

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

The June 13, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:40 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 (*Arrived 7:42 p.m.*)

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 and James Dunkelberger, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda and Fiscal Item J would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Ms. Dana Lucas, Relay for Life Chairperson, reported that the Relay held in May raised \$102,004.32. She thanked the Board and administrators for allowing the use of the facilities for the event. She noted that it was amazing to see the youth involvement.

2.) He reported that Mr. Randy Young (Science Teacher) and his daughter Allison would both be attending the Governor's School this summer. The program is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Governor's office. President Meyer noted that he hopes the district promotes the Governor's School aggressively.

3.) Southern Columbia is hosting the annual instrumental clinic by the Cadets. Our students benefit greatly by attending the clinic.

4.) He referred to the dental hygiene report that was distributed prior to the meeting. He wanted to make the Board aware of Mrs. Ruckle's services.

5.) He thanked the Board members who attended the graduation ceremony and thanked the administrators for another great year. Our students earned over \$1 million in scholarships and grants. He also thanked the sponsors who continually support the awards.

6.) He reported that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss Collective Bargaining matters.

7.) The July 18th Board meeting will be rescheduled to July 11th and a date for the Board Retreat will be discussed.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the "Regardless Projects." He noted that the stadium bleacher project is going well. The individuals are great to work with. Possibly the company doing the work will donate two 25-second clocks for the end zones. Mr. Campbell is getting ready to build the sound booth for the auditorium. Dr. Lonoconus noted that BMI Supply should have the bid specs for the auditorium lighting complete in two or three weeks. Mr. Yeager reported that restrooms and storage for the stadium were items added to the "Regardless Projects" list. The committee received a letter from Baseball Coach Randy Young expressing his concerns about the baseball field. It is uneven where the infield goes into the outfield. An umpire noted that the field is one of the lower end fields in the league. Mr. Campbell will be looking into the matter. The first 100 lockers will be replaced and the gymnasium roofing in the high school will begin June 15th.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the extension of the PENCON agreement, which is on the agenda. It saves the district about \$12,000 per year. The fuel bids came in lower than expected, which saved approximately \$17,000. The addition of a half-time English teacher is now possible. They are still awaiting the state budget. The budget gap goal was met with about \$3,500 to spare. Mr. Yeager noted that the half-time English Teacher will be teaching all of the 9th grade classes, allowing more room in the other teachers' schedules. A SAWW rate of 3.8 percent is predicted for 2006-07.

Negotiations & Personnel - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that there is a motion on the agenda to extend the AFSCME contract.

Activities - Linda Kreischer, Chairperson, reported that she will give a full report next week as scheduled, but she would like the full Board to discuss how the money would be spent if they implement a pay to participate policy. Once it is known how the money would be spent, the committee will know how to assess. She noted that the money should not be used to increase spending, but to offset costs; otherwise it would be defeating the purpose. President Meyer noted that he does not see it as a way to decrease debts. Dr. Lonoconus noted that it could be used to offset some unexpected costs. Mrs. Kreischer suggested that it could be earmarked on a year-to-year basis. Dr. Lonoconus asked if the Board wants to continue in this direction because there is more work to do. President Meyer asked that it be put on the agenda for July 11th and the Board will make a decision as to whether or not to pursue the issue.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

President Meyer asked if the FBLA trip stayed within the budget. Dr. Lonoconus responded affirmatively. President Meyer questioned the payments to PPL and Strategic Energy. Mr. Springer replied that since deregulation, the district no longer has to purchase electricity from PPL. The payment to PPL is the infrastructure and the energy itself is purchased from Strategic Energy. President Meyer also questioned the check to Cross Resources. Mr. Springer explained that it was a replacement check because Cross Resources could not locate the original check.

Mrs. Bell-Perry questioned check #11221 to Seven Springs. Mr. Springer replied that he had the invoices available and would pull them after the meeting.

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Springer noted that a half-time English teacher has been added to the budget and a small amount for a Weight Room Supervisor. He noted that there were some reductions as well.

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This is the third consecutive year that real estate taxes have decreased in Northumberland County. He noted that the district is on good financial footing. President Meyer commended Mr. Springer his work on the budget.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, the salary of Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent, was approved at \$85,000 for the 2004-05 fiscal year. By roll call vote, 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, adding Donna Miller (Aide) to the 2004-05 Non-instructional Substitute List effective May 23, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, a correction to the following Coaches salaries for the 2004-05 school year was approved:

- Kevin Jones (Head Track & Field) - 21.75 points - \$3,912.
- James Roth (Assistant Track & Field) - 11.00 points - \$1,629.
- Marc Osevala (Assistant Track & Field) - 10.75 points - \$1,592.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Bittner, the resignation of Marcella Walter was accepted from the position of 3rd Shift Custodian effective June 3, 2005. Ms. Walter has been with the district since October 25, 2004. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the resignation of Heather Hanlon was accepted from the position of Social Studies Teacher effective June 8, 2005. Ms. Hanlon has been with the district since August 23, 2005. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, Dr. Francis Bobek and Dr. James Joseph (Elysburg) were approved as school physicians for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit E**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, Dr. David J. Leshock (Bloomsburg) was approved as consultant to the Dental Hygiene program for the 2005-06 school year to include a \$50 consultant fee. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, employment of personnel (**per Exhibit F**) for the Southern Columbia Area Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program, June 27 through July 29, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements) was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, tenure for Angela Gockley was acknowledged effective with the end of the 2004-05 school year. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, Sandra Rarig was approved as Foreign Language Support Teacher for the 2004-05 school year at a salary of \$500. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, Sandra Lutz was approved as Guidance Support Teacher for the 2004-05 school year at a salary of \$500. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, employment of Susan Thomas for the position of 2nd Shift Custodian effective June 20, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per Collective Bargaining Agreement, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Jennifer Snyder was approved beginning on or about September 15, 2005, and continuing through the end of the 2nd marking period. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Kreischer, the Memorandum of Agreement with the AFSCME Local 1864 (per Exhibit G-1) was approved. By roll call vote, 7-Yes, 1-No (Savitski voted No), the motion carried.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager asked about the impact of the new grading system. Mr. Caputo noted that there were more failing grades, approximately 20 additional students. Mr. Becker also reported more failing grades. Mr. Caputo added that the main problem was with the Freshman class. Mr. Yeager noted that it is a tough transition from 8th to 9th grade and asked how it could be made smoother. Mr. Becker responded that it is a gradual transition through the Middle School. The failures are due to the raising of the bar. The 9th grade is the first year where grades actually count toward students' transcripts. Mr. Caputo noted that some of the problem is simply because students did not complete projects, but they have learned their lessons.

Mr. Yeager commended the Student Council for donating money to the Auditorium improvement projects. He asked if students could report on the New York and Washington, D.C. trips. Dr. Lonoconus agreed to arrange the reports.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mrs. Jackie Slotterback, wanted to know who is in charge of hiring teachers and how they are evaluated. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the Administration is responsible. She noted that she had concerns regarding a 7th grade teacher, as do other parents. President Meyer asked that the concerns be submitted to Mr. Becker in writing. Mr. Becker noted that he would need to know the specific concerns from parents before he could address them. Mrs. Slotterback asked if teachers were evaluated on how the students are doing and if there is a probationary period. Mr. Becker replied that it is not necessarily the case. It depends on the course, the students and the circumstances. Dr. Lonoconus explained that a teacher must teach for three years in the same Pennsylvania public school in order to acquire tenure in the state of Pennsylvania. Those three years are basically a probationary period. If a teacher is hired that was

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tenured in another district, Southern honors that tenure. District resident, Mr. Florey Guarno, was concerned that once a teacher is tenured, the district is stuck with that teacher regardless of his or her performance. Dr. Lonoconus explained that if there are performance issues, there is a process to remove a teacher, regardless of tenure.

Mr. Guarno asked how many students were taking English. Mr. Caputo replied that this year there were approximately 450 students in grades 9 through 12, but that number would be slightly higher for the 2005-06 school year. Mrs. Bittner added that there was no 9th Grade English teacher for the past year. Mr. Clippinger reported that some of the English teachers had no planning periods. President Meyer noted that 150 students per teacher is extreme. Mr. Guarno questioned the number of students per class. Mr. Caputo replied that some of them surpassed 30.

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked if it would be fair to say that Dr. Paul misled the district on the grant. Dr. Lonoconus replied negatively and added that the application has been submitted and is being reviewed by the Federal government. They are just awaiting approval.

Mr. Clippinger noted that the textbooks being recommended to the Board are on display in the Library and will be available in the District Office for a 30-day period prior to the July 11th Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary