

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

The May 8, 2006 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:34 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 (*Absent*)

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Alan J. Lonoconus, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Debra Olson, Acting 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.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Dr. Lonoconus introduced five representatives from the senior class - Elizabeth Mansell, Bethany Guthrie, Amanda Quinton, Cortlynn Latsha and Catarina Manney. The students asked permission from the Board to place a memorial statue and shrubbery for Janette Mathews, a classmate who has passed away, next to the memorial of a bench and two trees already approved for fallen students Tarik Leghlid and Eric Barnes. There will be an action item at the meeting of May 15.

2.) Dr. Lonoconus gave a report of how the Wellness Committee is progressing. More names will be added to the list of members as some students and other community members have shown interest. Carbonated soda sales are already down and companies are looking at offering more water selections and possibly testing some milk choices. Mr. Porter asked if they are using the Department of Education for guidelines and Dr. Lonoconus said that Mrs. Holleran has been in contact with other districts.

3.) Dr. Lonoconus noted that he was impressed with the Encore show put on last week by Mrs. Stone and her students. Mr. Caputo agreed that he was proud of the students and staff involved with the show. He stated that our curriculum is rich here at Southern including the performing arts. Dr. Meyer stated that he wanted the students to know the Board is proud of them and to thank Mrs. Stone for a job well done.

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4.) Dr. Lonoconus stated that when Mr. Porter asked him at a prior meeting if the Boy's Soccer position had been advertised he inadvertently responded affirmatively, when it had only been advertised internally.

5.) Solicitor Roberts stated that there would be an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss an administrative personnel matter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that a brief meeting was held and they discussed Mr. Jim Kessler's resignation as 8th grade Boy's Basketball Coach. He also reported that the Boy's Soccer position had been advertised externally and one additional candidate was attained. He said that the Presidents of the booster clubs are going to meet with the committee at the district's request. The prom was held on Friday, May 5th and all in attendance had a good time and were well behaved. The Senior Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. Mr. Porter brought up a point from the PSBA Bulletin in regard to equivalence for Title IX. He noted that booster clubs need to be in accordance with Title IX also, and they are to have books audited on a yearly basis.

Facilities & Services - Karl Meyer, committee member, reported that the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds position was discussed. The committee asked for input from the Board in regard to going ahead with the contracted company or to look at some of the applicants. Ron Savitski and Tom Slusser stated that they think the applicants should be looked at and then interview the top six or so to see what they have to offer. Savitski thought it was only fair that since the Board interviewed the company, they should now interview some of the applicants. It was decided that the salary range might be a decision maker as to whom to interview so they decided to talk in executive session on that matter. Dr. Meyer asked how this process was done in the past? He thought it seemed cumbersome. Dr. Lonoconus stated that this is an administrative position so the Board needs to be involved and he was not involved last time this position was filled, so he isn't certain of the process at that time. The committee decided not to go with any of the energy proposals given and to do some work in-house for energy savings, starting with the lights in the high school gymnasium, and to address the remainder of the issues as funds are available. An estimate from a local contractor for the lights in the gym is just over \$17,000 for material and labor, which is less than half of the PPL estimate. The high school gymnasium bleacher project is on schedule and there is a possibility that two sections of the old bleachers could be donated to the Ralpho Municipal Gym. There was no formal decision made, but the Board would like it to be a motion for next week's meeting. A transportation garage office entrance was discussed at an estimate of \$2000. The baseball and softball fence cap is in place and adds definition and safety.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that two bus bid proposals would be out next week. The possibility of new, used or buses coming off of a 3-year lease were discussed. Retirements and resignation were discussed. There have been four education retirements with three teachers and one counselor, one custodial retirement and one custodial resignation. The budget calendar and budget discussion is on target. The current budget has an approximate \$341,511 deficit. The committee needs to discuss whether or not an increase in millage is necessary. The budget is due June 30. Mr. Porter had some questions for Mr. Rodgers on the budget. They will meet again in two weeks for more budget preparation. Mr. Starr asked what percentage of the budget is State funded and Mr. Rodgers stated figures that mounted to nearly 50 percent.

Negotiations & Personnel - No report.

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ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mrs. Bell-Perry requested a change on page 2 of the April 17th minutes.

Mr. Porter had questions on the invoices for Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Rodgers said he would double-check them for him.

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Porter reported that in the PSBA bulletin, it states that auditors should only be used for a certain period of time. He was questioning whether an RFP (request for proposal) had been done to get the auditor. Mr. Rodgers said that could be done. He had simply used the same auditor as last year and he felt their rate was good. Mr. Porter asked if this was a financial audit or a performance audit and questioned the difference. Mr. Rodgers stated that it is a financial audit and it is required by the State. He also noted that a performance audit is more to see if the things required have been done. Performance audits are done in some other areas. The financial audit is historically done in August. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to have an RFP done and Item B would not be included on the next agenda

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to provide three (3) students with on-the-job clerical training and three (3) students with on-the-job maintenance training in the district during the summer months at minimum wage (35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to re-appoint Richard J. Roberts, Jr. as School Solicitor for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, with a retainer of \$3,200 plus \$85 per hour for additional work, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked Solicitor Roberts what the retainer included and Mr. Roberts replied that it is for his attendance at the Board meetings. Last year the hourly rate for additional work was \$80 and this year it is \$85. Mr. Jones stated that he thought it could even be raised to \$90. The motion remained as written and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Porter, to appoint Michael Yeager from Region I (Ralpho Township) as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007; salary \$240, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, to acknowledge tenure for the following teachers effective with the end of the 2005-2006 school year was presented for approval:

- Michael Bobersky
- Stacy Getz
- Amy Hornberger
- Victoria Kozlek
- Nadeen Swab
- Robert Visnosky

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Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if tenure was automatic. Mr. Lonoconus stated that if you deny tenure, you need to state a reason and a denial could end up in hearings. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, an extension to the Childbearing/Childrearing Leave of Stacy Getz (Learning Support Teacher) through the end of the 2nd marking period of the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. (Her leave was originally approved from the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year through the 1st marking period.) The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Jessie Singley (Kindergarten Teacher) beginning on or about September 27, 2006 and ending January 2, 2007, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Howard Shadduck from the positions of full-time Instructional Aide and Regular Run Bus Driver and to approve adding him to the 2005-2006 Substitute List (Aide/Driver) effective May 5, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Shadduck has been with the district since October 2002. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of James Kessler from the position of Junior High Boys Basketball Coach effective April 14, 2006, and to approve him as a Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2005-2006 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to accept the resignation for retirement of David Keefer from the position of 1st Shift Custodian effective July 22, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Keefer has been with the district since October 1984. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, the addition of Jennifer Stine (Mathematics 7-12) to the 2005-2006 Instructional Substitute List effective May 9, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, to appoint Daniel Rodgers as Administration Representative to the Central Susquehanna School Employee Health & Welfare Trust (CSTRUST) to replace Joseph Springer was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to appoint Daniel Rodgers as HIPAA Security Official and HIPAA Privacy Official for the Southern Columbia Area School District effective April 21, 2006. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Slusser, to change Derek Stine from Assistant Girls Soccer Coach to Head Girls Soccer Coach and to change Frank Fullmer from Head Girls Soccer

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Coach to Assistant Girls Soccer Coach for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the Southern Columbia Area School District Wellness Committee (per Exhibit B) with the addition of Mrs. Elsie Bittner as a committee member was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Slusser, to accept the resignation of William Deibert from the position of 3rd Shift Custodian effective May 8, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Deibert has been with the district since October 2005. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Slusser questioned whether students' buses arrive at school on time for breakfast and the principals informed him that students have ample time to attend breakfast prior to school. Mr. Meyer explained that the motion is to accept the commodities program, which allows the school to receive free items from the government such as cheese, chicken, etc.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Slusser asked what the Board was going to do to get Mrs. Shultz the aides she needs if the registration numbers go up again through the summer as they have historically. President Meyer said he is committed to the education for the children and to provide whatever staff is needed to accommodate those needs, but he could only talk for himself. Mrs. Shultz reiterated the numbers are the same as previously reported, but the summer can be very unpredictable. She hoped that a plan would be in place should the numbers increase. Mr. Porter commented that hopefully by the July board meeting they would know more and could put together a plan at that time so it wouldn't be a last minute decision. Mr. Savitski stated that a plan is needed since additional rooms are not available for teachers. Mrs. Shultz stated that the State recommends 15 to 16 students per Kindergarten room. Upward toward 20 would not be good and having at least two adults in the room would be helpful. Mr. Porter stated that there was an article in the paper today that reported Central Columbia School District is saving over \$300,000 going with another vendor other than the trust in which Southern currently participates. He asked Mr. Rodgers to look into the matter. Mr. Rodgers stated that he isn't sure of the process to get out of the trust. It was noted that the insurance group currently in place is also approved by the unions at the school.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Blaine Madara questioned Mr. Porter on the Title IX point he had brought up earlier. Mr. Porter stated that the district would need to look into it to make sure it is in compliance. Mr. Roberts said the Board would need to look at the whole picture and overall opportunity.

It was asked if a letter is sent to employees accepting their resignation or retirement. It was stated that yes indeed a letter is sent thanking them for their service.

Mr. Dave Petrovich wanted a copy of the presentation that was done from the company wanting to take over for Buildings and Grounds. It was stated that there was no contract at this point and the presentation was done on a Power Point slide show. He questioned the savings

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while paying \$70,000 to \$75,000 when the district could pay one person to do it for less. He definitely thinks the Board would be going in the wrong direction with the company. He thinks it is good to interview applicants to see what they have to offer. It was stated that some of the savings is in the purchasing of bulk supplies by the company for all the districts in which they are contracted. Mr. Jones gave Hazelton School District as an example and Mr. Petrovich still couldn't see all the savings.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary