

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

The November 21, 2005, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:55 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

Karl Meyer

Ronald Savitski

Paul Starr

Richard Swank

Michael Yeager (*Absent*)

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, and James Dunkelberger, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer noted that all items on the agenda, as well as one addendum item would be action items. District resident, Mr. Charles Porter, questioned the timeline on the Request for Proposals. Dr. Lonoconus replied that proposals are due December 23, 2005. Mr. Porter asked much time PPL has had to work on their proposal. Mr. Springer replied that they had approximately six months. Mr. Porter reported that when he was on the Board in 1997, they went through the same type of project. The savings generated had to be greater than the cost of the plan. Solicitor Roberts explained that the same stipulation applies to the current plan. Mr. Porter noted that in the past project, Air Management was given six months to develop their proposal and the other companies were given 10 business days. He noted that he hoped the Board would recognize that the other companies would not have enough time to submit proposals. Solicitor Roberts noted that there is nothing in the Act that determines how long the public notice must be advertised. His recollection on the past project was that the companies were given more than 10 days to submit proposals. He recalled it being 30 days. Mr. Porter noted that the contract was awarded in the summer. President Meyer noted that the Board would definitely take the issue into consideration. Mr. Porter asked if the Air Management contract would be made available to companies to inform them of what has been done. Solicitor Roberts noted that it is a public record.

Mr. Porter asked if the Board had seen and approved the contract with Shamokin School District regarding the gate receipts. Solicitor Roberts explained that a contract was signed, but noted that it should be ratified by the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Jeff Colosimo of AlterNet Performance would give a presentation at the end of the meeting on Performance Tracker.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vo-Tech - Rick Swank gave an update to his previous report. Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School (CMAVTS) is now ranked #1 in Math and Reading. He reported that when Mr. Walk came to CMAVTS in 1999, the school was only involved with one grant. They are now involved with approximately 10 grants. The next meeting will be held December 20, 2005.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Swank and second by Savitski, the minutes of October 10 and 17, 2005, were approved. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Swank, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$444,718.21 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$16,448.00 were presented for approval. Prior to a vote, Mrs. Bell-Perry questioned a charge on Solicitor Roberts invoice for a conversation with R. Long on September 14, 2005. Solicitor Roberts said he could not respond to her questions without refreshing his recollection. On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Savitski, tabling the current motion was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Jones, all General Fund invoices with the exception of #12253 in the amount of \$2,156 (\$442,562.21 - revised total General Fund invoices), and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$16,448.00 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Savitski, budgetary transfers in the 2005-06 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Swank, to authorize the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the implementation of a district-wide comprehensive energy and operation efficiency program on a performance contracting basis was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Swank, to pay December 2005 bills with terms equal to or less than "Net 45 Days" was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to establish the following accounts at Union National Bank with the Superintendent or Business Manager as authorized signatories following School Board approval of payments was presented for approval:

- General Obligation Note of 2005 (Capital Project Fund)
- Communities That Care Fundraising (Expendable Trust Fund)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Swank and second by Jones, a Memorandum of Understanding between Southern Columbia Area School District and AFSCME Local 1864 (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, a Memorandum of Agreement between Southern Columbia Area School District and the Southern Columbia Area Educational Association (**per Exhibit C**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Swank and second by Bell-Perry, adding Shannon Pascoe (Health & Physical Education) to the 2005-2006 Substitute List effective November 22, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Bell-Perry, changing Maryann Snarski from Substitute Cafeteria Worker to 3-Hour Cafeteria Worker effective November 22, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Bell-Perry, the resignation of Brett A. Bloom from the position of Elementary Wrestling Coach effective November 17, 2005, and to designate him as a Volunteer Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2005-2006 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, employment of Daniel C. Rodgers as Business Manager effective on or about December 12, 2005, (pending completion of all employment requirements), at an annual salary of \$62,500, was presented for approval. His benefits are as per the Act 93 Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Swank, an 8th Grade field trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Air and Space Museum on April 21, 2006, at no cost to the district, with the exception of possible substitute costs, was presented for approval. Teachers and parents will chaperone. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked what needed to be done about the Shamokin School District Agreement. Solicitor Roberts replied that they would need to get the details and have the agreement ratified at the next meeting.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked who has the final say in regard to any contract. President Meyer replied that the Board would make the final decision. District resident, Mr. Florey Guarno, asked if the weight room is open to the public. Mr. Caputo responded that it is available to the public Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mr. Guarno asked if enrollment in the elementary building has gone up from last year to this year. Mrs. Shultz replied that it changes daily. He asked if she added staff. Mrs. Shultz replied that it was not the recommendation of the administration to add a teacher. Parents showed up at a meeting and requested that an additional teacher be hired. Mr. Guarno asked the same question to Mr. Becker, to which he answered that no additional staff members were hired. Mr. Guarno then directed the question to Mr. Caputo. He replied that the third day enrollment numbers were slightly higher than last year.

District resident, Mr. Charles Porter, noted that last fall he came to the Board and discussed the regional differences in salaries. He added that dollars in this district are worth more than in other districts. He had requested at that time for the information to be given to the fact-finders in the negotiation process and he felt that it was never done.

Mr. Jeff Colosimo gave a Power Point presentation on Performance Tracker software program. Dr. Lonoconus noted that Mr. Colosimo allowed Southern Columbia to pilot the software at no cost. Mr. Colosimo noted that "No Child Left Behind" holds all school districts accountable to academic standards. AlterNet Performance collects state, local and national assessment data electronically and imports it into the Performance Tracker program. The program is entirely web-based, which makes it easily accessible. It is designed for benchmark assessments aligned to standards. Mr. Clippinger noted that one of the proposals currently in legislation is a revision to Chapter 4 requiring school districts to track local assessments. If the change in Chapter 4 goes through, students who are not proficient would not graduate. Districts across the nation will have up to 30 percent of their seniors not graduating on time. There are 5,082 standards, which need to be addressed. There are currently 60 school districts in the state of Pennsylvania using the software. Central Columbia, Bloomsburg, and Shikellamy are among the local districts.

Following the presentation, Dr. Lonoconus reported that the Keystone Achievement Award was awarded to the High School and Middle School on Friday for the second year in a row. The Elementary School received the award for the first time this year. The award is given to schools that meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Dr. Lonoconus commended the Principals, Mr. Clippinger and the students and parents for the achievement. They are doing a great job with AYP.

He requested an executive session immediately following the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Swank, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary