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

The August 21, 2006, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 8:10 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 | Karl Meyer | Thomas Slusser |
| Elsie Bittner | Charles Porter | Paul Starr |
| Hugh Jones | Ronald Savitski | Michael Yeager |

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Richard Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Pat Shultz, Roger Nunkester, Paul Caputo, Robert Mehalick 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 as well as some addendum items. District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall noted that a lot of schools are establishing a "pay to park" program and he would like to see Southern move ahead with the plan. Mr. Rodgers explained that at the last Finance Committee meeting, it was decided that the administration was under a time constraint and would not be able to implement the program for the beginning of the school year. It was the consensus of the committee to recommend to the Board not to move forward with the plan. Mr. Caputo noted that they don't have the staff available to enforce the policy. Mr. Jones added that they are saying it is administratively impossible at this time.

Mr. Clippinger questioned the addendum item. The Board Secretary responded that the motion was currently being written and was not complete, but it would be a motion to approve employment of Denise Kreisher for the position of Secretary to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment/Business Office Secretary. Mr. Clippinger expressed concern that he had no say in the matter.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and reconvened at 8:34 p.m. followed by a roll call of Board members.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Amanda Bell-Perry | Karl Meyer | Thomas Slusser |
| Elsie Bittner | Charles Porter | Paul Starr |
| Hugh Jones | Ronald Savitski | Michael Yeager |

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

1). The in-service agendas are complete.
2.) Hopefully, all staffing vacancies will be filled.
3.) The physical plant will be ready for the first day of classes.
4.) Supplies continue to come in daily.
5.) Tax Study Commission applications are available for anyone interested. The Commission members must be appointed by September 14th.

President Meyer thanked Mr. Beierschmitt and noted that his help is appreciated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum - Mr. Clippinger reported that a brief meeting was held prior to the Board meeting. There was some discussion that the Board may want to approve individual teacher conferences. With limited funds available, all conferences that are allowed are geared toward building initiatives and goals. Timing would be a factor concerning the two Board meetings per month. He reminded the Board that there is a commitment to training in the Professional Education Plan. President Meyer noted that conference costs are already included in the budget. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that the Board was referring to out of state conferences. They would like to know prior to teachers going out of state. Mr. Yeager asked if they needed to make a consensus of the Board. President Meyer noted that they do not need to know prior to out of state conferences.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held, but the would meet next month at 6:30 p.m. prior to the 2nd Board meeting.

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Mrs. Bell-Perry reported that Mr. Dunkelberger and Mr. Becker are doing well. Ninth grade had an orientation during the JOC meeting.

Solicitor Roberts announced that an executive session pertaining to a PHRC case would be held following the meeting. An executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Mr. Porter asked if items are put on a disposal list when they are replaced. Mr. Rodgers explained that the buses are not ready for disposal yet. The mechanics are in the process of stripping them and salvaging any useable parts.

**ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

**ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, the Minutes of July 11 (special meeting) and 17, 2006 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, General Fund Invoices in the amount of $370,105.99 and Capital Reserve Fund Invoices in the amount of $129,510.34 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to award General, Art and Industrial Arts supplies bids **(per Exhibit A)** was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Yeager asked if there is enough wood available for students to work on their own individual projects. Mr. Caputo noted that he can only speak for the high school, but noted that they always purchase at least $800 of lumber for the upcoming year. Mr. Porter asked if the district still receives lumber donations. Mr. Caputo replied affirmatively and noted that it is donated by Catawissa Lumber. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Starr, to refund the sum of $582.01, representing realty transfer tax erroneously paid to the District, to F. Ralph Richards and Pauline N. Richards was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to designate KNBT Bank as a school district depository for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Savitski asked for clarification on the motion. Mr. Rodgers explained that it transpired because of scholarship funds. When looking at the rates from the current school district depositories, he found that KNBT offered 5.25 percent as apposed to 3 or 4 percent. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, a lease agreement with De Lage Landen Financial Service, Inc. for copiers was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to accept the donation of a copier from Keystone Business Products, Inc. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to pay the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund was presented for approval:

- Pennsy Supply, Inc. D/B/A Slusser Brothers - $14,000 (Roadway - final)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to contract with HDC, Inc., Williamsport, to provide Waste Water Management and Well Water Treatment at an approximate monthly cost of $1,021 was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if they are still looking for other vendors. Mr. Rodgers noted that he could bring it up with FMS, Inc. Mr. Porter noted that part of his reluctance is because when FMS placed an Account Manager, they said they would supply the information and resources necessary, but the district has state regulations that must be adhered to. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, 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 carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No).

On a motion by Porter and second by Jones, to accept the resignation of Debbie McHugh from the position of Learning Support Teacher effective August 22, 2006, was presented for approval. Ms. McHugh had been with the district since August 2004. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bittner, to accept the resignation of Paul Caputo from the position of High School Principal effective September 22, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Caputo had been with the district since July 2003. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Bittner, to accept the resignation of Heidi Yeager from the position of Secretary to the Director of Curriculum/Transportation Secretary effective July 28, 2006, was presented for approval. Ms. Yeager had been with the district since July 2001. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Susan M. Krock from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective August 17, 2006, was presented for approval. Ms. Krock had been with the district since March 2006. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Starr, employment of Amy Marie Kuklis for the position of Learning Support Teacher effective August 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 3 of the Master's Salary Schedule ($37,447); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, employment of Susan Lazarski for the position of Elementary Secretary effective August 22, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. Her salary and benefits are as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Starr, employment of the following Support Teachers at the contracted rate ($709) for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval:

- Michael Bobersky, (Learning Support)
- Dani Schwalm (Learning Support)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to designate Roger W. Nunkester, Jr. as a Volunteer Assistant Football 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 Yeager, employment of Charles Reh as a Temporary Substitute High School Principal effective September 18, 2006, at a per diem rate of $350 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, employment of Denise Kreisher as Secretary to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment/Business Office Secretary effective no later than September 1, 2006, at rate of $12.28 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.

**ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, the list of Frequently Used Assessments **(Per Exhibit C**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to not go forward with the proposed Pay to Park policy was presented for approval. After a brief discussion, it was decided that if the Board wanted to revisit the Pay to Park policy, the issue would first be discussed at the committee-level. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 4-No (Jones, Porter, Slusser and Yeager voted No).

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Porter noted that he had done some reading regarding grants for alternate energy sources. He would like the district to be proactive and look elsewhere for energy services.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall asked for an explanation of non-instructional and instructional substitutes. Mr. Clippinger explained that non-instructional substitutes are individuals such as aides, clerical, cafeteria or custodial workers. Instructional substitutes are teachers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Bittner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary