

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

The September 11, 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, followed by a moment of silence in reverence to the victims of September 11, 2001.

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**

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

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda with the exception of Item D would be considered action items, as well as Fiscal Items C, D and E.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He reported a smooth opening to the school year. He thanked all staff and noted that very few problems were reported.
- 2.) He would have quotes next week for the sodding of the baseball infield.
- 3.) Honor Society Induction has been rescheduled from September to Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. All Board members are invited to attend the ceremony.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the Field Hockey "Job Johnnys" need to be cleaned. More outside maintenance help is needed for lining fields. Coaches are reminded to use the proper chain of command. They should contact Terry Sharrow first in the event of any problems or concerns. The score boards at the stadium are now working. Gate receipts from the Shamokin football game were just shy of \$8,000 and \$5,000 for the Bloomsburg game. Mrs. Bittner noted that they need to begin the process of finding a replacement for Athletic Director, Terry Sharrow, as this will be his last year. Mr. Porter asked if custodial co-op students were hired. Mr. Beierschmitt responded affirmatively and noted that Mr. Brian Leffler is coming in to assist Mr. Danilowicz in lining the fields.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that they conducted interviews for the Maintenance and Custodial positions. Mr. Rodgers reported that there was an issue, which arose about one and one-half weeks ago regarding a blocked sewer line in the

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elementary building. There was some backup in the basement level. Roto-Rooter gave an initial cost estimate of \$3,000 to \$5,000, but the final cost came in much lower at \$1,500. The committee discussed another issue regarding a cracked pipe at the sewage plant. That issue has also been resolved. The boiler tube replacement in the high school has been completed. There have been some water run-off issues with the neighboring property. The neighbor has been contacted and they are working on a solution. Mr. Yeager asked if they were using dirt from down below, to which Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively. Mr. Yeager noted that they had discussed changing the doors on the scorer's stand at the hockey field so they would open out. Mr. Porter noted that there was no mention of insulation or window treatments, but he would like those items to be considered. When the buildings were built, the technology was not available, but it is now. President Meyer noted that it should be looked into by the Facilities Committees.

Finance - Mr. Rodgers noted that the Finance Committee meeting was very short. The only item discussed was a replacement server. The server houses some of the administrative software. He is working with Brian Davis to obtain quotes and will bring them to the Board in October. Mr. Yeager asked if there was any update on the grant for computer labs. Mr. Rodgers replied that Mr. Davis informed him that the State asked for more information and he felt that was a good sign. He will report further at the next meeting.

CSIU - No report

Vo-Tech - No report

### ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

Mr. Rodgers noted that the General Fund Treasurer's Report was not included with the current agenda packet, but would be distributed with next week's agenda.

### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

### ITEMS – FISCAL

Solicitor Roberts recommended that the Board appoint seven members to the Tax Study Commission. Since two of the applicants are husband and wife, only one additional applicant would need to be eliminated. President Meyer agreed that if the public would be willing to participate, seven members would be fine. After a brief discussion concerning the applicants, the Board followed with a motion.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to adopt a Resolution to appoint a Tax Study Commission (per Exhibit A) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-Abstention (Bell-Perry Abstained).

On a motion by Yeager and second by Slusser, to retain William T. Hartman to act as a consultant to the Tax Study Commission at a cost of \$2,000 was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Solicitor Roberts explained that the consultant would generate reports and provide necessary data. It would save the administration a lot of time and their expertise would help guide the Commission. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to adopt Operating Procedures for the Tax Study Commission (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, employment of staff for the After School Tutoring program (pending completion of all employment requirements) effective September 12, 2006 (**per Exhibit C**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, to change Kathryn Hanley from 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian to 1<sup>st</sup> Shift Custodian effective August 28, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, employment of Brian Kobilis as 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Custodian effective September 12, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, to add the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Substitute List effective September 12, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Jill Greco (Elementary)
- Jennifer M. Herr (Art K-12)
- Laurie Savitski (Elementary)
- Gail Summers (Elementary)
- Wendy Young (Elementary)
- Brian Kobilis (Bus/Van driver)
- Sonya Leighow (Bus/Van driver)

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-Absention (Savitski abstained)

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

- Michael Bobersky (Middle School Learning Support)
- Dani Schwalm (Secondary Learning Support)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Witt from the position of Assistant Cheerleading Coach (JV Football) effective September 11, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Kenda Roth and Tracy Clossen for the position of Assistant Cheerleading Coach (JV Football) for the 2006-2007 school year at a salary of \$645 (shared) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, to accept the resignation of Brent Kelchner from the position of TV Production Advisor effective August 28, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, employment of Michael Johnston as TV Production Advisor for the 2006-2007 school year at a salary of \$1,250 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, employment of Ryan Mensch as Secondary Yearbook Advisor (to replace Stephanie Maietta) for the 2006-2007 school year at a salary of \$1,350 (shared) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Starr, employment of Tina Kistler and Lori Shively as Junior Class Advisors for the 2006-2007 school year at a salary of \$640 (shared) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, employment of Michael Johnston as a Summer Weightlifting Supervisor for the 2006-2007 school year at a rate of \$7.70, 70 hours maximum, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, an FMLA Leave for Terri Hertzog effective September 8, 2006, not to exceed 12 weeks in a 12-month period was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

#### **ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. Porter asked if the Head Mechanic supervises the mechanic. It was agreed that if that were the case, the Organizational Chart should be revised accordingly.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Yeager questioned a handout, which was distributed before the meeting. Mr. Clippinger replied that it was a summary of test results. A presentation would take place at the next meeting.

#### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, noted that at the last meeting, he asked the firm how much the outside service for wastewater and drinking water would cost. He was told that it would not exceed the current cost by more than a few hundred dollars, but now found out that it is considerably more. He noted that there were two people on staff that handled it in the past. He asked what the district is getting for the amount they are paying the firm. Mr. Savitski noted that the administration asked them to hire the firm. Mr. Rodgers noted that there was a lot more to it than that. Mr. Madara asked if a specific individual had been offered the job, to which Mr. Rodgers stated that he could not answer that question due to its personal nature. Mrs. Bell-Perry reported that the Board asked for three things from FMS, Inc. The Account Manager had to be a hands-on worker, they had to bring in extra help and they had to provide proper licenses/certifications. Mr. Madara noted that the Board's recent decisions have cost him money as a taxpayer. Mr. Madara asked if a bill had been turned in for some Board members going out to supper, to which Mrs. Bell-Perry responded affirmatively. She explained that the members were involved in interviews. Mr. Porter explained further, that they had begun interviewing candidates around 8:00 a.m. and the interviews went into the afternoon. The interview committee agreed on two viable candidates that were both in an acceptable salary range. They decided on

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one candidate and the committee agreed that the Board members should meet with him right away. After contacting the candidate, they agreed to meet at Tom's Restaurant. Solicitor Roberts reported that it was not a violation of the Sunshine Law, because it was a meeting of Personnel Committee members. Mr. Madara noted that there have been at least 19 employees that have left so far, and he didn't think they were leaving because of money. He felt that it was because of the actions of the Board.

District resident and Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Helen Hilderbrandt, asked where the district stands legally since there seems to be so much dissatisfaction with the firm. She noted that there is boiling hot water coming out of the faucets in the kindergarten area. They have to duct tape the faucets to protect students. Solicitor Roberts explained that a list of deficiencies would need to be presented to the firm in order to give them a chance to fix the problems. If the problems are not addressed, then the Board could try to dismiss them. Mrs. Hilderbrandt noted that the Power Point presentation by the firm was impressive, but they were not responsible for some of the progress shown. President Meyer reminded the public that they were still down a few custodial and maintenance positions. Mr. Porter asked if an executive session was necessary to discuss the situation. President Meyer stated that if there is that much dissatisfaction, they need to provide the firm with an inventory of items to be addressed. District resident and Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Kay Rodriguez, reported that Mrs. Shultz has provided FMS with a list several times and even prioritized it. On the first day of kindergarten, there was no soap in the dispenser, one pedal on the sink still doesn't work since last year and the bathroom stall door has been broken since last year.

Mr. Porter noted that during the meeting when they hired FMS, Inc., he was told by Dr. Lonoconus from information provided by FMS, Inc. that they agreed to bring in extra people. That was what swayed his vote. Solicitor Roberts reported that FMS, Inc. is under no obligation to bring in extra workers because it is not in the contract. Mr. Madara noted that the firm misrepresented itself. Mrs. Bell-Perry agreed and added that she would like to get rid of them. District resident, Bridget Carl, reported that she attended Sneak Peak Night and the condition of the school does make a bad impression. President Meyer directed Mr. Rodgers to address the issues at hand.

It was announced that an executive session would be held immediately following the Board meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary