

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

The August 8, 2005, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 p.m. with Vice President Mike Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Vice President Yeager welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amanda Bell-Perry
Elsie Bittner
Hugh Jones

Linda Kreischer (*Absent*)
Karl Meyer (*Absent*)
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 and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

Vice President Yeager announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) He referred to the Science in Motion newsletter, which was included with the Friday Letter to Board members. The Science in Motion program provides a mobile science lab through Susquehanna University. The lab visits participating schools and gives teachers and students access to the lab. He noted that Mrs. Vitkauskus and Mrs. Gockley try to take full advantage of the program to benefit their students.

2.) The administrators met with Southern Columbia graduate, Mr. Jeff Colosimo, regarding Performance Tracker, which is a software program that allows administrators to track students' progress through standardized test scores. Mr. Clippinger noted that the software is a very powerful tool. It not only looks at students' progress but also monitors curriculum and its effectiveness. He noted that the administrators have used the software minimally, but would like to use it more in the future.

3.) He noted that the Middle School class sizes for the upcoming year would be very similar to last year's class sizes. There are some concerns with the elementary class sizes. There have been 15 new kindergarten registrations so far this summer. First grade went from 94 to 98, 2nd grade went from 117 to 123, 3rd grade went from 98 to 104 and 4th grade went from 102 to 109. He noted that the most impact is made on students in grades 1 through 4. There is a possibility of moving a 6th grade teacher to 2nd grade to decrease the class sizes. Second grade is now at 25 students per class and there are still two weeks before the first day of school. There would be 20 students per class if a 6th grade teacher would be moved. Sixth grade would go from 20 to 26 students per class as a result of the move. Mr. Savitski voiced some concern over the high numbers in 6th grade, but also felt the class sizes would be too high in 2nd grade. Mr. Becker

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noted that in some classes like Math and Reading, the class sizes would be lower due to pullouts for Special Education classes. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to move a 6th grade teacher to 2nd grade. Mr. Savitski asked how the change would affect next year's 7th grade. Mr. Becker replied that they have to take it one year at a time, because class sizes can change considerably from one year to the next. Dr. Lonoconus noted that even if the Board added a 2nd grade teacher, there would be no classroom available. Mr. Yeager asked Mr. Springer if the addition of a teacher would be feasible. Mr. Springer noted that it would not be feasible in his opinion due to budget restraints, but the decision is up to the Board.

Dr. Lonoconus reported that the High School class sizes are similar to last year, but the senior class has over 130 students this year. Mr. Yeager asked how the addition of the new English teacher affected the schedule. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it had a very positive impact. Some of the History sections went from 32 to 24 and 25 students. Mr. Yeager asked if the Speech Course would be reinstated. Dr. Lonoconus replied that they probably would not know until the first week of school when the schedules are being reviewed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities & Services and Finance - Rick Swank reported that the paint on the locker room floors is not holding up. Mr. Campbell is looking into the problem. A small storage shed for the soccer field is being purchased. Dr. Lonoconus reported that the following quote was received: \$1,900 for a 10' by 20' building with a divider, including delivery. They discussed the need for a Middle School office. They will look into a modular structure. Electricity and water would be accessible. Dr. Lonoconus noted that there are still two teachers floating in the high school, due to the shortage of classroom space. The Middle School Guidance Counselor and Principal, as well as others will now use the former attendance office in the High School Library, for meetings to provide more privacy than the Middle School Office allows. They are looking at moving the computer lab, which is now near the high school office, but they would need to look into a mobile technology lab, which would cost approximately \$40,000. They discussed the amount to draw on the General Obligation Note, as the draw period ends August 31, 2005. The issue of independent contractor versus employee was discussed in reference to the Security personnel. Solicitor Roberts noted that it comes down to whom has the right to define the employee's job. He noted that there could also be an issue concerning worker's compensation. Mr. Swank reported that the Band truck is a 1986 Isuzu and the clutch is worn out. The mechanics looked at a 1996 Isuzu at a cost of between \$6,000 and \$6,500. They would use the box from the old truck. The first away football game is September 10th. Bids for the scrap steel are due August 15th and it must be removed by August 26th. The bleachers are near completion. New 200-amp service had to be run to the press box. The contractor that installed the bleachers, E & D Specialty Stands, Inc. donated the 25-second clocks and the trailer upon which the press boxes were delivered. Mr. Yeager asked if a "thank you" note would be sent. Dr. Lonoconus responded that one would be sent upon completion. Mr. Yeager asked if there would be a dedication. Dr. Lonoconus replied that he is not yet sure how they will handle it.

Mr. Swank also reported that the auditorium lighting specs have been received. One hundred of the locker faces have been replaced, with 487 remaining. Mr. Campbell met with an excavator regarding the road to the lower field and the softball field. Quotes will be forthcoming.

Negotiations & Personnel - No report.

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ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Yeager asked if the Board would need to make a decision to draw the remaining money from the General Obligation Note of 2005. Mr. Springer noted that the draw deadline is August 31, 2005. Mr. Jones asked what could be done with the extra money. Mr. Springer replied that it could be set aside. It would draw interest, but the district would also be paying interest. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to draw the remaining balance. Mr. Springer noted that the motion would be amended for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Savitski asked for clarification on the 21st Century Grant “carryover” funds. Mr. Springer explained that the 21st Century Learning Grant period is from October to September, which differs from the fiscal period. The funds are still valid under the grant, but are treated as carry over funds for budget purposes.

Mr. Savitski asked why the administration was recommending the purchase of a 2004 model instead of a 2005 model. Mr. Springer explained that the reason for purchasing a new 2004 model bus is because it is the same model as the district currently has and it would be much easier to stock parts for one model.

The meeting was interrupted earlier by a 911 alarm. Dr. Lonoconus and Mr. Becker left the meeting at that time to respond to the emergency. Mr. Springer explained the 911 alarm system, which is provided throughout the district via the telephone system.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Bittner and second by Jones, changing Janet Stanishefski from Part-time Instructional Aide (working 4 hours) to Full-time Instructional Aide effective August 9, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, changing Lori B. Wilson from 4-Hour Library Aide to Part-time Instructional Aide (working 4 hours) effective August 9, 2005, was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Savitski, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Tia Brown (Elementary Art Teacher) beginning January 3, 2006, and extending through the end of the 2005-2006 school year was approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Bell-Perry, the motion to approve employment of Instructional and Non-instructional Substitutes (pending completion of all employment requirements) for the 2005-2006 school year was tabled until the next meeting.

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On a motion by Amanda Bell-Perry and second by Swank, employment of the following individuals as Security Personnel for the 2005-2006 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$30.00 per event was approved:

- Phyllis Baylor
- Robert Beyers
- Dean Delsite
- Thomas E. Gotshall
- Robert M. Marut
- Linda L. Mayernick
- Stephen Price
- Ralph Shoup

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Bell-Perry, Randall Campbell was approved as a Junior High Football Coach for the 2005-2006 school year with 11 points and a salary of \$1,310. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Yeager noted that several goals were discussed at the Board Retreat that will require some upcoming policy changes.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager reported that the Board Retreat was excellent and one of the goals discussed was to have quarterly retreats.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mrs. Thelma Helwig, questioned the \$150.00 check to Greta Krishnan. Mr. Springer explained that a bus driver could be referred to a specialist as a result of his/her driver physical. The district pays for the initial physical as well as the visit to the specialist, which is what happened in this case.

District resident, Richard Gotshall, questioned the status of the grant associated with Dr. Dan Paul and the funds that were to be earmarked for the sound system. Mr. Yeager replied that the funds in question would not be for the auditorium sound system. They would be for the Distance Learning sound system. Mr. Springer noted that the status of the grant is not known at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary