

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

The October 10, 2005 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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 (*Absent*)

Linda Kreischer (*Absent*)  
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**

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items except Item C and Policy and Programs Items on the agenda would be considered action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

- 1.) Requested an executive session following the meeting.
- 2.) He announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss confidential matters.
- 3.) He was notified at the Partners in Distance Learning (PDL) conference that as a result of our participation in the Classroom Arts program, several of our teachers have been nominated as Exemplary Teachers. Only 22 teachers out of approximately 160 have been nominated. They have been invited to attend the Fall Workshop. Their registration fees, hotel and meals will be paid by PDL. The 22 teachers will be vying for \$10,000. The top two presenters will go to the Spring Workshop. He reminded Board members that two teachers participated in the CAP program in the past and they received digital cameras and scanners for their classrooms. He noted that the \$250 membership fee is well worth the benefits that PDL has to offer.
- 4.) He read a "thank you" note from Mr. Paul Jankowski following the death of his mother.
- 5.) The CSIU is holding an evening presentation on negotiations for Superintendents and Board members on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Board members are asked to arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. A dinner will be provided and the presentation by Mr. Benjamin Pratt, Esq. is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Bell-Perry will be attending. Board members were instructed to contact him if they would like to attend. President Meyer noted that if any Board members were interested in serving on the Negotiations and Personnel Committee in the future, it would be helpful to attend.
- 6.) Two applications have been received for the Driver's Education Instructor position. Dr. Lonoconus will contact the applicants and provide them with details to see if they are interested in

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2005

Page 2

---

the position. Ten applications have been received for the Business Manager position. The deadline is Friday. Board members were encouraged to participate in the screening and selection process. Mr. Chris Kerwin from CSIU has offered to assist in the selection process free of charge. He has also offered to assist with background checks of the candidates.

7.) He announced that the National Honor Society Induction ceremony would be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. President Meyer noted that it is important for Board members to attend the ceremony. He encouraged all members who could to attend.

8.) The Roaring Creek Historical Society is sponsoring a Moonlight Miner's Trail Walk on the evening of October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They inquired about the possibility of using a bus to transport students and members of the public from one end of the trail to the other. Mr. Springer contacted the district's insurance carrier and confirmed that insurance would not be an issue. Details of the event will be published in local newspapers. The group is very appreciative of the district's support.

9.) Mr. Clippinger will give a presentation regarding PSSA scores at the next meeting.

10.) Friday night is homecoming against Loyalsock.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Thursday. They discussed the updates to the sound system and the training that will take place. The auditorium lighting bids will be discussed later in the agenda. No bids were received for the baseball field or road. Landscapers are too busy at this time of year. They discussed the option of soliciting for bids on just the fence and the possibility of having a landscaper level out the lip on the field as a temporary safety improvement. Bid specs for the high school gymnasium bleachers are planned to go out in February. The rods in the high school boiler will be replaced at a cost of \$9,000. The rods in the second high school boiler will also need replacement at a similar cost, likely next year. The need for office space in the middle school was also discussed. The football field held up well in spite of the large amount of rain. Mr. Conner doesn't want any major changes to the track, but would like to make it six lanes instead of the current five. The new bleachers make it possible. There is an artesian well on campus. It may need to be utilized for field maintenance in the future. The committee recommended to continue in the same format regarding security cameras, meaning they would obtain bids and do the work in-house.

The amount of money paid in the past is more than will now be paid for the Sewage Treatment Plant Operator and Backup Operator. Dr. Lonoconus replied that one company he contacted pays \$1,060 per month for an outside operator. Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech pays \$1,000 per year, but they pay an additional \$100 per month for testing and their backup operator costs \$100 to \$130 each time he is used. The Southern Tioga School District pays \$18 per day, which depending on how often the operator comes to the school, the cost ranges from \$396 to \$540 per month. Mr. Yeager noted that Mr. Derr comes in early and does testing before and after school, not during his regular hours.

President Meyer assured the public that the Board and administration are trying to do what they can to improve the safety of the baseball field, but they are running out of time for the new sod infield. They will make safety improvements to the infield and replace the fence, but will hold off on the sod until after the spring season. Mr. Springer asked if the administration could proceed in that direction. It was decided that a motion would be included on the next agenda for formal approval.

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2005

Page 3

---

Finance - Mr. Springer referred to a one-page status report of the 2004-05 Fiscal Year (see **Appendix A**). He noted that revenue was approximately \$84,000 higher than expected due to Basic Subsidy, Realty Transfer taxes and Earned Income Taxes, but the increase was offset by unexpended and therefore un-received grant funds. Expenditures are approximately \$630,000 below budget. Unspent grant funds, budgetary reserve funds and savings from vacant positions account for the difference. He noted that it was a very good year financially.

At the last meeting, the committee discussed the three-year plan. The purpose of the plan was to bring expenditures in line with revenues and stabilize the fund balance. They also discussed the Single Audit Report and the Tax Collector Audit. The final Single Audit report should be available at the next meeting. Details of the report would be given during discussion of the motion. The district's enrollment projections were low by 18 students. Third day enrollment was actually 1,451, with 1,433 projected. There are 5 additional elementary students, 1 in the middle school and 12 in the high school that account for the difference. The state's projections were low by 55 students. The 2006-07 projection shows a drop of 24 students due to the large senior class graduating. This class is the first of the two "bubble" classes that have worked their way through school. President Meyer thanked Mr. Springer for the work he has done for the district and noted that he has steered the district into good financial health.

Negotiations & Personnel - President Meyer reported that the committee would be looking for a replacement for the Business Manager and encouraged Board members to get involved in the process.

As a courtesy to the large number of residents present, President Meyer allowed public comment at this time. District resident, Mr. Jack Snyder, noted that he was there to represent the parents and students that were present, as well as those who were unable to attend. They were present to show their support for Dr. Lonoconus, in response to some recent negative publicity. He noted that students have excelled academically under his leadership. He is well liked by parents and students and is a superb superintendent. The district has already suffered a great loss in the resignation of the Business Manager and they don't want to lose anymore highly qualified and dedicated individuals. Dr. Lonoconus thanked them for their support but noted that it should also be directed to the Board and the entire administrative staff, as he could not do his job without their support. Mr. Swank also thanked them for attending the meeting and showing their support.

### **ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS**

### **ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

### **ITEMS – FISCAL**

President Meyer asked for the total cost of the stadium bleacher project. Mr. Springer replied that it was \$536,150. President Meyer asked if the payment to E&D Specialty Stands represents the final payment. Mr. Springer explained that 10 percent of the total project cost was retained until the project was complete. The draw is for the retained amount and it is the final payment.

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked if the auditorium lighting quotes were more or less than expected. Mr. Springer replied that the estimate was \$90,000 and the lowest bid came in at \$94,000. Mrs. Bell-Perry asked if the figure seemed high. Mr. Springer replied that it was very difficult to get

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2005

Page 4

---

bids and specs for the project. He noted that when one of the contractors started asking questions, he felt the estimate was going to be way off, but fortunately the bid submitted by that particular bidder was the only bid that was much higher than expected. He is comfortable with the lowest bid. President Meyer asked if he was also comfortable with the bidder. Mr. Springer responded affirmatively and noted that Howard Organization is a local company from Bloomsburg. They provided an alternate bid and the engineer gave approval for the alternate.

Mr. Springer explained the audit report. The auditor's letter begins on page 4. It explains what an audit is, what the auditors do and basically, why they do it. They test for evidence, which supports the financial statements. In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial condition of the district. Page 6 begins Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). The auditor does not prepare the MD&A. It is prepared by Mr. Springer. It puts the financial statements in layman's terms. He noted that it is worth reading as it explains how the district operates financially. Page 10 shows the increase or decrease in revenues and expenses and provides the bottom line. It basically shows the results of the year. Page 20 provides a breakdown of the fund balance. The notes begin on page 30. They contain details that support the financial statements

District resident, Mr. Henry Hynoski, suggested that the extra money from loan could be used to install a fence to prevent parking on the baseball field. Mrs. Bittner asked if the grading to the baseball field would be done in house. Mr. Springer replied that the district does not have the equipment to do it. They would need to obtain three quotes from fence vendors and three quotes from landscapers in order to proceed.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, the resignation of Joseph J. Springer, Business Manager, effective December 22, 2005, was presented for approval. Mr. Springer intends to retire from the field of public education after 13 years, the last 7 with Southern Columbia Area School District. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, the resignation of Linda J. Kreischer from the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective September 22, 2005, was presented for approval. Mrs. Kreischer has served on the Board since 1999. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, employment of William H. Deibert as 3<sup>rd</sup> Shift Custodian effective October 11, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements), was presented for approval. His salary and benefits are as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yeager and second by Swank, allowing Thomas Donlan and J. Kevin Jones to attend Marine Boot Camp in Parris Island, South Carolina, on November 15 through 18, 2005 (Tuesday through Friday) was presented for approval. District expense would be limited to substitute costs for Mr. Jones. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

## Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2005

Page 5

---

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, allowing Linda Ciongoli and Barbara Hornberger to attend and present at the National Convention of the National Social Sciences Association in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 5 through 7, 2006 (Tuesday through Thursday) was presented for approval. District expense would be limited to substitute costs for Mrs. Hornberger and the registration fee of \$180 for Ms. Ciongoli would come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

President Meyer asked for clarification on the unspent grant funds. Mr. Springer explained that the largest part of the unspent funds is from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant. Since the grant is federally funded, the fiscal year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, the majority of those funds was spent during the summer program in July.

Mr. Yeager reported that he had the opportunity to attend two Distance Learning courses on the Wellness Policy. He referred to handouts that he had distributed prior to the meeting. One of the handouts was from the Pennsylvania Advocates for Nutrition and Activity Keystone Healthy Zone. The goal of the program is to help school districts understand the requirements from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Wellness Policies. The handout included the agenda for the meeting he attended earlier in the day at CSIU. Another handout was a draft copy of a Student Wellness policy from PSBA. All policy requirements must be measurable. The Federal government wants to see students participate in 90 minutes of physical activity per day. Some districts are going in the opposite direction by eliminating physical education classes to provide more academic time. The original policy is geared toward school time, but it may be expanded. It is recommended that the Wellness Plan be part of the Strategic Plan. It requires a Wellness Committee to develop a plan. Some districts are developing a Health Council as a long-term organization, not just for the purpose of developing the plan. President Meyer questioned the timeframe. Mr. Yeager replied that the deadline is July 1, 2006. The state has not yet interpreted the law. They should have a checklist available sometime in January. He noted that Becky Stametz, a Southern Columbia graduate, was a presenter at the meeting. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the Booster organizations would also be affected by the new requirements in regard to what they are allowed to serve. Mr. Yeager noted that, in the Milton Area School District, 850 students walked the track for 20 minutes. They discussed different ideas for making students more active. He also noted that if the school lunch program does not comply with the new requirements, the district would lose funding.

Mr. Yeager suggested that letters of congratulations be sent to the teachers who have been chosen to attend the PDL Fall Workshop. Dr. Lonoconus agreed to do so.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Swank and second by Yeager, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary