Music student, Jesse Maurer, is one of 15 students chosen statewide to participate in the PMEA State Jazz Choir.

4.) FBLA students who placed in the top ten at the state competition were Janelle Richard, Kelly Kerris, and Laura Steffen - 8<sup>th</sup> in Website; Zack Allen, Matt Koziol and Lexie Varias - 6<sup>th</sup> in Multi-media; and Alex Burant and Ryan Servose - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Desktop Publishing.

5.) A benefit basketball game will be held Thursday evening in the high school gymnasium. Proceeds will benefit 10-year old Alex Portelli who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

6.) A fund has been set up by the senior class to benefit the Berkheiser family. Dr. Lonoconus gave the reporters information regarding how to donate to the fund.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Linda Kreisler, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Monday. Dr. Lonoconus, Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Bell-Perry, Mr. Caputo, Mr. Shifrin (Press Enterprise reporter) and Mrs. Kreisler were present. There were not enough 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to field a soccer team for this year. There will be AYSO teams available, and the district will have a program next year if there is enough interest. The cheerleader locker decoration issue was discussed. After reviewing Mr. Caputo's report, Mr. Yeager noted three items: 1) "tradition" - meaning that this practice has been happening for a period of time, 2) it is happening for football, but nowhere else and 3) "bigger than life" might be sending the wrong message to students. He noted that he isn't sure if the issue would have gotten this far if it had been taken through the proper channels. He noted that it sets the students up for stereotyping. Maybe, they should not be buying gifts at all. President Meyer noted that the administration has to make a decision. The Board will look at their recommendation and come up with some conclusions. Dr. Lonoconus noted that Cheerleading Coach, Kenda Roth, would explain to parents exactly what is and is not expected of the girls at the beginning of the season. Mr. Yeager commented that he is not trying to say that athletics are not important, but he doesn't want to send the wrong message to students. Mr. Jones agreed and noted that it is important that the administration be aware of the Board's feeling on this issue.

Mrs. Kreisler noted that the Weight Room Supervisor is now being paid through grant funds, which will no longer be available after June 30, 2005. The coaches want to keep the weight room available to students and the public. Coach Jim Roth covers the summer season, but supervisors would be needed for fall, winter and spring. A pay to participate fee was discussed. The following was used as an example. If football had a \$50 fee because of the equipment needed and all other activities had a \$25 fee for the 2004-2005 school year, approximately \$17,000 could have been raised to fund the weight room program and other items not in the budget. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the Williamsport area was one of the first schools in the area to implement a participation fee and their fee is higher than \$25. Mr. Yeager asked how much the weight room program is costing the district. Dr. Lonoconus noted that during the summer, the cost is \$7.70 per hour and during the school year it is \$20 per hour because it is part of the After School Program and is paid through the grant. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the participation fee was just discussed as an idea. It was not meant to come to the Board for any type of action at this time. Mrs. Kreisler noted that the committee wants to know if it would be something the Board

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would consider. Board members responded affirmatively. Mr. Yeager noted that the Milton Area School District has a \$25 fee that pays for all sports.

Mrs. Kreischer noted that one of the Activities Committee members was contacted regarding funding an equestrian team for high school age students. The committee would need to know exactly what it would entail.

Curriculum - Mike Yeager reported that the committee discussed a proposal of how to develop the physical activity component of the new NASPE wellness policies on Physical Activity. Mr. Caputo noted that there is a group of students that meets with Mrs. Holleran to provide input regarding the food services.

Mr. Yeager asked if it would be possible to change the required credits to 25.5 for next year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for the fall. Mr. Caputo and Mr. Becker agreed that it would probably not affect 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedules for the coming year. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the extra math course should not have an impact, but the additional science course would have an impact. He recommended that a motion be formulated with the Curriculum Committee and brought to the Board. Board members concurred.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee did not meet since the last report.

CSIU - Linda Kreischer reported that the CSIU provided her with a copy of the DVD containing Governor Rendell's teleconference and offered it to other Board members. She noted that the question and answer session was very thought provoking. Dr. Lonoconus noted that there are actually two copies available if anyone is interested in watching the entire program.

Vo-Tech - Dr. Lonoconus noted that Mr. Swank would be out of the area for the next two weeks and asked if someone would sit in for him at the Joint Operating Committee meeting. President Meyer agreed to do so. He also noted that Mrs. Bittner resigned from the Joint Operating Committee and another member would need to be appointed to fill her term. Mrs. Bell-Perry expressed an interest.

### TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, 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 March 14 and 21 (as amended), 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$390,419.10 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$835.55 were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, 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 Savitski and second by Jones, the Revised 2005-2006 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,079,380 was

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approved; Southern Columbia Area School District's cost is \$440,509. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, changing William Reigle from Regular Run Driver (Run #5) to Part-time Afternoon Van Driver (Run #358) effective April 19, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, changing Linda Schoch from Instructional Aide to High School Secretary effective May 16, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was approved. Her salary and benefits are as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, adding Shona P. Fahringer (English 7-12) to the 2004-2005 Instructional Substitute List effective April 19, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, the resignation of Elsie Bittner from the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee was accepted effective April 18, 2005. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Jones, Amanda Bell-Perry was appointed as a Representative on the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee to fill the term of Elsie Bittner, which expires November 30, 2005. By roll call vote: 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Bell-Perry abstained), the motion carried.

### ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, an Olweus survey concerning bullying issues, which will be administered to all middle school students, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Kreischer thanked Mrs. Bell-Perry for offering to serve on the CMAVTS Joint Operating Committee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked if there was a written job description of the Superintendent of Schools and asked what he would have to do to obtain a copy. Dr. Lonoconus responded affirmatively and instructed him to submit a written request to the Board Secretary and a copy would be provided.

District resident, Mr. Charles Porter, asked for the status of the budget process. President Meyer replied that a tentative budget will be submitted for approval in May and the Board would vote on the final budget in June. Mr. Porter asked if there were any predictions. President Meyer responded that it was looking good. Mr. Porter asked if it would be possible to have a budget in the black. President Meyer replied that it may not be in the black on paper, but he is

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predicting that when all is said and done, it will be in actuality. Dr. Lonoconus added that some things still have to fall into place.

Mr. Porter noted that it is his understanding that the fund balance doesn't necessarily have to be reduced. He asked when the Board would be voting on Act 72. President Meyer noted that it would probably be the second meeting in May. They are waiting to see what might surface with the pending litigation. Mr. Gotshall asked if there would be another presentation if there were drastic changes. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it would depend on the changes and the time involved. Solicitor Roberts noted that the only thing that might change is the May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the Board might want to wait and have a special meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup> depending on what is happening.

Mr. Porter asked about the athletic budget and the 10 percent cut, noting that it shouldn't have an impact because there is usually money left over. Dr. Lonoconus explained that there is a contingency fund built into the athletic budget to allow for playoffs. If a particular team does not go into playoffs, there is a budget surplus at the end of the year.

Mr. Porter brought up a question about the Project Director for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. He noted that it was a position created by the grant and the first Director was Dr. Wilcox, then Mr. Clippinger and now Mrs. Lombardo. He noted that she is receiving \$41,000 and it is not a salaried position. He asked if her position was Board approved and for clarification on the position under the new grant, which starts in July. Dr. Lonoconus said that he would research the matter and provide information.

District resident, Florey Guarno, asked if the Project Director's salary was being paid by the grant and is now being paid by the district. President Meyer replied that the salary is still paid by the grant. Mr. Porter noted that if the Project Director's salary had been left where it was, the money would be available for the weight program.

Mr. Porter asked if the Board had ever seen a building utilization plan. He noted that when he was on the Board, they received one every year and they cross-referenced a personnel utilization plan. President Meyer responded that he did not recall seeing one. Mr. Gotshall noted that the utilization plans are very important in running the schools.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary