

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

The October 17, 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 Vice President 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

Karl Meyer (*Absent*)

Ronald Savitski (*Absent*)

Paul Starr

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; Paul Starr, candidate for Board Vacancy; district residents and members of the media.

BOARD VACANCY

The Board members interviewed Mr. Paul Starr, candidate for the Region II Board vacancy. On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the appointment of Paul A. Starr to fill the Region II vacancy on the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors resulting from the resignation of Mrs. Linda Kreischer, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The Board Secretary administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Starr, following which he was seated on the Board.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

Vice President Yeager noted that all items on the agenda would be action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Becker introduced Mrs. Susan Yodock, Middle School Student Council Advisor. Mrs. Yodock was present, along with Erica Cooke (Middle School Student Council President), Brandon Talisesky (Vice President) and Hannah Stauder (Secretary), to present the funds they raised in support of the Hurricane Katrina victims to the American Red Cross. Ms. Rita Inklovich, Executive Director of the Bloomsburg Chapter of the American Red Cross graciously accepted the donation and asked the students what their organization did to raise the money. They explained that on Tuesday, they held "Hat Day" where every student had to pay \$1 to wear their favorite hat. On Wednesday, they held a bake sale in the High School and Elementary buildings. Thursday was "Stall Day" where students had to bring in their spare change and the teachers had to count all of the change before they could begin class. They had a donation bucket at the football game Friday night and each day of the week was a casual dress day where each staff member had to pay \$2 in order to dress casually. Ms. Inklovich presented the students with a certificate of appreciation for their generous donation.

Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005

Page 2

2.) Senior class officers Cortlynn Latsha and Catarina Manney reported that the senior class would like to donate a memorial for Tarik Leghlid and Eric Barnes. They are proposing a black bench with their names engraved, which would be purchased from Catawissa Monument. Also two trees would be planted in their memory. They proposed three different options for the site of the memorial: 1) outside the auditorium in the triangle patch of grass, 2) in front of the high school or 3) near the bell. They noted that a cement pad would be required. Mr. Yeager asked how they planned to raise the money. Ms. Latsha replied that most of the money has already been raised. Mr. Yeager asked when they wanted to have it completed. Ms. Manney replied that they would like to have it finished for spring, so they would like to pour the cement pad before a frost. On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to accept the donation of a bench and trees from the Senior Class was presented for approval. It was decided that the best site for the memorial would be the triangle outside the auditorium. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

3.) Mr. Becker, asked the Board to consider allowing the administration of a survey regarding bullying to the 7th graders. The purpose of the survey is to gather information anonymously to be used in-house within 7th grade. The survey will generate information that will be used to generate discussion for Morning Meeting. Mr. Jones noted that he would like to see the survey approved. On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, authorizing a 7th Grade Bullying Survey was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

4.) The Homecoming activities went well. Mrs. Stacy Getz and the Student Council are to be commended for the great job they did in organizing the week's activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - No meeting was held.

Curriculum - Elsie Bittner, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. This is the planning and development year for Science and Health. Teachers will be comparing the assessment anchors with those from PDE to see if they are in line. They discussed the additional credit for Science and the possibility of needing another elective, materials and possibly a teacher. They discussed the eligibility report. If a student is failing two grades, they cannot compete in athletics. They want to look at broadening the stipulation to all extra-curricular activities. Mr. Yeager noted that the Professional Development Plan Committee met twice since September. They may take the plan a step further and include funding.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that they did not have a meeting, but noted that the committee is still short one member.

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank gave a report on the 11th grade math and reading scores. In 2004, the average math score was 31.9 percent and reading was 32.6 percent. The scores for 2005 were 31.9 percent in math and 53.9 percent in reading. Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech was ranked first in reading and second in math among vocational-technical schools in Pennsylvania. The improved scores show that CMAVTS is putting more emphasis on curriculum.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Swank and second by Bittner, the Treasurer's Reports were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005

Page 3

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Jones and second by Bell-Perry, the minutes of September 12 (as amended) and 19 (as amended), 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Bittner, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$370,340.93 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$5,174.91 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, budgetary transfers in the 2005-2006 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Bell-Perry, to authorize 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:

- E&D Specialty Stands #4 (Final) - \$53,615.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, to draw on the General Obligation Note of 2005 to fund the remainder of the amount due for the following projects was presented for approval (last day to draw funds is October 19, 2005):

- Auditorium Sound - \$18,781.00
- Auditorium Lighting - \$94,000.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, to draw the remainder of the General Obligation Note of 2005 (approximately \$39,409) to fund the improvements to the baseball field and roadway to the lower fields was presented for approval. By roll call vote; 4-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, to accept the Tax Collector Audit Report from Brewer, Gehrig & Johnson for the real estate taxes collected during the 2004-2005 fiscal year (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The report contains no findings and no Management Letter was received. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, to accept the Single Audit Report from Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner for the fiscal year 2004-2005 (**per Exhibit C**) was presented for approval. The report contains no findings and no Management Letter was received. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, to award the base bid for Auditorium Lighting Renovations at the Southern Columbia High School to Howard Organization, at a cost of \$94,000 pending receipt of approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education was presented for

Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005

Page 4

approval (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit D**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, to increase the stipend for Licensed Sewage Treatment Plant Operator from \$300 to \$400 per month was presented for approval. By roll call vote; 4-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No), the motion carried.

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, to authorize the administration to proceed with replacement of the outfield fence and removal of the infield "lip" at the baseball field was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Bittner asked how much the improvements would cost. Mr. Springer replied that the low quote for removal of the "lip" was \$1,460 from Fleming's Nursery. The low quote for the fence was \$6,497 from Bennies of Berwick. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Bittner and second by Swank, employment of the following additional staff for the 2005-2006 After School Tutoring Program effective October 11, 2005, at their contracted rate, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant was presented for approval:

- Maria Sock (Tutor)
- Linda Robinson (Tutor)
- Bonnie Lerch (Nurse)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Swank, acceptance of the resignation for retirement of James Zimmerman, bus driver, effective October 15, 2005, was presented for approval. Mr. Zimmerman has been with the district since August 1982. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, employment of David Peters as a Driver's Education Instructor for behind-the-wheel instruction, at a rate of \$90 per student (pending completion of all employment requirements), effective October 18, 2005, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, acknowledging Ray Bressi as a Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball 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 Bell-Perry and second by Swank, the addition of the following individuals to the 2005-2006 Substitute List effective September 13, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Jessica Brownlee (Special Education)
- Chryssa Polyniak (Special Education)
- Sandra Vought (Clerical)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005

Page 5

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Bittner, a trip to Killington Ski Resort, Vermont at no expense to the district sponsored by the Music Department was presented for approval. Students would depart 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10th and return 12:00 a.m. Sunday, March 12th, 2006. Staff members and parents will chaperone. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Starr to the Board.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mrs. Jackie Slotterback, asked if an information packet regarding the new math could be made available for parents. Mr. Clippinger replied that information is available on the Connected Math website. Mr. Becker noted that it can be accessed through a link on the district's website. He also noted that the Middle School Newsletter, which will be distributed in November, would include information regarding the new math. Mr. Clippinger noted that there was a good turnout at the parent meeting on September 20th. Another meeting is planned for the third marking period.

District resident Mrs. Kim Elko asked what the after school tutoring program entails. Mrs. Lombardo explained that teachers and student teachers tutor students on concepts where they are having problems. Mrs. Elko asked for clarification on the \$500 grant available for tutoring. Mr. Clippinger explained that in order to qualify for the grant, a state approved tutor must be used and a student must be below the proficiency level in reading and/or math. Mrs. Elko questioned the effectiveness of the after school tutoring program. Mr. Becker informed Mrs. Elko that she was more than welcome to come and observe the after school tutoring program. Dr. Lonoconus also recommended that she meet with Mr. Becker following the Board meeting.

District resident Mr. Richard Gotshall asked for a computation of transportation costs for school days as compared to non-school days. Mr. Springer explained that the district is required to provide transportation for students that attend out of district schools within ten miles of the school district. Other districts calendars may differ from Southern's, therefore buses would still run on days when there are no classes at Southern. Mr. Gotshall requested the figures. Mr. Springer agreed to provide them.

Dr. Lonoconus thanked the Board members for attending the meeting in spite of illness and schedule conflicts. He also welcomed Mr. Starr to the Board and thanked him for stepping forward to serve the district and his community.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary