

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

The May 15, 2006 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:32 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; 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.

President Meyer announced that the Board would enter into an executive session at 7:33 p.m. for personnel matters. The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:37 p.m. followed by a roll call of members:

Amanda Bell-Perry
Elsie Bittner
Hugh Jones

Karl Meyer
Charles Porter (*Absent*)
Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser
Paul Starr
Michael Yeager

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer apologized for the delay and announced that all items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

1.) Mrs. Letha Stone, Chorus Director, introduced 11th grade music student, Jim McCready, who demonstrated the capabilities of the Smart Music program. Jenna Hyatt, a senior enrolled in the Choral program sang a selection from "Wicked."

2.) The presentation on Odyssey of the Mind by Mrs. Susan Stone was postponed until June due the length of the executive session.

3.) Dr. Lonoconus announced that Ecology teacher, Mrs. Kristen Vitkauskas, was successful in applying for a \$3,000 grant. The funds will be used to assess water quality in local creeks and streams.

4.) Dr. Lonoconus requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss a pending litigation matter.

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Mrs. Bell-Perry noted that the public should be given an explanation for Mr. Porter's departure. President Meyer explained that it could be addressed during the Board Comment portion of the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mr. Clippinger noted that the committee met prior to the meeting. He provided a handout to Board members regarding Mrs. Lombardo's Parent Night for the Enrichment Program. Mrs. Desiree Phillips has done an excellent job with the program. He encouraged Board members to attend and show their support of the program.

A committee consisting of Linda Ciongoli, Instructional Support Specialist; Barbara Lombardo, Grants Coordinator; Paula Gardner, School Psychologist and Mr. Clippinger, has been working with Joneen Lowman regarding programming for preschool children. She has offered to lend her support to the school district. The committee will be revamping the preschool programs currently in place. It will provide an opportunity to look at what our students are learning at an early age. The study can follow the students for a few years to track their progress. Mrs. Shultz noted that she is looking at what the district does for incoming kindergarten students. She noted that social skills are an important part of the program. During the last part of the meeting, the committee discussed possibilities of looking at curricular services in the district.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that a brief committee meeting was held prior to the Board meeting. A sample policy regarding bus idling was discussed. Mr. Slusser noted that the policy would eliminate all unnecessary idling of buses around the school buildings to avoid exposure of diesel fumes to student. The policy would apply to all drivers of district buses.

Negotiations & Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported that the committee would meet on the upcoming Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. to review the top applications for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds position. She encouraged all Board members to attend.

CSIU - Karl Meyer, Representative, noted that there was nothing to report beyond the information provided in the Board Briefs.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager, JOC Representative, reported that CMAVTS hired Michael Sokoloski as Business Manager. The Act 80 days were approved in their calendar, but they may be taken out of the schedule for the following year.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Bittner and second by Jones, the Minutes of April 10 and 17 (as amended), 2006, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Slusser, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$1,147,001.54 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, 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.

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On a motion by Bittner and second by Jones, to appoint Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner, LLP to audit the financial records of the 2005-2006 fiscal year for a fee not to exceed \$13,175 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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

- Schuylkill Valley Sports - \$1,027. (Fence Safety Cap)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, to designate Randall L. Campbell as a Volunteer Maintenance Worker to perform weekend walk-throughs and other duties as needed through June 30, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, the salary of Dr. Alan Lonoconus, Superintendent, at \$87,000 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No).

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, to provide (2) additional students with on-the-job maintenance/custodial 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 Savitski and second by Slusser, the employment of Jonathan Joseph as Head Boys Soccer Coach for the 2006-2007 school year, with 14 points and a salary of \$2,594, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Savitski voted No).

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, the following revised science courses, which have been aligned to the PA Academic Standards (content) and the Science Assessment Anchors (level of complexity), were presented for approval:

- Advanced Placement Chemistry, CN 3335;
- Physics, CN 437
- Advanced Placement Physics, CN 3437
- Envirothon Science, CN 229
- Anatomy and Physiology, Honors, CN 2340

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program 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 Yeager, to authorize the administration to send a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment for the 2006-2007 school year to those non-

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instructional employees and substitute teachers employed less than 12 months, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked the Board to elaborate on the reason Mr. Porter left the executive session. Board members did not comment.

ADDENDUM ITEM - PERSONNEL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, a motion to maintain the four positions of the staff that retired regardless of the fiscal status was presented for approval. The positions consist of the following: Learning Support teacher, Secondary Art teacher, 5th Grade teacher and Secondary Guidance Counselor. Prior to the vote, Solicitor Roberts stated that approval of the prior motion only constitutes the Board's intent to hire. Final approval to fill the positions would be made when the names of replacements are presented to the Board for approval. Dr. Lonconus noted that there could be fiscal implications later. He wanted to make sure the Board was aware of what could happen if State funding is less than anticipated. There is the possibility of a tax increase. He reiterated that the Board needed to be aware of the ramifications when making this decision. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Yeager noted that the Board needed to look into charging students to park. He noted that other districts charge anywhere from \$20 annually to \$50 per semester. He also noted that a fee to participate should be reevaluated.

Mr. Slusser noted that he spoke with bus drivers from Bloomsburg and found that Southern students participate in more field trips than Bloomsburg students. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the H.A.R.T. organization in the Elementary and the S.M.A.R.T. organization in the Middle School fund the field trips up to the 8th grade level.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Bill Otto reported that Presidential Citations would be awarded to Bobby Admire and the parents of Eric Barnes for their heroic actions. Dr. Lonconus noted that the citations would be framed and presented at the Awards Ceremony.

Mrs. Janice Ebanks, parent of a 4th grade student, reported that she and her husband followed the buses to Lancaster during a recent field trip. She noted that the buses were traveling at an excessive rate of speed. She contacted Mrs. Shultz, who encouraged her to contact the charter bus company. Mrs. Ebanks was concerned for the safety of the students. Dr. Lonoconus noted that the administrators would be contacting the charter companies prior to any field trips to let them know what is expected of their drivers. President Meyer assured her that the issue would be addressed.

District resident, Mrs. Sally Meyer, reported that she heard concerns from several parents regarding rumors that administrators were resigning. She noted that she is extremely concerned that several of the administrators would be looking for other jobs. If the entire administrative team would leave, there is much concern for the students. She is worried that some of the very best teachers will also opt to leave the district.

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District resident, Lois Manney, noted that she is genuinely concerned that teachers would leave. She is also concerned for the students.

District resident, Donna Talisesky, reported that it is frightening to see all of the administrators leaving. The problem needs to be addressed here. She noted that the Board would be unable to bring in people that care as much about the students as the administrative team currently in place.

District resident, Meg Yeager, noted that she wanted to echo the concerns that have already been expressed. She has had the opportunity to live in several other areas. While in the Southern District, she has never had an issue that wasn't addressed. She knows that the district is getting their money's worth. She has been very happy with what has been offered, and it has been done in a very cost effective manner.

President Meyer promised the public that the Board would do their best. He implored the administrators to change their minds.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary