

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

The September 19, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:36 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

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, James Becker, Paul Caputo, James Dunkelberger and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

District resident, Mr. Charles Porter, referred to Fiscal Item H and noted that the Board is not allowing groups to come in to take academic time away from the students, but by allowing the United Way campaign, they are not showing consistency. Dr. Lonoconus explained that no academic time is being taken away because of the United Way Campaign.

Mr. Porter asked if any district money had been put into the bleacher project and if the projects planned would have to be put out on bid. He also questioned the financial status of the district. President Meyer explained that the district has already advertised for bids.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) The locker rooms were broken into during the Mt. Carmel football game and both teams had items stolen. He received a letter from Mr. Mike Kogut regarding the incident and the reporting process for restitution. Mr. Caputo noted that the Mt. Carmel Area School District administrators have been very cooperative and helpful. He was informed that they have leads on the individuals responsible. A list of stolen items was faxed to the Mt. Carmel Police Department.

2.) The PSSA reports have been delivered. He will be compiling the school district's report card and comparing the data of several years. The district has reached AYP. President Meyer asked for his projection for the completion of the report. Dr. Lonoconus replied that it should be ready by October.

3.) The parents involved in the home school program contracted with an independent evaluator. The administration will need to determine whether or not they will approve the program based on the evaluation.

4.) There are four other districts planning to hold their reorganization meetings at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. If it is the consensus of the Board to attend, he will inform Mr. Walk accordingly. Board members agreed to attend.

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5.) Mr. Campbell and his staff cut back some of the brush around the sharp turn on the road to the lower fields to make a clearer line of sight. They are doing everything they can to assure safety at this time.

6.) He reminded Board members about the PSBA Act 72 seminar that will be held September 28th at 5:45 p.m.

7.) A sympathy card was sent to the family of Mrs. Kathy Kemberling on behalf of the Board and administration.

8.) Mr. Donlan and Mr. Jones requested the Board to allow them to attend a U.S. Marine boot camp. They noted that the military has changed so much over the years and the experience would allow them to better communicate with students who are trying to decide if a future in the military is right for them. Recruiter Sgt. Ronald Parrish reported that they would see first hand every aspect that every Marine has to go through. They would have the chance to speak with other Marines. The goal of the tour is to take away some of the mystique surrounding the military. All expenses would be paid except for the cost of a substitute teacher. The tour would run from November 15th through 18th. A drill instructor would guide them through the entire tour. Mrs. Kreischer asked if this is the only time of year that the opportunity is available. Sgt. Parrish explained that they tried to push it back until November, which is after hurricane season. President Meyer asked if it could be done in the summer. Sgt. Parrish replied that the dates are already locked in. President Meyer asked if it would be suitable if the Board made their decision in October. Sgt. Parrish responded affirmatively. President Meyer asked if it was a national effort. Sgt. Parrish replied affirmatively and added that it was designed to strengthen the military's relationships with schools. Mr. Yeager noted that they would come back with a new perspective of what students need to succeed. They would also have a better understanding of what is needed technologically. President Meyer questioned the number of students that join the military. Dr. Lonoconus replied that approximately three to five percent join the military after high school.

9.) The Columbia Mall is willing to donate signs that could be used to direct the public to the lower fields. The signs consist of metal frames. The lettering would have to be done at the district's cost. Mr. Yeager suggested the possibility of having the Art Department do the lettering. Dr. Lonoconus said he would check with them to see if it could be done in house.

10.) Mrs. Lombardo noted that the open house for the new Family Center would be held on September 20th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. She invited Board members to come and meet the staff and see the new location. The Family Center will be sponsoring a hayride and over 40 people have signed up so far.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Linda Kreischer, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held in September. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the high school conference room.

Curriculum - Elsie Bittner, Chairperson, reported that there was no meeting held in September. Mr. Yeager reported that a meeting for parents of 6th and 7th graders would be held Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary cafeteria. The topic of discussion will be the new Connected Math. Mr. Clippinger reported that he would need some time in October to discuss the new Professional Education Plan. The next meeting will be held during the day on Monday, September 26th. President Meyer asked about the new math program. Mr. Becker replied that it was going fairly well. It is definitely different and will make the students think mathematically. The parents have some questions but they are being addressed. Mr. Clippinger noted that the districts that have implemented Connected Math have shown phenomenal success.

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President Meyer asked if a presentation could be given mid-year regarding the progress of the program. Mr. Clippinger replied affirmatively.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that they met prior to the Board meeting and he, Mrs. Kreischer, Mr. Swank, and Dr. Lonoconus were present. They discussed policy #202 Eligibility of Non-resident students. They made some recommendations and will disseminate the suggested revisions to the other Board members. Most policy revisions consist of fine-tuning to bring the policies up to date and are based on suggestions from PSBA.

CSIU - Linda Kreischer reported that no meeting was held.

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank reported that the CMAVTS had 380 total applicants. Out of that total, 189 were accepted for the 2005-2006 school year. There are 18 on a waiting list. The Human Resource Manager from Air Products wrote a letter to the school to inform them they are looking to add 60 employees to their workforce. Employees they have hired that graduated from CMAVTS passed the welding test with no problems. They asked that Vo-Tech students be referred to their website for employment possibilities. Everything has been completed for the PPL Energy Plan. Mr. Swank plans to tour the building to see what has been done. Mr. Savitski asked how many Southern students attend CMAVTS. Dr. Lonoconus replied that there are currently 39 students attending. Southern is tied with Benton School District for the lowest attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Bittner, the minutes of August 8, 15 and 22 (special meeting), 2005, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$527,989.13 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$47,881.53 were presented for approval. By roll call vote; 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, accepting additional state and federal funds into the 2005-2006 budget as follows was presented for approval:

- Basic Subsidy - \$78,000.00 - To be used for an additional ½ time High School English teacher and one additional second grade teacher.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Bittner, authorizing the payment of the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund and draw on the General Obligation Note of 2005 to fund the payment was presented for approval:

- Guyette Communications #2 - \$7,000.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bittner, an increase to the fee for behind-the-wheel driver education instruction to \$50 and to advertise for a behind-the-wheel Driver Education

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teacher were presented for approval. By roll call vote, 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

Mrs. Bittner asked the reason for increasing the stipend for the Sewage Treatment Plant Operator. Mr. Springer noted that the district was paying an outside contractor \$450 per month in 2002. It is difficult to keep a Sewage Plant Operator on staff. Mrs. Bittner questioned the operator's role. Mr. Springer replied that he performs the testing and the necessary paperwork. She asked the frequency of testing to which Mr. Springer replied that testing is done daily and reports are submitted monthly. President Meyer noted that the individual is licensed. Mr. Springer added that he has to maintain his license through continuing professional education. President Meyer asked what it would cost for an outside contractor. Mr. Springer responded that three years ago, it cost the district \$450 per month. Mrs. Bell-Perry asked why they want to give him the increase when he didn't ask for it. Mr. Springer replied, "To keep him on the job." Mr. Swank asked if the Board had to act on the motion at the current meeting. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the motion could be tabled until the next meeting. Mrs. Kreischer asked if the district already employs the individual. Mr. Springer replied affirmatively. Mrs. Kreischer asked if the work is done after hours. Mr. Springer replied that it is done in conjunction with his maintenance job. Mr. Swank asked if it is included in his job description. Mr. Springer replied that it is a separate job description. A stipend is paid for taking on the responsibility. Mrs. Kreischer asked if there were time restraints for testing that would require him to perform the testing during his regular workday. Mr. Springer responded that there likely was, but he would confirm it. On a motion by Kreischer and second by Savitski, the motion was tabled until the next Board meeting. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, paying a stipend for Licensed Pesticide/Herbicide Spraying to Joseph Danilowicz in the amount of \$50 per month was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, paying a stipend for Licensed Drinking Water Operator to Greg Derr in the amount of \$100 per month was presented for approval. Mrs. Bittner asked what the job entails. Mr. Springer replied that it is a new requirement to have a Licensed Drinking Water Operator. He is responsible for testing and to make timely decisions regarding the water system as well as environmental protection. He is responsible to keep up the necessary license through continuing professional education. Mrs. Bittner asked why the stipend amount is starting at \$100 when Mr. Danilowicz is only getting \$50. Mr. Springer explained that pesticide and herbicide spraying is not done year round. There is a lot more required with the Drinking Water Operator position. By roll call vote, 5-Yes, 3-No (Bell-Perry, Bittner and Savitski voted No), the motion carried.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, appointing Randall Campbell as backup Licensed Sewage Treatment Plant Operator at no cost to the district was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Yeager, a day off with pay for one (1) professional employee and one (1) classified employee as the Board's in-kind support for the Southern Columbia United Way Campaign, contingent upon reaching the campaign goal of \$2,500, was presented for approval. The two (2) employees' names would be drawn from the list of all

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employees who contributed a minimum of \$25 to the campaign. Prior to voting, President Meyer asked if Dr. Lonoconus had any concerns regarding the United Way Campaign. He replied that he didn't because it does not impact time in the classroom. The district supports other charitable organizations, such as the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association as part of its civic duty. Dr. Dubil began the process of offering the day off and it was an effective incentive to reach the campaign goal. The campaign committee consists of volunteers. Mrs. Bittner asked when the day off would take place. Dr. Lonoconus said it would be the winner's choice. By roll call vote, 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, a Resolution (per Exhibit A) pertaining to the General Obligation Note of 2005 was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Bell-Perry asked if the baseball field and the fence are really safety issues. President Meyer responded that the lip on the infield causes balls to bounce up unexpectedly, which can cause injury. Mr. Yeager noted that the fence is a safety issue when a player is running to catch a fly ball in the outfield. Mrs. Bittner asked how much the improvements to the field and road would cost. Mr. Springer replied that they received an estimate of \$10,840 for the infield, \$2,000 for adding sod, \$5,900 for the 6' fence, \$9,750 to widen the road and \$2,480 to improve the drainage. Mrs. Bittner asked if money is available to do the improvements. President Meyer replied that there is money remaining from the stadium bleacher project. Mrs. Bell-Perry asked why they always choose to spend money on athletics. Mr. Jones replied that there are safety issues that need to be addressed. Mrs. Bell-Perry noted that there are more important things that need to be done. Mrs. Kreischer asked her for an example. She stated that she could not think of anything at the time. Mrs. Bittner asked if any of the work could be done in-house. Dr. Lonoconus replied that there is a 1.5' drop in the field. The district doesn't have the equipment to do the work. Mr. Porter noted that when he was chairman of the Activities Committee, Mr. Peter Abraczinskas donated the subsoil used on the softball field and a special silt-type soil was used and the field has held up. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the softball field is not exposed to excessive wind erosion due to its location. Mrs. Bittner asked if the fence would encase the field. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the fence would only be in the outfield. She also asked if parking would be permitted on the field. Dr. Lonoconus replied negatively. By roll call vote; 6-Yes, 2-No (Bell-Perry and Bittner voted No), the motion carried.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the addition of the following individuals to the 2005-2006 Substitute List effective September 20, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Erin Haley (General Science)
- Brian Zaiser (Physics/Chemistry/Mathematics)
- Amy Malin (Elementary K-6)
- Maria Callahan (Early Childhood/Special Education)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, the following additional staff for the After School Tutoring Program (pending completion of all employment requirements) effective October 11, 2005, were presented for approval:

- Louise Telesky (contracted rate)
- Michael Fowler (\$10 per hour)
- Kathryn Parry (\$10 per hour) (*list continued on page 6*)

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- Gary Wilson (contracted rate)
- Jonathan Hughes (\$10 per hour)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, employment of Terry Faust (Junior High Boys Basketball Coach) as a Game Manager for the 2005-2006 school year at a rate of \$40 per game for all sports (80 games maximum for all Game Managers combined) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the addition of Nathan Richard as a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2005-2006 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, employment of Curt Jones as Head Swimming Coach for the 2005-2006 school year at a salary of \$25.00 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Swank, the addition of Lori Jones as Volunteer Assistant Swimming Coach for the 2005-2006 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, a Childbearing/Childrearing leave for Daylene Bloom (2nd Grade Teacher) beginning on or about February 20, 2006, for a period of four weeks was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Savitski, an FMLA leave for Donna Miller (Bus Driver) on an intermittent basis effective September 12, 2005, was submitted for approval. The total leave is not to exceed 12 weeks in a 12-month period. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Kreischer and second by Jones, employment of Allison Burrell as Tech Lead Teacher for 5th Grade for the 2005-2006 school year at the contracted annual salary of \$682 was presented for approval. (Mrs. Burrell will replace Kay Nazarchyk who was previously approved for the position in error.) The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, an Art Class field trip to Corning, New York, to visit the Corning Glass Museum on Thursday, October 13, 2005, was presented for approval. The teacher and parents will chaperone. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, a High School Chorus and Band field trip to New York City, New York, to see the Broadway show “Wicked” on Monday, March 8, 2006,

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was presented for approval. The teacher and parents will chaperone. District expenses to include substitute costs. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the final form of the English as a Second Language Program description (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager reported that he attended a conference at CSIU sponsored by the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity (PANA). Currently, regulations require that a Body Mass Index (BMI) report be sent to students at risk of obesity. They discussed the possibility of reports being sent to all students as a way of not singling out individuals. Nationwide, child obesity is at 30 percent; it is at 35 percent in Pennsylvania. It is his recommendation to send a BMI report to every student.

He also noted that Giant has a new program. A percentage of money spend by an individual goes to their home district. He recommended that the administration look into the program. He questioned the lighting bids. Mr. Springer noted that the bid deadline was extended to Wednesday due to a late addendum to the bid specifications. Mr. Yeager questioned the policy on abstention and the reason for abstaining. Solicitor Roberts explained that if a Board member has a conflict of interest, they are required to fill out a form to document their reason for abstaining, however a Board member cannot be forced to vote.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Porter questioned the financial health of the district. Mr. Springer noted that the audit report would be finalized next month. The district has not used any of the General Fund balance and \$257,000 was transferred to the Capital Reserve.

Mr. Porter asked why the rescission agreement is in the best interest of the district. Solicitor Roberts explained that the transaction was consummated and it led to an inquiry. The Board felt to avoid the appearance of impropriety they should rescind the agreement. Mr. Porter asked about the items purchased from Tri-State at the same time. Dr. Lonoconus replied that they did not decide if they are going to keep the items. Mr. Springer noted that the items in question are components of a system. The cameras can be attached to anything. The items do not meet the \$10,000 limit. Mr. Porter asked if the Board received quotes. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the Board did not receive quotes. Mr. Springer noted that the Board never receives quotes. Mr. Porter asked if the quotes were available. Mr. Springer replied affirmatively. Mr. Porter asked if both quotes were the lowest. Dr. Lonoconus replied that in some cases they were and in some they weren't.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary