

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

The December 5, 2005, Special Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:27 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

Karl Meyer  
Ronald Savitski  
Paul Starr

Michael Yeager

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; James Becker, Paul Caputo, and James Dunkelberger, Administrators; district residents and a member of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Meyer announced that all items on the agenda, as well as two addendum items, would be considered action items. Mr. Porter asked if a copy of the agreement with Shamokin Area School District was available. Solicitor Roberts provided him with a copy and noted that it was a standard PIAA contract that was signed and executed, but it needed to be ratified by the Board. Mr. Porter questioned the license agreement with CSIU. Dr. Lonoconus explained that it was to allow the CSIU to offer a technology course on campus. The course would be open to the public.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

- 1.) He requested an executive session following the meeting to consult with counsel concerning possible litigation on a student discipline matter.
- 2.) He announced that Mrs. Shultz and Mrs. Lombardo were attending conferences and were unable to attend the meeting.
- 3.) Mr. Thomas Slusser was unable to accept the position as School Director for Region II because of the residency requirement. He has not been a resident of Region II for a full year. He moved into the Catawissa area in February. The vacancy will be advertised again.

**ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, the following General Fund Invoice were presented for approval:

➤ #12253 - Leavens & Roberts - \$2,156.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, payment of the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund was presented for approval:

- Guyette Communications (Final) - \$18,781.00

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, the agreement with Shamokin Area School District dated June 24, 2005 was presented for ratification. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Starr, the purchase of the 1997 Ford Escort from Independence Ford for use as a Drivers Education vehicle at a cost of \$1,575 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, changing Jerry Marks from Volunteer Elementary Wrestling Coach to Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2005-2006 school year at a rate of \$7.70 per hour/70 hours maximum was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the addition of the following individuals to the 2005-2006 Substitute List effective December 6, 2005 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Amber Reese (K-12)
- Mary Frances Hynoski (K-12)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Bell-Perry, the appointment of Elsie Bittner from Region III as Board Treasurer to complete the unexpired term of Richard Swank, through June 30, 2006, at a salary of \$240 prorated, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Bittner abstained).

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, changing Marlin Wertman from Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Part-time Bus/Van Driver for Run #22A effective December 6, 2005, was presented for approval. The run is dependent upon enrollment in the non-public schools. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, the resignation of Kenneth T. Goodman, Jr. (Transportation Aide) effective September 26, 2005, was presented for acceptance. Mr. Goodman was with the district since February 2005. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, an FMLA Leave for Glenn Heim beginning Monday, December 5, 2005, was presented for approval. The total leave is not to exceed 12 weeks over the next 12 months. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, a license agreement with the CSIU (per Exhibit A) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Jones, to cancel school on Friday, December 9, 2005, to allow staff and students to attend and support the team at the state championship football game in Hershey, with the scheduled make-up day to be Friday, December 23, 2005, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager noted that he happened to speak with Mrs. Stone and noted that the auditorium lighting project is nearly finished. Mr. Caputo noted that a training on the new dimming system was held earlier in the day. It is a programmable computer driven system. The training lasted about 90 minutes. The software can be loaded into other computers to allow students to practice using the program. They are counting on the light and sound tech students to operate the system during performances. Dr. Lonoconus noted that Mr. Campbell has already scheduled regular maintenance and cleaning of the system. Mr. Yeager noted that the stage curtains would be cleaned following completion of the project. He asked if there were any additional costs over the original work order. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the contractor was holding at the original price. Mrs. Bittner asked if everything was completed in the auditorium. Dr. Lonoconus replied affirmatively as far as lighting, sound and air conditioning are concerned. He noted that there might be some carpentry issues in the future, and replacement of some of the tiles, which are getting worn. Mr. Caputo noted that some additional shelving for storage of props would be beneficial.

Mr. Yeager noted that the Board had discussed holding a Board retreat in January. Dr. Lonoconus noted that an orientation for the newer Board members would be helpful. Mr. Yeager questioned the progress of the Professional Education Plan. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the deadline has been extended to January 30, 2006. Mr. Yeager asked if the plan would go above and beyond what is required and show the cost. Dr. Lonoconus noted that he does not want to slow down the process, but Mr. Clippinger is cognizant of that issue. Mr. Yeager asked about the move to a School Health Council. Dr. Lonoconus noted that Mrs. Kathy Holleran would be involved in that process. The State has not given final approval to what they will require. At this point, it is not clear what the district will need to develop. Mr. Yeager asked if the Board could look into the idea of a School Health Council. Dr. Lonoconus noted that he would like to see that happen, but added that the biggest challenge would be to get public involvement. Ms. Stametzer is willing to come on campus to assist in any way she can. Mr. Yeager noted that there are a lot of things that the school can do to improve.

President Meyer asked when Mr. Rodgers would begin employment. Dr. Lonoconus replied that he would be on campus December 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Yeager asked if the Vo-Tech budget timeline would be affected by Southern's Act 72 status. Dr. Lonoconus noted that our payment to Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech has remained somewhat stable over the past several years, and it would be budgeted accordingly. He added that things are so unstable in Harrisburg, that the administrators may have to move the budget calendar to December in order to get everything completed on time. There are still a lot of unanswered questions.

Dr. Lonoconus noted that the Request for Proposals is available if anyone from the public is interested in seeing it. President Meyer questioned the timeline. Dr. Lonoconus replied that proposals would be received and presented to the Facilities Committee in February and presented

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to the full Board for action in March. Solicitor Roberts noted that the Board would need to act quickly. The notice would need to be advertised at least ten days prior to any action by the Board, which means it would need to go to the newspaper by March 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Mr. Charles Porter, asked if no dollar amount were included in the Professional Education Plan, if it would be difficult to amend. Dr. Lonoconus noted that they would have to go back to the state for an amendment. Mr. Porter asked if the Driver Education car could be used for running errands. Dr. Lonoconus agreed that when available, it could be used. Mr. Porter asked if it would be possible to have district personnel perform some of the work to replace lighting fixtures involved in the Energy Savings project in house. Dr. Lonoconus agreed to discuss the matter further with Mr. Campbell.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary