

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

The July 11, 2005, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:44 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 (*Arrived 7:45 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, James Dunkelberger and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Meyer announced that all items on the agenda would be considered action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) He reported that the team of teachers and administrators did a great job throughout the hiring process of the new teachers. They continue to try to bring the best possible candidates to the Board.

2.) Chris Edwards from BMI Supply assured him that the specs for the auditorium lighting upgrade would be complete in a little over one week. Because of the delay, some work will be taking place while school is in session, but it should be a minimal inconvenience.

3.) Safe Schools Grant funds are available for planning and implementation of programs to prevent violence within the school. Southern Columbia would be given preference because no funding was received within the past two years. Conflict resolution, safe school planning, development or update of a school emergency plan, school security, anti-bullying programs and programs to decrease absences and truancy are all allowable expenditures under the grant. Building improvement or construction are expenditures disallowed by the grant. The average range of funding is between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for planning and implementation. Districts must apply for additional funding for the second and third years of the grant. Programs such as Responsive Classroom could be supported by the funds. Mrs. Shultz noted that the Responsive Classroom program incorporates social skills into the student's education throughout the day. Morning Meeting is a way for students to address their peers and staff. Students are made aware of rules and logical consequences for not abiding by the rules. A consequence of an unfavorable behavior toward another student may be a direct apology to the student or some other gesture of apology. The goal of Responsive Classroom is to make the classroom more welcoming. The program has considerably decreased the negative behavior. Teachers attend training for

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Responsive Classroom during one week in the summer. The cost of the training is approximately \$625. With the addition of hotel and meal expenses, the total is approximately \$1,000 for the week.

Dr. Lonoconus noted that he hasn't had a chance to discuss the grant with Mr. Becker, but the Olweus Anti-Bullying program serves a similar purpose in the Middle School. He asked for direction from the Board on whether or not to submit an application, of which he would be writing with the help of Mrs. Shultz and Mr. Becker. It was the consensus of the Board to pursue the grant.

4.) He received a report from Mrs. Brenda Monick regarding the National Education Computer Conference. The report will be included with the next Friday Letter.

5.) He referred to Mrs. Bell-Perry's question at the last Board meeting regarding the purchase of poker cards and noted that the cards were purchased for a student activity during attendance at the State Choral Festival. He noted that the students had some time between performances and the cards were used to play a game involving musical notes. Also some snacks were purchased for the students. Some hosting schools provide everything needed, but in this case, Mrs. Stone had to purchase some snacks for the students to maintain their energy level during the long breaks.

6.) Mr. Clippinger reported that the first meeting regarding the Professional Education Plan was held prior to the Board meeting. It is a state requirement of Act 48 for the district to review and revise its Professional Education Plan every five years. The process will require another four or five meetings. Mr. Yeager noted that the Professional Education Plan requires a signature of approval by the Board of Directors. He was the only Board member that attended the meeting. He encouraged other Board members to attend. There was only one parent in attendance.

7.) Dr. Lonoconus noted that in the past, the district had a secondary English teacher for each grade level 9-12. Last year, the administrators asked the teachers to cover the vacancy left by Mr. Doyle's retirement. Due the work Mr. Springer and the Board have done and the current budget status, it would be feasible to change the English position to full-time. By changing the position to full-time, the Yearbook course could be brought back to the English Department, freeing up the Business Department to offer additional Multi-Media sections. It would have a ripple effect and open up the entire schedule. By having a full-time English teacher for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it allows extra classes in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades and reduces class sizes, making the instruction more individualized. Writing has been a strong point for our students and the administration would like to maintain or exceed that level of achievement.

8.) An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

9.) Solicitor Roberts announced that an executive session would be held following the meeting for personnel matters involving a classified employee.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities & Services - Rick Swank, Committee member, reported that the bleacher project would be finished well before the deadline. Some of the scrap steel will be kept for future use, but they discussed putting the remaining steel out on bid. The high school gymnasium roof replacement will begin the end of August. PPL is preparing the energy savings survey to include the ventilator in the high school gymnasium. There is \$90,000 budgeted for the auditorium lighting upgrade. The HVAC system in the high school gymnasium and the high school bleachers are targeted for the summer of 2006. The hot water tank in the elementary will last another year. One or two high school classroom ventilators will be replaced per year as needed. Mr. Yeager

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reported that Mr. Campbell has roughed in the sound booth. President Meyer noted that they discussed restrooms at the stadium, but were just looking at possibilities.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the main issue discussed was the additional \$78,000 in small district assistance. The district qualifies for this funding by meeting per capita goals. He noted that a budget must be adopted on a state supplied form and added that Southern's budget presentation is exemplary compared to other districts and would qualify. He applauded Mr. Springer for the detail provided in the budget report. Mr. Swank noted that the committee also discussed the purchase of a wheelchair bus.

Negotiations & Personnel - No meeting/no report.

Activities - No meeting/no report.

Curriculum - No meeting/no report.

Policy - No meeting/no report.

CSIU - Linda Kreisler noted that she was pleased to see that a Southern Student was attending the Governor's School, and asked if the student could come and speak to the Board about her experience. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the student is Allison Young and she is the daughter of Mr. Randy Young (Science Teacher), who is also attending the Governor's School. Dr. Lonoconus is already making arrangements for Mr. Young and his daughter to come and report to the Board.

Vo-Tech - Amanda Bell-Perry reported that Mr. Bubnis retired. Dr. Lonoconus noted that Mr. Greg Capoccioni, a former Guidance Counselor at Southern Columbia, was hired to fill the vacancy. Mr. Swank noted that the new Auto Tech teacher is enthusiastic about the program. Mrs. Bell-Perry noted that enrollment was also discussed.

### ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Jones and second by Kreisler, the minutes of June 13 and 20, 2005, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the General Fund Invoices and Capital Reserve Fund Invoices were presented for approval. Prior to voting, President Meyer asked for clarification on the following checks:

#11541 to Northeastern Automated - Dr. Lonoconus explained that it is for security cameras.

#11552 to Pioneer Revere - Mr. Springer noted that it is for field marking paint.

#11614 to NCS Pearson, Inc. - Mr. Springer noted that it is for the annual update to the student management software.

#11569 to Tri-State - Dr. Lonoconus explained that it is for the servers for the security system.

#11572 to Voyager - Mrs. Lombardo explained that it is for the curriculum used for the Summer Program.

#11578 to St. Paul Lutheran Church - Mr. Springer noted that it is a lump sum check for ten months rent for the Family Center.

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

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### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, authorizing the payment of the following invoices from the Capital Project Fund and draw on the General Obligation Note of 2005 to fund the payment was approved:

- E&D Specialty Stands #1 - \$77,031.00
- E&D Specialty Stands #2 - \$281,060.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, accepting additional state and federal funds into the 2005-06 budget as follows was approved:

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Grant - \$353,096 - Funds to be used in accordance with the grant application for the summer program and community learning center activities.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the donation of \$600 was accepted from the Middle School Student Council to be applied toward the Auditorium Sound Project. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, authorizing Berkheimer Associates to obtain tax return information from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to cross-check the earned income tax rolls was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, employment of Jessica Heckman for the position of Elementary Teacher effective August 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$34,336) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, employment of Leslie Bieber for the position of Elementary Guidance Counselor effective August 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 1 of the Master's +15 Salary Schedule (\$37,561) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Bell-Perry abstained), the motion carried.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bell-Perry, employment of Matthew Harvey for the position of Secondary Social Studies Teacher effective August 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 5 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$36,179) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, employment of Stephanie Maietta for the position of Secondary English Teacher effective August 22, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$34,336) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, noting satisfactory evaluations and accepting the recommendations (pending completion of all employment requirements) for approval/re-approval of the Athletic/Activities positions and salaries for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit A**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, the Athletic/Activities Volunteers were presented for approval (pending receipt of favorable clearances and negative Tuberculin tests) for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit B**). By roll call vote, 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Kreischer abstained), the motion carried.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the Activities/Advisors Band positions for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit C**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the Activities Advisors, Department Lead Teachers, Building Lead Teaches, Support Teachers and Tech Lead Teachers for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit D**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, employment of Erin Snyder as a Tutor for the Southern Columbia Area Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program effective June 20, 2005, was presented for approval (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a rate of \$10 per hour for pre-approved extra time, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the second reading and adoption of new Policy 210.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers (**per Exhibit E**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the second reading and adoption of revised Policy 303 Employment of Administrators (**per Exhibit F**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the purchase and implementation of Textbooks and Instructional Materials for the 2005-06 school year (**per Exhibit G**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Kreischer, directing the Administration to research and further pursue a Pay to Participate concept was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Kreischer stated that she felt it would be a poor choice to pursue the issue, because it would cause a loss of participation due to financial restraints. Mr. Yeager noted that he believes that athletics is a very powerful tool along with education. He added that education is a right, but it is a privilege to participate in extra-curricular activities. The funds taken in through a participation fee could be used to establish other programs such as a much-needed SAT prep course. He noted that the fee would not increase the cost of athletics but would defray the cost. Mr. Swank commented that the fee would not be limited to just sports. Mrs. Kreischer noted that the Board

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would be asking the administrators to do a great deal of work by researching the concept. She wanted to make sure the Board would be interested in pursuing the issue before the administrators were directed to proceed. By roll call vote, 1-Yes, 6-No (Yeager voted Yes), the motion was rejected.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mrs. Lombardo reported that a skydiving presentation was held earlier in the day as part of the Summer Fun-da-Mentals program. Dr. Gary Doby helped to arrange the event. Four individuals parachuted onto the football field. They gave a presentation on NASA and where the program is headed. The skydivers volunteered their time. The grant paid for their insurance for the jump.

Dr. Lonoconus noted that in the past, the district contracted with an outside agency for security personnel and the agency provided their clearances. The past several years, individuals have been hired for security purposes and they were not required to provide clearances and proof of negative Tuberculin test. Dr. Lonoconus asked for direction from the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that all security personnel should be required to provide the proper clearances and negative Tuberculin test. Dr. Lonoconus reported that a letter would be sent to all of the current security personnel informing them of the requirements. They will also be required to sign a contract with the district.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that a Board Retreat would be held on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary