

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

The February 13, 2006, 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*)

Karl Meyer  
Charles Porter  
Ronald Savitski (*Absent*)

Thomas Slusser  
Paul Starr  
Michael Yeager

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Pat Shultz, James Becker, Paul Caputo, James Dunkelberger and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

**BOARD VACANCY**

Following an interview by the Board of Directors, on a motion by Yeager and second by Porter, to appoint Mr. Thomas Slusser to fill the Region II vacancy on the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. Following the vote, the Board Secretary (Notary Public) administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Slusser and he was seated on the Board at 7:43 p.m.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items and Fiscal Item B would be action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) He welcomed Mr. Slusser to the Board and thanked him for offering his time to serve the district.

2.) He requested an executive session following the meeting to consult with counsel concerning a litigation matter.

3.) He announced that they were celebrating a belated School Board Appreciation Month. Light refreshments and PSBA handouts were provided for Board members. He thanked the Board members for their dedication and service to the district.

4.) He referred to the recent discussion regarding the reimbursement for the football playoff games, and noted that the district is reimbursed on a flat rate. It is not based on ticket sales.

5.) He has been in contact with PenTeleData regarding the service with the T-1 line, which will be expiring, at the end of the school year. Due to the amount of traffic on the Internet during the school day, the district is in need of more bandwidth. He is recommending that the district increase the bandwidth to allow maximum Internet use without interruption in service. The cost

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would increase approximately \$400 per month over last year's cost. The cost is currently around \$800 per month for a one-year contract. President Meyer asked if the current situation is affecting education. Dr. Lonoconus replied affirmatively. He noted that there are a few times per day when the system becomes overloaded. It also affects the ability to do business. He noted that proposals were received two years ago. PenTeleData offered the best price and they have been very reliable. He noted that the income from soda sales defers some of the Internet costs and added that this is the first time the rate increased in several years. Mr. Porter asked how a wireless system would work. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the additional bandwidth would still be needed. Mr. Porter asked if anyone checked with AT&T. Dr. Lonoconus agreed to do so. The Board agreed to include a motion for action on the next agenda.

6.) The Boys Basketball team will be competing for the Central Susquehanna Conference Championship on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. at Bloomsburg High School.

7.) Senior, Katie Snyder, scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point at a home game last week.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Activities - No meeting was held. Mr. Porter asked what needed to be done with Mr. Sharrow's contract. Dr. Lonoconus responded that they would need to decide by March.

Curriculum - A Curriculum Committee meeting of the whole began at 9:00 p.m. Mr. Clippinger distributed an agenda packet that showed the link between curriculum development, the state standards, observing instruction, assessing instruction, budgeting for curricular materials, and professional development. Each curriculum or planned course of study should be thought of as a dynamic, changing document that spreads across a grade level and is also in a vertical sequence from K to 12. Teachers should use this planned course to align the content and rigor of what they teach each day, and reflectively make some notes about student needs and instructional effectiveness to perfect the delivery of instruction to a precise target. Each standard tells what students should know or be able to do by the end of that planned course.

Observations of instruction should focus on the content of what is being taught, the level of difficulty, level of engagement of the students, and student products. This effort helps to monitor the delivery of planned courses. Since the Science curriculum is now being revised, middle school science was used as the focus of the printed examples. Board members were shown a conceptual mapping of the main topics found in Physical, Life, Environmental and Earth/Space sciences and the volume of standards that should be taught and tested. Given the amount of instructional time that middle school science teachers have, a thematic approach was chosen to organize the conceptual map into the scope and sequence of the curriculum.

The scope of each grade level can then be focused on specific concepts, and instructional materials can be chosen to match. Instead of large, comprehensive science textbooks, textbooks arranged by themes could be purchased to more closely align to what is needed for that grade level. Since the smaller books would be used for only part of the school year, the books would last longer.

Continued professional development that matches the district's curricular content and provides strategies to increase the level of thinking and the level of student engagement to achieve each standard is another vital area of importance. He noted that if the district doesn't continue to build the capacity of its instructors to successfully affect all students, it will have great difficulty meeting the adequate yearly progress levels in just a few years ahead.

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Mr. Clippinger invited the Board members to attend the next K-12 Curriculum Coordinating Council meeting on Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the District Office conference room. President Meyer asked if they have been pleased with the integrated approach. Mr. Clippinger replied that they are just putting it together, but the teachers are pleasantly surprised at how focused the curriculum and the choice of materials can be.

Mr. Porter referred to assessments and asked who makes the tests. Mr. Clippinger responded that teachers make up most of the local tests. They need to assess what they are teaching. Mr. Porter asked if we could get the format from other districts that are doing the same thing instead of spending hundreds of hours developing our own. Mr. Clippinger replied that Southern is the only district in the IU looking at Science this year. He said that he understood what Mr. Porter was asking. They did look at other school districts regarding Math. They looked at the Integrated Math curriculum of Bethlehem, but that is a very diversified community. Bethlehem School District chose to create a simultaneous, dual program offering Integrated Math and a traditional math sequence of courses. Southern Columbia does not have enough teachers to offer a dual program. He said that they could look at what other districts are doing, but some formats would not work for Southern. The Curriculum Committee meeting of the whole ended at 9:40 p.m.

Facilities - Mike Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The request for bids for the Baseball Field/Roadway and the High School Gym Bleachers/Backstop projects would be advertised February 10, 17 and 24, with bids due Wednesday, March 1, 2006. They discussed the Guaranteed Energy Savings project. They would need to meet the advertising requirements if they choose to go ahead with the project. The possible need for a special meeting was discussed. The need for an additional well was also discussed as well as the possibility of a filtration system for the sulfur wells. The priority list has not changed. Dr. Lonoconus noted that there was a new request regarding painting the soundboard in the band room. They would like to remove the old soundboard and replace it with large panels of sound baffles. The quote for the server in the high school is \$8,500. Mr. Rodgers noted that he made a recommendation to pay for the server out of the budgetary reserve. Dr. Lonoconus stated that the administration is looking for direction from the Board. Mr. Porter noted that it is a unanimous decision as a committee to purchase a server. President Meyer stated that he would go with the recommendation of the administration. Mr. Rodgers noted that he views the budgetary reserve as a fund for emergency-type items that cannot be foreseen. It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the administration to purchase the server. Solicitor Roberts noted that a formal motion was not necessary at this time. The purchase would be ratified as part of the invoices at a future meeting. The item is part of the PEPPM list and therefore does not need to be put out on bid.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the committee agreed on the preliminary budget as it is written. It was written to address Act 72 deadlines. It is not a final budget. He encouraged Board members to attend the next Finance Committee meeting.

Negotiations and Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Thursday. Mr. Campbell, Dr. Lonoconus and the committee members were present. They discussed job descriptions of the custodians, the importance of acknowledging skin diseases in public places and the cleaning of exercise equipment. The committee went into executive session due to personnel issues. President Meyer asked if changes they discussed during the meeting were implemented. Dr. Lonoconus replied that he was unable to speak with Mr. Clippinger about getting it written into the curriculum. Mr. Porter stated that they want to be proactive regarding communicable disease precautions.

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Mr. Yeager reported that he was not aware of the meeting. It was agreed that all Board members should be contacted regarding future committee meetings. Mr. Yeager asked if there are job descriptions for each committee as to what the committee should address. Mr. Yeager requested an executive session to discuss personnel matters following the Board meeting.

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that there was some concern over what instructors could do in their departments in relation to working on personal items.

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

#### **MINUTES AND INVOICES**

Mr. Porter requested some corrections to the January 16, 2006 minutes, which will be reflected in the revised minutes presented for approval at the February 20, 2006, Board meeting.

#### **ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, the Southern Columbia Area School District Preliminary Budget of the 2006-2007 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,423,964.00 was presented for approval. Prior to a vote, Mr. Rodgers reported that under Act 72, he was required to electronically forward the approved tentative budget to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by February 20, 2006. Once it is received at PDE, they will basically review it to determine if it is within the guidelines of not having to go to referendum. Dr. Lonoconus and Mr. Rodgers will continue to go through line items, but they will need direction from the Board as to whether they want to raise taxes, use the general fund or make additional cuts to programs. He anticipates having a much more detailed analysis for the next Finance Committee meeting. He plans to e-mail the information to the Board members, so they can be prepared for the meeting. The final budget will need approval by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He will receive more concrete figures from the state in the coming weeks. Mr. Porter noted that he would vote for it because it is a way stop to get to PDE. He would like to see it improved before voting on it as a final budget. President Meyer concurred. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Slusser asked why the fence was installed before the excavation work was done on the baseball field. Dr. Lonoconus responded that only the infield would be affected by the excavation work and the fence was located in the outfield.

#### **ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Yeager and second by Slusser, changing Colleen Lane from Substitute Aide to Full-time Instructional Aide effective February 14, 2006, for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Yeager, employment of Christina Force as a Co-Junior Class Advisor for the 2005-2006 school year at a salary of \$615 (shared) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Bittner and second by Starr, the addition of the following individuals to the 2005-2006 Substitute List effective February 14, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Stephen Kowalchick (Elementary)
- Stacey Petrovich (Elementary)
- Julie Seaman (Elementary)
- Cheryl Toborowsky (Special Education)
- Sheila Zilinski (Elementary/Special Education)
- Carol Brown (K-12)
- Clarissa Geary (K-12)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bittner, employment of the following student teachers as After School Tutors effective January 19, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a rate of \$10 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant, was presented for approval:

- Brian Campbell
- Lance Collier
- Christine Dragan
- Jason Egli
- Gregory Mackey
- Meghan McKinnon
- Bryan Stametz

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Yeager, the resignation of Barbara Hornberger as Elementary Building Lead Teacher for the 2005-2006 school year effective October 28, 2005 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Porter, to appoint Tammy Toczylousky as Elementary Building Lead Teacher for the 2005-2006 school year effective October 31, 2005, at a salary of \$1,298 (prorated) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked what happens when a Lead teacher is ill. Dr. Lonoconus replied that from his past experience, staff members still contact the Lead Teacher and the Lead Teacher still makes the calls for substitutes if they are physically able. In some instances, it is necessary for the Principals to make the calls. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

#### **ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Bittner, the Southern Columbia Area School District Professional Education Plan (September 2005 to September 2008) and its various action plans A, B, C, D, E and F (**per Exhibit C**) were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked why dental courses would be included in the plan. Mr. Clippinger replied that it was included simply because Mrs. Jean Atherton, a member of the committee, requested that it be included. Mr. Porter asked if there were specific plans for the use of “About Learning?” Mr. Clippinger replied negatively. Dr. Wilcox requested “About Learning” so that teachers could provide differentiated instruction; to teach to all ability levels and learning styles. Mr. Clippinger

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noted that state mandates have taken so much time that they have not had time to continue 4-MAT training. Mr. Yeager noted that if a teacher wants to take a course, the provider must be on the list. Mr. Porter asked if the district would offer 4-MAT, would the administration come back with an Action Plan? Dr. Lonoconus replied that if they decided administratively that they wanted to pursue it, they would provide an Action Plan. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Porter asked about the district's substance abuse policy and its relation to athletics. Dr. Lonoconus replied that the district-wide policy addresses substance abuse during any school-related function, but the coaches are instructed to implement their own policies for the individual sports. The coaches' policies can be more stringent than the district-wide policy. Mr. Porter asked if the Board could see the individual sports policies. Dr. Lonoconus replied affirmatively, for those that exist.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Rodgers opened the Guaranteed Energy Savings Proposals. Proposals were received from the following companies:

1. Chevron
2. PPL
3. Bank of America Leasing and Capital, LLC (Did not attend mandatory pre-submission meeting.)

Solicitor Roberts reiterated that the Board would need to decide which company they want to go with in order to meet the advertising requirements. Dr. Lonoconus announced that there were multiple copies of the proposals available if any committee member would like to take a copy home to review. Mr. Porter asked if the administrators would look at the proposals and give their recommendation. Dr. Lonoconus replied that they would if that is what the Board wants. He noted that representatives from the companies could come in to present to the Board.

Mr. Slusser commented that he didn't realize how far Southern Columbia had come until his nephew moved into the district from Baltimore. He was so far behind educationally. He noted that the district is doing a great job educating its students. Mr. Yeager reported that there has been discussion over adding AYP in Physical Education.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked for clarification on the employment requirements. Dr. Lonoconus replied that child abuse and criminal history clearances and a negative Tuberculosis test are among the requirements. An FBI background check is required for employees who have not resided in Pennsylvania for at least two years. Mr. Gotshall asked if aides generally become certified teachers. Dr. Lonoconus replied negatively. He said that it is possible, but it is not common.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary