

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

The June 19, 2006 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 8:23 p.m. with President Karl Meyer in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Meyer apologized for the delay and welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Amanda Bell-Perry  
Elsie Bittner (*Absent*)  
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; 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.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Meyer announced that all items on the agenda would be considered action items. District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, questioned how the district could save money by paying an outside firm \$72,000 when they could have hired an individual for less. President Meyer noted that when benefits are taken into consideration, the figures are closer. Mr. Madara asked if the firm would hire someone from inside or outside the district. President Meyer replied that it would be the firm's decision. Mr. Madara asked if it would be the district's obligation to train the new person. President Meyer responded that it would be the firm's responsibility.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Lonoconus' report included the following topics:

- 1.) Relay for Life Chairpersons, Mrs. Karen Marinelli and Mr. Chris Dock, thanked the Board and the entire staff for allowing the Relay for Life to be held on campus. The event raised over \$92,300. They presented a plaque to the district.
- 2.) Dr. Lonoconus asked committee chairpersons to contact the Board Secretary if they were planning to hold a committee meeting in July.
- 3.) Fencing is available from Bloomsburg University. The maintenance department will look into it.
- 4.) An executive session was held prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum - No meeting was held.

Negotiations & Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported that the committee met twice last month to discuss the administrative vacancies and the Supervisor of Buildings and

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Grounds position. Another meeting is planned for next week. She asked the Board members for some available dates.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held, but the committee would be looking at three sample policies from other districts regarding bus idling.

CSIU - The next meeting would be on the upcoming Wednesday.

Vo-Tech - The next meeting would be the following night.

### ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bell-Perry, the Treasurer’s Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, the Minutes of May 8 and 15, 2006, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bell-Perry, the General Fund Invoices in the amount of \$298,997.77 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter questioned the district’s practice on advancing payment to teachers for graduate course tuitions and its relation to the contract. Mr. Rodgers replied that there is a form that teachers submit where they can request payment in advance. He would look into the matter further. By roll call vote the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Bell-Perry 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.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to authorize the Business Manager to make appropriate transfers for proper budgetary accounting to close out the fiscal year and prepare for audit was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to authorize the Business Manager to transfer unallocated expenditures remaining at the conclusion of the 2005-2006 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked for the amount of the transfer. Mr. Rodgers replied that the figure is not 100 percent determined. He would like the auditor to sign off on the amount before it is released. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to designate the following institutions as school district depositories for the 2006-2007 fiscal year was presented for approval:

- First Columbia Bank & Trust Co.
- Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund
- Pennsylvania Treasurer’s INVEST Program
- Union National Bank
- M&T Bank

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, a Resolution (**per Exhibit B**) requesting permission to continue to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services Cooperative Purchasing Program was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit C**) approving the Southern Columbia Area School District General Fund Budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,376,967 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, Support Staff (non-union) salaries (**per Exhibit D**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, to award a bid for (2) 2007 Freightliner/Thomas school buses to Rohrer Bus Sales; Duncannon at a total cost of \$128,792 (**per Bid Tabulation, Exhibit E**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to award a bid for Roadway Improvements to Pennsy Supply, Hazleton, at a cost of \$14,000 (**per Bid Tabulation, Exhibit F**) was presented for approval. Prior to voting Mr. Porter asked Mr. Rodgers for the figure obtained to do the work in house. Mr. Rodgers replied that it was \$11,015, but it excluded time. It was projected that two employees would be needed to do the job. By roll call vote, the motion failed; 4-Yes, 3-No (Bell-Perry, Porter and Slusser voted No).

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bell-Perry, to authorize Barbara Lombardo to submit acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the 2006 Highmark Challenge for Healthier Schools Grant Program was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, additional personnel (**per Exhibit G**) for the Southern Columbia 2006 Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program (pending completion of all employment requirements) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, employment of Sherry Jones as Learning Support Teacher effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 6 of the Bachelor's salary schedule (\$36,987) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Casie Geiswite as Secondary Art Teacher effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary schedule (\$34,519). was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, employment of Anthony Pecora as 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 7 of the Master's salary schedule (\$40,837) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Jenna Sellers as Secondary Guidance Counselor effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary schedule (\$36,460) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Slusser, employment of Joan Kidron as an additional Middle School Yearbook Advisor for the 2005-2006 school year was presented for approval. The contracted salary of \$991 will be shared with Victoria Kozlek (originally approved July 2005). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to appoint Hugh Jones from Region I as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007; salary \$240, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Jones Abstained).

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to approve a contract with Facilities Maintenance Services, Inc. as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds (pending completion of all employment requirements) in the amount of \$72,000 in a form acceptable to the Solicitor, the administration and the Board officers who will be executing the same, effective July 1, 2006, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter addressed Mr. Madara's question. He explained that the company agreed to bring extra staff at no charge in order to get the buildings ready for the next school year. He noted that it helped to swing his vote. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of the following individuals as Extended School Year Instructors was presented for approval.

- Cathy Scicchitano (\$20/hour)
- Brenda Webb (contracted rate)
- Margaret Wondoloski (contracted rate)
- Kristy Irons (contracted rate)
- Linda Tomashefski (contracted rate)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Slusser, to approve and adopt the second reading of Policy 246 Student Wellness (per Exhibit H) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Jones, to accept a donation from the Senior Class of a fountain and shrubbery as a memorial to Jannette Matthews was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, a one-week Children's Chem Camp for 25 children in grades Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> to be held June 19 through June 23, 2006, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. was presented for approval. Instructor, Martha Kanaskie, will be paid at the contracted rate. All materials, supplies and salary to be paid by proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, 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:

- 7th Grade Science, CN 041
- 8th Grade Science, CN 128
- Academic Chemistry, CN 335

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, an Act 80 day for June 5, 2007, for grades K-6 and to revise the 2006-2007 school year calendar accordingly (**per Exhibit I**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No).

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, homebound instruction for a high school student beginning August 28, 2006, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of 6 hours per week, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to establish an Alumni Weightlifting Program to run Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m., from June 26 through August 11, 2006 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, to establish an Open to the Public Weightlifting Program to run weekdays, 6:00 - 8:00 a.m., from June 27 through August 4, 2006 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Savitski congratulated Dr. Lonoconus, as it was his last Board meeting as Superintendent. President Meyer wished him the best of luck and noted that he would miss him and that it had been a pleasure working with him.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Mr. Tony Rodriguez, asked for clarification on the roadway discussed earlier. President Meyer replied that it was the road to the lower fields. They obtained a price of \$11,000 for materials and are assuming that the district personnel have the knowledge to perform the work. President Meyer noted that his concern was the employees finding the time to do the work. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the company would guarantee their work. President Meyer replied affirmatively and noted that they are bonded. Mr. Rodriguez asked if the buildings and grounds company that would be cleaning would also be moving all of the items that are being stored in the stairways in the elementary building. President Meyer responded affirmatively.

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Kindergarten Teacher and district resident, Mr. Helen Hilderbrandt, expressed concern with the fact that the improvement project to the road to the lower fields was not being approved. She has deep concerns about the safety of the road. She asked if it would be addressed this year since it had been voted down. President Meyer noted that this does not end the discussion on the project.

District resident, Mr. John Conaghan, what position of liability the district would be in because of the road condition. Solicitor Roberts reported that from a legal standpoint, the district is liable if they are negligent.

Mr. Madara questioned the district's intent regarding the road. Mr. Porter noted that Mr. Danilowicz was a heavy equipment operator and would be able to perform the work. District resident, Mr. Sam Feudale, asked if the road improvements would get done. He also noted that he wanted to maintain the current standards and noted that the district should be willing to pay more for good administrators. Mrs. Bell-Perry noted that she would like to see the work done, but not at that price.

Mr. Madara noted that the Board needs to look at the big picture. They need to look into unfounded mandates. He asked if the Board had any idea what taxpayers have to pay because of No Child Left Behind. He noted that they should be worrying about the larger items instead of the \$15 and \$30 items.

Bus Mechanic and district resident, Mr. Derek Stine, reported that there are ruts one and one-half feet deep in the road. He would like to at least put cones along the road, but asked the Board to reconsider the motion to award the bid.

On a motion by Porter and second by Bell-Perry the motion to reconsider and approve to award a bid for Roadway Improvements to Pennsy Supply, Hazleton, at a cost of \$14,000 (**per Bid Tabulation, Exhibit F**) was presented. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Rodriguez noted that he hoped the Board would be looking for individuals for the administrative vacancies that have pride in our district, and not just looking at saving money. He noted that shots are always taken at the teams that are the best. They need to look at what the district is getting for the money it is spending. People don't take shots at the mediocre; only at the best. The Board needs to support the rest of the team and back them up when it comes to some of the negative press. Most items are taken out of context. He asked if it wouldn't behoove the Board to correct the facts, possibly through a letter to the editor signed as a Board member. He noted that Dr. Lonoconus always gets results and he was always about the kids. He thanked him for that.

District resident, Mr. Rick Swank, noted that he is concerned because of the administrators leaving. He believes that irreversible damage has been done to the district. He noted that people have the right to review accounts, but they need to realize that it takes time away from the regular duties of the employees.

Dr. Lonoconus noted that the students would be well served because of the fantastic staff at Southern Columbia. President Meyer added that there is a tremendous amount of commitment among the staff.

Mr. Swank spoke about the Code of Ethics designates a spokesperson for the district. He would like to see that carried out. He asked the Board to read Policy 011 and noted that he would really like to see the Board follow the policy.

President Meyer thanked the public for persisting regarding the roadway project.

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Mr. Madara announced that a volunteer group would begin dismantling the bleachers the following night around 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. He asked for additional volunteers.

Third Grade Teacher and district resident, Ms. Shelley Jones, noted that they were all going to greatly miss Dr. Lonoconus, Mr. Becker and Mr. Dunkelberger, and their doors are always open to them.

Mr. Porter asked if there was a way to quantify the impact of No Child Left Behind. Mr. Clippinger replied that it would take a "few thousand hours" and noted that the district doesn't have a lot of choice when it comes to complying with No Child Left Behind.

District resident, Mr. Gary Morris, noted that his daughter loved her teachers and coaches. He noted that Southern is going in the right direction and doing a great job. He noted that this was his first Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary