

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

The May 16, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:34 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  
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**

District resident, Richard Gotshall, commented that he was elated to hear that the Board was considering hiring an English teacher and asked how soon it would happen. President Meyer replied that they would like to have a teacher in place for the upcoming year if all goes well.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

- 1.) He requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel and negotiations matters.
- 2.) The Jazz Band and Encore Choir will perform on Thursday night at 7pm in the high school auditorium. He noted that it should be a good performance. Mr. Yeager added that the group has written their own show.
- 3.) The Relay for Life raised \$102,000 and 20 student teams participated.

Mr. Yeager asked the progress of students under the new grading system. Mr. Caputo noted that the last report indicated progress. They are in the process of reviewing senior records to ensure they will pass. A few students may need some summer work.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Activities - Linda Kreischer, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Monday. Mr. Caputo, Mr. Sharrow, Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Bell-Perry, Mrs. Roth, Ms. Alyse Litwhiler, Mr. Shifrin and Mrs. Kreischer were in attendance. The main topic of discussion was cheerleader locker decorations. The Board instructed the Superintendent to have the coach instruct the cheerleaders and their parents that there should be no unreasonable out-of-pocket expenses, which she did. They were also instructed to follow the proper channels outlined in the student handbook if they have any problems. The cheerleading program may need to purchase uniforms. The Carissa Berkheiser fundraiser collected \$3,000.

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Curriculum - Committee member Mike Yeager reported that the committee is requesting that the Policy Committee change the number of credits required for graduation from 23.5 to 25.5 and add a 4<sup>th</sup> year of math and science for this coming year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Based on Mr. Caputo and Dr. Lonoconus' research, a new teacher would not need to be hired. There are some concerns. There may not be room in the schedule for a student to retake a course if necessary and students may not be able to take some electives. The committee would like to have the first reading in June and the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in July. The topic of certification was also discussed, particularly the importance of having the Chemistry, Biology, Physical and Environmental Science certified teachers teaching the appropriate courses. A K-12 Curriculum Coordinating Council meeting is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the District Office. They will be discussing the "converted" Math for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Board members are invited to attend. The district is required to develop a Professional Education Plan every three years. Volunteers from the Board are needed to serve on the planning committee. There will be three or four meetings held from now until September. President Meyer expressed an interest and Mrs. Kreischer noted that she is available Tuesdays and Fridays.

Mr. Yeager reported that they would be considering hiring an English Teacher. They will be looking at the budget and also looking at the district's needs. Two-thirds of the PSSA is based on writing and reading. One English teacher is the designated ESL teacher. If more ESL students come into the district, there could be a problem. They are looking at quality versus quantity. They will continue to look at their options while awaiting approval of the state budget. Dr. Lonoconus noted that hopefully, it would be passed within the first two weeks of July. Mr. Yeager emphasized the importance of quality contact time on writing and reading. Dr. Lonoconus noted that if the Board feels that strongly, the administrators need to know, because modifications would be necessary before the final budget is approved. President Meyer recommended that the options be discussed at the upcoming Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Kreischer asked if the district truly needs an English Teacher. Mr. Caputo replied that an additional teacher is needed to maintain the quality of the program. Dr. Lonoconus wanted to make sure the Board was aware that the numbers might change. Mr. Springer noted that the tentative budget must be approved now in order to be able to have it on display for the public for 30 days and vote on the final by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Swank, Mrs. Kreisher, Dr. Lonoconus and Mr. Jones were in attendance. Policy 303 Employment of Administrators will be revised to correct the identification of the administrative team. The Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Middle School Principal and Grants Coordinator will be included. He also noted that the committee would be happy to look into changing the credits required for graduation.

CSIU - Linda Kreischer noted that there would be a meeting on Wednesday night.

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank was not present at the last meeting, but Amanda Bell-Perry reported that the budget passed. She also noted that this was her first meeting and she has a lot to learn.

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

On a motion by Kreischer 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 Jones and second by Savitski, the minutes of April 7 (Special Meeting), 14 and 18, 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$1,080,770.85 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$204.06 were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones 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 Yeager and second by Savitski, Clark, Schaeffer, Jones & Eichner, LLP were approved to audit the financial records of the 2004-05 fiscal year for a fee of \$9,990 or \$12,730 if a Single Audit is required. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, the bid for two (2) 72-passenger school buses was awarded to M.A. Brightbill, Lebanon, at a cost of \$119,558.00. (**Bid tabulation per Exhibit B.**) The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Kreischer, a resolution pertaining to Act 72 (Exhibit C) was approved. By roll call vote, 6-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, the Southern Columbia Area School District Tentative Budget for the 2005-06 fiscal year in the amount of \$13,910,276.00 (**Exhibit D**) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, the following Breakfast and Lunch prices were approved effective with the beginning of the 2005-06 school year:

- Breakfast: \$.75
- Elementary Lunch (K-6): \$1.50
- High School Lunch (7-12): \$1.75
- Adult Lunch: \$2.75

By roll call vote, 6-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, changing William Reigle from Regular Run Driver (Run #5) to Part-time Afternoon Van Driver (Run #358) effective April 18, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, changing Deborah Lauer from Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Regular Run Driver (Run #5) effective May 10, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, Richard B. Swank from Region III was approved as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006; with the salary to be waived pursuant to his waiver. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, to re-appoint Richard J. Roberts, Jr. as School Solicitor for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, with a retainer of \$3,200 plus \$80.00

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per hour for additional work, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Kreischer, Tresa J. Britch was approved as Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010, at an annual salary of \$1,900. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Kreischer, Kristin Ciongoli was approved as an After School Tutor effective May 10, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a rate of \$10 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the following individuals were approved as Substitute Bus/Van Drivers effective May 10, 2005:

- Joseph J. Springer
- James A. Becker
- Heidi B. Yeager

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bell-Perry, changing Linda Mayernick from Cafeteria/Study Hall/ Detention and Suspension Monitor to Full-time Instructional Aide effective May 16, 2005, 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 Jones and second by Savitski, the revisions to the Supervisory Staff Handbook and Support Staff Handbook (Non-Union) (**Exhibits E and F**) were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, tenure was acknowledged for the following personnel effective with the end of the 2004-05 school year:

- Tricia Hoffman
- Kelly Konyar
- Dani Schwalm

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, Brent Kelchner was approved as TV Production Advisor for the 2004-05 school year at a salary of \$1,248. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the resignation of Ian Brandau was accepted from the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian effective June 3, 2005. Mr. Brandau has been with the district since January 31, 2000. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the resignation of Danielle Carpenter was accepted from the position of Full-time Instructional Aide effective May 11, 2005. Ms. Carpenter has been with the district since November 20, 2001. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Swank and second by Savitski, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Victoria Kozlek for the first semester of the 2005-06 school year was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Kreischer, participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program for the 2005-06 school year was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, sending a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of employment for the 2005-06 school year to those non-instructional employees and substitute teachers employed less than 12 months, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the Pennsylvania Youth Survey concerning adolescents' attitudes and behaviors, which will be administered to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the first reading of revised Policy 101 Philosophy of Education (Exhibit G) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, the first reading of revised Policy 001 Name and Classification (Exhibit H) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, an Act 80 day for June 6, 2005, for grades Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager commended the students for having held three successful fundraisers in the past few weeks. President Meyer applauded the community as well for their ongoing support.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident Florey Guarno noted that the English Teacher position has been vacant for the past year and questioned the quality of the program. Mr. Caputo noted that the class sizes are increased and the teachers are more spread out. Mr. Guarno noted that it was his understanding that when the English teacher was not replaced, Mr. Caputo stated that the quality of education would be maintained. Mr. Caputo replied that he believes what he said was that they would manage with the existing staff. He added that the true impact would not be known until the summer months. He noted that it is still a solid program. Mr. Yeager noted that you can ask people to do more and maintain quality for a limited time. Mr. Caputo noted that they did lose a Speech class. President Meyer remarked that the Board is committed to increasing the academic excellence of the district's programs. Mr. Swank noted that it might take a few more years to see the actual impact of the vacant position. He would like to see the position reinstated. Mr. Guarno noted that for the past year, the position wasn't needed and all of a sudden it is needed. The Board

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members agreed that no one ever said the position wasn't needed. Mr. Jones noted that several Board members discussed reinstating the position. District resident Thelma Helwig asked why they didn't move on it. President Meyer replied that it was due to budget restraints. He added that the residents have not seen a tax increase in some time. The Board has been responsible in handling the budget. Mr. Gotshall asked who would make the final decision on hiring an English Teacher. President Meyer replied that it would be the Board's decision.

District resident Victor Shultz asked why the Board enacted Act 72 since it is like Act 50 but with more spending. President Meyer noted that his reason for voting for Act 72 was because he felt it would spread the responsibility of providing a quality education throughout the community. He added that Act 50 puts the entire burden on the students if something should happen. Mrs. Helwig asked for clarification on the previous statement. He explained that if health care costs increased significantly, the Board would not be able to raise taxes and would have no other recourse than to cut programs, which would directly affect the students.

Mr. Gotshall asked if Dr. Dan Paul would be making a presentation on the possible Distance Learning grant. Dr. Lonoconus replied that Dr. Paul is not sure if they will receive the grant, so he will not be presenting any information at this time. Mr. Gotshall asked how the equipment was holding up. Dr. Lonoconus replied that they were getting along with the existing equipment. Mr. Gotshall asked how the district could increase its chances of getting grant funds. Dr. Lonoconus responded, "By hosting the grant." Mr. Gotshall questioned the hold-up. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it is probably because of Washington and their review process.

Mr. Shultz noted that it is disheartening that the district would opt into Act 72 with what's going on in Millville. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the tax relief could be as much as 50 percent of a resident's tax bill based on the schools that opt in, but there is no way of knowing that at this time. That put the Board in a bad position. Mrs. Kreischer noted that the main reason she voted for Act 72 was tax relief. She noted that since she came on the Board, most people have wanted some form of tax relief or reform. President Meyer noted that the Board has no plans to raise taxes. Mr. Shultz asked how much more revenue was received under Act 50. Mr. Springer noted that the year Act 50 was enacted, the SAWW increase was 5 percent. That figure has been decreasing over the years, but would be increasing next year. Act 50 eliminated the occupation tax. The next year it was made up with the higher Earned Income Tax. In 2006-07, EIT receipts likely will not cover the SAWW increase allowed and would permit an adjustment to the real estate rates if the Board wanted to take full advantage of the SAWW increase.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary