

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

The August 14, 2006, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:50 p.m. with Board Member, Charles Porter, opening the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Mr. Porter welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amanda Bell-Perry
Elsie Bittner
Hugh Jones (*Absent*)

Karl Meyer (*Absent*)
Charles Porter
Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser
Paul Starr
Michael Yeager (*Absent*)

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Roger Nunkester, Paul Caputo, and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bell-Perry, Charles Porter was nominated as President Pro tempore due to the absence of the President and Vice President. With no further nominations, the motion carried by roll call vote; 5-Yes, 1-Abstention (Porter abstained).

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Pro tempore Porter announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda would be considered action items. District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, noted the resignation of Greg Derr as Waste Water and Drinking Water Operator and asked if there was anyone to take his place. Mr. Regis Kostrub from FMS, Inc. responded that they were in the process of soliciting proposals from companies to serve both purposes. He noted that they also put together a job description to attract individuals certified in both areas. Mr. Madara asked how soon someone would be in place. Mr. Kostrub replied that one company would work on a month-to-month basis. Mr. Madara questioned the cost. Mr. Kostrub replied that it wouldn't exceed the current cost by more than a few hundred dollars.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He announced that he was very impressed with the staff and the overall attitude of the staff involved in the Summer Fun-da-Mentals program. He noted that he hopes the program will continue.
- 2.) Motions to fill the current Secondary Science/Chemistry and English positions are on the agenda.
- 3.) The buildings continue to be prepared for the start of school. Facilities Maintenance Specialists, Inc. has a person on board temporarily serving as the Account Manager.
- 4.) The district calendars and K-4 teacher assignments have been mailed. Transportation mailers will go out in the near future.

Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006

Page 2

5.) Solicitor Roberts reported that the Board would need to appoint an Act 1 Tax Study Commission by September 14. The purpose of the Commission will be to research and make a recommendation to the Board regarding the options of Earned Income Tax or Personal Income Tax. He mentioned several deadlines, which must be met and noted that by March 13th, the Board must have a final hearing and give final approval for a question to appear on the ballot. The Tax Study Commission should represent a cross-section of the community. One Board member can be appointed. Relatives of district employees are not allowed to serve on the Commission. A financial officer can be designated to help in the process. It is not required, but would be helpful. The Board is required to establish expense reimbursement rules. The Board would need to decide what procedure to take pertaining to advertising for the Commission and whether to appoint five, seven or nine members. Mr. Porter asked if the applications would be reviewed at a public meeting and not an executive session. Solicitor Roberts noted that he believed it would need to be at a public meeting. He noted that the Board could ask the representatives of the press to publish the information. A legal notice should be published at least once. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the deadline for applications would be September 5th and a special meeting would be needed.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to schedule a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Terry Sharrow, Athletic Director, reported that the Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach, Jennifer Witt, resigned. Kenda Roth and Tracey Clossen (Head Coach and Assistant Coach respectively) would like to split the position. It was agreed that both items should be on next month's agenda; Ms. Witt's resignation and the employment of Mrs. Roth and Mrs. Clossen to share the position and the salary of \$620.

Facilities & Services - Amanda Bell-Perry reported that the committee discussed projects. The high school gymnasium bleachers are complete. One backstop is broken. The company is correcting the problem. The sewer pipe in the elementary was repaired within two days. The committee discussed a licensed operator for drinking water and the sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Rodgers reported that there was a question concerning the size of the stone used on the access road. It was confirmed that the proper stone was used according to the bid specifications. The boiler tube in the high school is currently being repaired. A cracked pipe at the sewage plant was discovered and was repaired immediately. A bid package for the lighting in both the main and auxiliary gymnasiums in the high school is being put together in coordination with FMS, Inc.

Finance - Charlie Porter reported that the Business Office is currently training an individual and they anticipate hiring her in the near future. There seems to be no Board support for the "pay to park" concept. Copier replacement was discussed. Mr. Rodgers noted that the copiers are over four years old and there have been many complaints regarding their performance. They are no longer working efficiently. He obtained quotes from CSP Office Equipment, Xerox and Keystone Business Products, Inc. Multiple proposals were received. He noted that four copiers would be replaced and a floater provided at a cost below budget and below actual. It could save the district between \$3,500 and \$5,000. The copiers would be obtained through a 5-year operating lease.

Negotiations & Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with the custodial staff on August 3rd regarding their concerns and job descriptions. The committee also met on July 31st to discuss secretarial positions and salaries.

Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006

Page 3

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Amanda Bell-Perry reported that no meeting was held last month. She noted that Mike Yeager has not attended the past several meetings and recommended that the Board appoint an alternate representative.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Bittner, to appoint Thomas Slusser as a second Alternate to serve as a Representative on the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

Solicitor Roberts reported that Mr. Rodgers received a letter from an attorney representing F. Ralph and Pauline N. Edwards. They were executors of a will and were deeded property. Deeded distribution is exempt from the realty transfer tax. The person recording the deed reported the transfer improperly. The tax was paid erroneously.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to accept the resignation of Desiree Phillips from the position of Learning Support Teacher effective August 03, 2006, was presented for approval. Ms. Phillips has been with the district since August 2004. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, to accept the resignation of Stephanie Maietta from the position of Secondary English Teacher effective July 18, 2006, was presented for approval. Ms. Maietta has been with the district since August 2005. The motion remained as written and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, to accept the resignation of Greg Derr from the positions of Maintenance Specialist, Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator and Licensed Drinking Water Operator effective August 18, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Derr has been with the district since April 1998. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Denise Kreisher from the position of Accounts Receivable/Payable/Benefits Accounting Staff effective August 11, 2006, was presented for approval. Mrs. Kreisher has been with the district since November 1995. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bell-Perry, employment of Robert Mehalick for the position of Director of Special Education and Student Services effective August 15, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a salary of \$59,500, benefits per the Act 93 Agreement. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006

Page 4

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, employment of Stephen M. DeLong for the position of Secondary Science/Chemistry 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.

On a motion by Starr and second by Slusser, employment of Ryan C. Mensch for the position of Secondary English 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.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, employment of Catherine Scicchitano for the position of Learning Support Teacher effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Master's Salary Schedule (\$36,460), was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to approve the following Support Teachers at the contracted rate (\$709) for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval:

- Dean Brewer (Secondary Science)
- Jennifer Snyder (Secondary Learning Support)
- Michael Johnston (Secondary English)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, changing Kim L. Spotts from Elementary Secretary to Accounts Receivable/Payable/Benefits Accounting Staff effective August 15, 2006, at a rate of \$11.00 per hour was presented for approval. Her benefits are as per the Non-Union Support Staff Handbook. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, changing Edward A. Price from Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Regular Run Driver effective August 15, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of the following individuals as Security Personnel for the 2006-2007 school year at a rate of \$30.00 per event was presented for approval:

- Phyllis Baylor
- Robert Beyers
- Dean Delsite
- Thomas E. Gotshall
- Robert M. Marut
- Linda L. Mayernick
- Stephen Price
- Ralph Shoup

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Bittner, an FMLA Leave for Michele Petro (Elementary Learning Support Teacher) on an intermittent basis beginning August 26, 2006, not

Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006

Page 5

to exceed 12 weeks in a 12-month period, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, an unpaid Medical Leave for Susan Maciejewski (Instructional Aide) for the first half of the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Star, to approve employment of Instructional and Non-instructional Substitutes (pending completion of all employment requirements) for the 2006-2007 school year (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion failed; 3-Yes, 3-No (Bell-Perry, Bittner and Slusser voted No).

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, employment of Todd Jones as a Junior High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2006-2007 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) with 10 points and a salary of \$1,200 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, employment of Curt Jones as Head Swimming Coach for the 2006-2007 school year at a salary of \$25 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, a correction to the points and salaries of the following Wrestling Coaches for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval:

- Christopher Brown, Head Coach - 19.75 points/\$3,689
- Marc Longenhagen, Assistant Coach - 16.00 points/\$2,460
- James McGinley, Junior High Head Coach - 22.75 points/\$3,186
- Shaun Gaul, Junior High Head Coach - 11.50 points/\$1,380

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

President Pro tempore Porter noted that the Board met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Tax Study Commission notice would be advertised for one day in three local papers. Solicitor Roberts would provide a sample advertisement and application from PASBO.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident and Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Helen Hilderbrandt, thanked the Board for the improvements to the access road. She also noted that the parking issue on field trip days needed to be addressed even if the Board doesn't move forward with the "pay to park" plan.

Mr. Caputo noted that the administration had concerns that the parking facility cannot handle the traffic. He noted that close to 70 percent of high school students are involved in activities and most of them drive to school. A "pay to park" concept would be difficult to enforce

Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2006

Page 6

based on available staff and available parking facilities. Mrs. Hilderbrandt would like to have a procedure established, so teachers can direct parents where to park when chaperoning field trips.

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall asked what security had been considered. Mr. Beierschmitt replied that parking stickers would be issued. Mr. Caputo noted that the school is small enough to know who is in the lot, but increased security should still be considered. Mr. Gotshall asked if the concern of having the police called to the campus so frequently was still an issue. Mr. Porter replied that he had not heard of any concerns and asked when police are called. Mr. Caputo replied that police are called in the event of a fight or weapon possession. In the past, there was a very close relationship with the Locust Township Police Department. They made the campus part of their route.

District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, asked if the work on the gymnasium lighting specifications would result in additional cost to the district from FMS. Mr. Kostrub replied negatively. Mr. Madara asked how many maintenance and custodial positions were not replaced or were vacant. Mr. Rodgers replied that one full-time maintenance position was not replaced and one was vacant. One custodial position was not replaced and one position is currently vacant due to a medical leave. Mr. Madara questioned the point system for the coaches. Mr. Porter replied that the points are based on a combination of things, such as number of players, number of coaches supervised and years of experience. Mr. Madara asked if any of the Board members had any idea why there is such a mass exodus of employees from the district. Mr. Slusser replied that it was due to money issues. Mr. Madara disagreed and noted that they could have left years ago, if money was the issue.

Following public comment, Mr. Regis Kostrub from FMS, Inc. gave a Power Point presentation regarding the condition of the buildings. Following the presentation, Elementary Teacher, Mrs. Melissa Gessner, asked what could be done about the mouse problem in the elementary building. Mr. Kostrub noted that they must revisit the Integrated Pest Management program. Mr. Rodgers noted that over the Memorial Day holiday, they started to eliminate some of the mice with traps. Staff was encouraged to keep all food articles enclosed and out of the classrooms whenever possible.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary