

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

The April 17, 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

Karl Meyer

Charles Porter

Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser

Paul Starr

Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Prior to regular business, representatives from Facilities Maintenance Systems, Inc. gave a presentation on the services their firm could provide. They discussed costs and ways to reduce costs. Their recommendation for staff is one custodian per 18,000 to 22,000 square feet of building space. The presentation ended at 8:30 p.m.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) He reported that he investigated an advertisement in the School Leader News regarding a modular classroom/office. More information will follow.

2.) He asked for the Board's permission to use a maintenance substitute for grass mowing and other jobs as needed. The Board responded affirmatively.

3.) He reported that there was another clog in the sewer pipe coming from the elementary cafeteria. Rotor-Reuter was called in to investigate the problem. It was determined that there was a grease plug in the sewer pipe, which may have been causing the recent backup.

4.) He requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss pending litigation regarding a student and a personnel matter.

5.) Mr. Dunkelberger reported that the Special Education enrollment numbers are very similar to the numbers at the beginning of the current school year. He does not foresee a need for additional staff.

6.) Dr. Lonoconus reported that Tresa Britch, Board Secretary, was not present at the meeting due to illness. He noted that he would be taking the notes and the minutes would not be in detail.

7.) Mr. Davis gave a PowerPoint presentation on the use of the wireless lab. Mrs. Baran, Mrs. Vitkauskus and Mrs. Jeffries also contributed to the presentation. Mr. Davis outlined the estimated costs and how the additional mobile labs would aid instruction.

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2006

Page 2

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Elsie Bittner, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. They discussed the Strategic Plan Mid-Point Review, Science curriculum and Individual Grade Level Learning Plans. They discussed half-day training sessions for 4-Sight. The cost of the tests would be approximately \$60 per class per grade. Mr. Yeager spoke about 4-Sight testing and noted that money should be included in next year's budget for that purpose. Mr. Clippinger questioned the possibility of the Policy and Curriculum Committees having a joint meeting.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that they would be reviewing model policies from PSBA. Some policies in the manual may merit revisions. There was discussion regarding approval of the Student Wellness Policy. A new motion was discussed and would be acted upon later in the agenda. Mr. Yeager suggested having a policy retreat to make everyone more aware of the existing policies and why the policies exist. Board members were asked to look at dates in July for a possible retreat.

CSIU - Karl Meyer reported that the Board would be voting on the CSIU budget later in the agenda.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager, who serves on the Joint Operating Committee of the Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech, noted that he was opposed to the Act 80 days in the proposed calendar. Mr. Yeager noted that he spoke to Mr. Curry, Director Elect, and Mr. John, Business Manager regarding the matter.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, the minutes of March 13 and 20 (as amended), 2006, were presented for approval. Mr. Clippinger gave a possible explanation. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$331,619.19 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$52,481.45 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter questioned a cash advance to Mrs. Lombardo on April 1st. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No).

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, 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 Yeager and second by Bittner, the 2006-2007 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,962,537 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Slusser, acceptance of the 3-year Asbestos Re-inspection Proposal submitted by Suburban Energy and Environmental Consultants, Inc. at a cost of \$1,250 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2006

Page 3

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to designate John Shiko as a Volunteer Assistant Softball 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 Slusser and second by Savitski, the employment of James Roth as Winter Weightlifting Supervisor for the 2005-2006 school year at 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 Bittner and second by Yeager, the employment of Michael Johnston as Spring Weightlifting Supervisor for the 2005-2006 school year at 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 Bittner and second by Savitski, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Stacy Getz (Secondary Learning Support Teacher) beginning August 28, 2006, and continuing through the end of the 1st marking period of the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, an Agreement with Central Penn Physical Therapy, Inc. (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, an Olweus Survey concerning bullying issues, which would be administered to all middle school students was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, to authorize and direct the Superintendent to appoint a Wellness Committee consisting of members from those categories set forth in the draft Student Wellness policy was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Slusser, the Southern Columbia Area School District Strategic Plan Mid-Point Review (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked if the soccer coach position had been advertised in the newspaper. Dr. Lonoconus replied affirmatively. Mrs. Bell-Perry questioned the number of cell phones in the district and noted that the former Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds still had a district cell phone in his possession. Mr. Rodgers noted that he would check into the matter.

Mr. Jones asked about Facilities Maintenance Systems, Inc. at Hazleton School District. Mr. Rodgers responded that it has been successful at Hazleton, but Southern Columbia's operation is much different. Hazleton has ten school buildings opposed to two at Southern. He

Board Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2006

Page 4

noted that it is possible that it could be successful at Southern, but the ultimate decision would be up to the Board.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Clippinger about CSIU programs. Mr. Gotshall asked about the PSSA and our students being prepared. The administration replied.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident,

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary