

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

The September 18, 2006, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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 (*Absent*)
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; Roy Clippinger, Roger Nunkester, 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, but noted that check #14015 on the list of invoices would not be included for approval. Personnel Item A was also eliminated from the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

1.) The Tax Study Commission will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office conference room. Mr. Beierschmitt and Mr. Rodgers would be attending an Act 1 workshop.

2.) Mr. Clippinger gave a report regarding assessment test results and distributed a handout (**See Appendix A**). He reported that all of the schools in the district met AYP increases. All scores did not increase but the trend for 70 percent of scores is an increase. In 7th grade, 100 percent of the students in the Connected Math program were proficient or advanced. It is a first for Southern and possibly the first in the state. The new Connected Math, which was implemented last year, had an impact on the scores. All scores have been tracked over the last five years and the general trend is that they are increasing. The PSSA test scores are just one snapshot or measure. Different kinds of assessments yield different kinds of information. The PSSA test results are not received in the same year that a teacher has those students. The content of the curriculum has been aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards. There are some courses in the high school that have no state standards and still refer to the national standards. Mr. Clippinger recommended that the 7th grade Math Teacher be thanked for her efforts.

Testing began in grades 6, 9 and 11 for writing in the spring, but then moved to 5th and 8th grade. Two years ago it was anticipated that writing instruction in grades 3, 4 and 5 would have to be changed to prepare the students for testing. The goal for this year is to improve readiness of 4th graders going into 5th grade. When students are reassessed in 8th and 11th grades, they are doing well. President Meyer thanked Mr. Clippinger and asked him to extend the Board's

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appreciation to the staff. Appreciation was also extended to the Press Enterprise and The News Item for their positive articles regarding Southern's test results. Mr. Porter asked if the achievement in 7th grade was due to a cumulative effect of staff, to which Mr. Clippinger responded affirmatively. President Meyer reported that all staff should be thanked for their efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mike Yeager, committee member, reported that they discussed the eligibility list and that it should be all inclusive, rather than just for athletics. Mr. Yeager asked how the enrollment numbers compared to last year. Mr. Beierschmitt replied that he would report on the figures next month. Mr. Yeager questioned the status of the home school programs. Mr. Clippinger responded that there should be an executive session following the Board meeting to discuss a home schooling issue.

Negotiations - Charlie Porter, committee member, asked if it would be too early to start negotiating. President Meyer directed Mrs. Bell-Perry to look into what is necessary to begin the process. Mr. Beierschmitt stated that he would contact the local SCEA representative.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the only policy before the committee was on school bus idling. The purpose of the policy is to eliminate unnecessary bus idling to reduce exposure of diesel fumes to students and staff. The first reading will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Yeager reported that he had information available from a presentation that he attended on the Pennsylvania Heartland Coalition. Mr. Beierschmitt reported that development of the Coalition is in progress. The kickoff is scheduled for September 27th. He along with President Meyer and Vice President Yeager would be attending. The IU is working along with the program to provide common workshops and specialized speakers.

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Mrs. Bell-Perry reported the next meeting would be held the following night.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the Minutes of August 14 and 21, 2006, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, General Fund Invoices (with the exception of check #14015) in the amount of \$328,287.60 and Capital Reserve Fund Invoices in the amount of \$79,700.00 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to accept additional state funds into the 2006-2007 budget as follows was presented for approval:

- Communities That Care - \$52,122 - Funds to be used for the Family Center, community outreach, enhancing the IST and after-school tutoring programs, providing parenting and anti-bullying programs and for substance abuse prevention.

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The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Slusser, to accept additional state funds into the 2005-2006 budget as follows was presented for approval:

- ACCESS - \$20,532 - Funds used for instructional aide salaries and benefits and additional Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy costs.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to approve Fleming Nurseries, Inc. for the sodding of the baseball field infield at a cost of \$5,225.00 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- Holly McCullough (Elementary)
- Amanda Quinton (Aide)
- Diane Dobson (Bus/Van Driver)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to designate Casie Gieswite (Teacher) as a Volunteer Assistant Field Hockey Coach for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, the first reading of revised Policy 008 Organizational Chart (Per Exhibit A) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked about the status of the Maintenance Specialist. After a brief discussion, President Meyer announced that the executive session following the regular meeting would include a discussion on personnel matters.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mrs. Jackie Slotterback, asked for clarification on the chain of command in the Middle School. Mr. Nunkester replied that she should go to the teacher first and then to him with any concerns. She announced that she would be interested in a seat on the Board when one becomes available.

District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, noted that the condition of the hockey field is affecting the skills of the players. Referees have commented on its condition. He also stated that at last week's meeting, he asked who recommended to the Board that the company be hired and he was told that it was the administration. He asked for the specific names of the administrators. Mr. Savitski replied that it was Mr. Rodgers and Dr. Lonoconus. Mr. Madara questioned the status of FMS, Inc. Mr. Beierschmitt responded that they were supposed to have an Account Manager in place by Wednesday. He reported that the hot water has been monitored all week and is at a safe

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level. The items stored in the stairways are not a safety issue and have been there for some time. The Maintenance Specialist position has been offered to two different individuals and they both declined. Mr. Madara noted that the district is not getting a competent person and questioned the district's plan if another incompetent person would be put into place. Mr. Rodgers noted that someone from FMS, Inc. would be invited to the next Facilities meeting to report on what they have done. Mrs. Bell-Perry said that she would like to see information on the main candidate for the Account Manager position.

District resident and Head Baseball Coach, Mr. Randy Young, thanked Mr. Beierschmitt and the Board for stepping forward and doing something with the baseball field. He noted that a warning track should also be considered. Mr. Yeager noted that there was some discussion about planting trees as a windbreak.

District resident, Mr. Tony Rodriguez, reported that the doors and sink in the girls' lavatory in the kindergarten have still not been repaired. Mr. Rodgers noted that he would check on the work order. Mr. Rodriguez recommended that if the stairway space was going to be used for storage, possibly some type of storage unit could be built to minimize exposure of the stored items.

Mr. Porter noted that the Board was told that there were 200 work orders. Mr. Rodgers replied that it was just an estimate, but noted that as of last week, there were a lot. He noted that due to a weekend incident, the district is short another maintenance employee. Mr. Rodgers noted that he would see that all visible issues are addressed.

District resident, Mr. Jerry Davis, referred to the presentation by FMS and noted that a lot of the issues were pre-existing. Mr. Rodriguez noted that he would be willing to help with minor repairs. Mr. Rodgers stated that they did insist that the Account Manager be a hands-on supervisor.

District resident, Mrs. Bridget Carl, stated that since the district is paying the firm, but still has its own workers, she questioned what the firm is doing. Mr. Rodgers explained that FMS, Inc. supplies the Account Manager and offers corporate services and support.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary