

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

The October 9, 2006 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 p.m. with President Karl Meyer in charge of the meeting. He requested a moment of silence for the victims and families involved in the recent Amish school shooting.

Following the moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Meyer announced that the meeting would be audio taped. He 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, Pat Shultz, Roger Nunkester, Charles Reh, 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 would be considered action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He and Mr. Reh are selecting parking permit stickers for students and staff.
- 2.) The district will receive approximately \$95,000 through the Classrooms for the Future Grant. The grant was represented by Mr. Brian Davis and Dr. Alan Lonoconus. He thanked them for their work in applying for the grant. Danville School District was also awarded funds through the grant. There will be a Coach involved to serve as a mentor to the teachers. The district will receive funds to employ that individual. The funds will be used to purchase laptop computers for the mobile technology lab. Math and Science will be targeted first and then Science and Social Studies.
- 3.) The Tax Commission met last week. They will be meeting again Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. to hear a presentation provided by PSBA. Board members are invited to attend the presentation. President Meyer recommended that all of the board members be given a copy of the Act 1 information that he received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Dr. Hartman will be giving a presentation on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at CSIU for all of the districts involved.
- 4.) The first round of interviews for the High School Principal position will be held this week and the finalists will meet with the entire board.

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5.) Due to the recent national and state events, the administration will be reviewing all emergency crisis plans and getting them updated. They plan to be proactive on any safety and security issues.

6.) An executive session was held at 6:45 p.m. prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - No meeting was held.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on Thursday from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The baseball field infield project is finished. They discussed the addition of a warning track in the outfield. There is still money left from the loan. The boiler tube replacement has been completed. The only concern is the water and whether it is chemically correct to prevent premature damage to the boilers. The run-off issue with the neighboring property was addressed. Mr. Petro came and put a crown on embankment, but a larger pipe may be needed. The amount of run-off into the ditch has been changed, but no adjustments have been made to the ditch itself. They are looking at options. Mr. James Geffken, FMS Account Manager, reported that they have been doing an ongoing collective study on all of the work orders. One of the larger issues is with bathroom latches. The lifespan of the latches is probably a few years past and it is time to look at replacing the latches with a more modern latch that can be more easily maintained. There are also some handicapped issues with bathroom stalls. Three well companies have been contacted and will come out and perform a feasibility study. The problem may not be sulfur in the water, but could be from a burned out motor, which would be determined by a water analysis. Quotes to replace the classroom windows will be obtained and hopefully presented to the Facilities Committee in November. Based upon the estimates, the board will need to decide if they want to pursue the project and put it out on bid. The lights in the gym and auxiliary gym were identified as two of the areas where the district could recoup some of its energy costs. Mr. Geffken and Mr. Cowels are developing some bid specs which will possibly be ready for the November committee meeting. A timeframe for the project would need to be determined. Mr. Yeager reported that the committee also talked about proper protocol and the procedures that should be followed to get things accomplished. Issues should start out at the administrative level and work their way up to the board level; not start at the board level.

Mr. Rodgers reported that the district won a lottery to receive surplus fencing from Bloomsburg University. Southern was chosen first and will receive 1,000 feet of fencing. Priorities for the fencing will need to be determined. Some of the items that have been stored will be offered for sale at a low cost during the Fall Festival. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Geffken will be looking into a Safety Committee in order to qualify for a reduction on the district's workers' compensation insurance premium. Mr. Porter stated that when FMS made their presentation, they said that they could save money on supplies. The district is currently getting supplies through the IU. He asked if there was a way that their prices could be compared to those of FMS and if the district is under contract to purchase those supplies from CSIU. Mr. Rodgers said that he did not have a chance to compare the prices yet. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that most of the general supplies have already been received at this time of year. Mr. Porter stated that the board ought to know that, because the district is on a one-year contract with FMS and part of their potential savings was in supplies. They haven't had a chance to incur any savings if the district only purchases supplies from another outlet. Mr. Rodgers agreed to check on the fuel prices with the IU and see to what extent the district is locked in.

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Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with the Facilities Committee. The local financial audit is still ongoing, but the local Tax Collector Audit has been finalized and is on the agenda for approval. There was one finding, but it was minor. Under the tax code, it states that each tax collector should submit their tax collections by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. One or two of the tax collectors had reported September and October in the same months. The auditors are complete with the field work portion of the audit and they are in the process of developing the report. It appears that the district will have a small surplus of approximately \$80,000 after the 2005-06 school year. He asked the auditor to give a report on the audit at the November meeting.

CSIU - No report.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that there was a presentation by the President of the Teachers' Association on their willingness to start negotiations. They have a system of averaging the salaries of the highest and lowest districts and they would like to maintain that average.

Mr. Beierschmitt reported that he will be attending the Superintendents' meeting at CMAVTS on Friday and they will be discussing the Reorganization meeting/dinner.

### ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

#### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter requested that a correction be made to page 5 of the September 11<sup>th</sup> minutes to reflect that "he was instructed by Dr. Lonoconus that FMS would bring in extra people."

Mr. Porter asked for an explanation of the \$200,814.46 transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Rodgers explained that it represents the 2005-2006 regular transfer to the Capital Reserve of the \$100,000 plus the additional reimbursement for the school buses of \$100,814.46. It is accrued at the end of June 30<sup>th</sup>, so it's properly accounted for but the actual transfer did not occur until now.

Mr. Porter questioned the Marshall, Dennehey, Warner bill for \$1,000.50. His understanding was that insurance was supposed to pay for this service. Mr. Beierschmitt stated that there is a deductible. Solicitor Roberts noted that the district has to pay the deductible and then after that, the insurance company pays 80 percent and the district pays 20 percent.

#### ITEMS – FISCAL

#### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Porter and second by Yeager, employment of Shawn Albert (student teacher) as an After School Tutor effective October 10, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, to accept the resignation of Martha Kanaskie from the position of Chemistry Teacher effective October 20, 2006, was presented for approval. Mrs. Kanaskie has been with the district since August 1986. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to dispense with advertising and approve employment of Warren Merkel as High School Chemistry Teacher effective October 23, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Scale (\$34,519) was presented for approval. His benefits are as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, employment of Sam Hunsinger for the position of Maintenance Specialist effective October 16, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a salary of \$32,000; benefits per the Non-union Support Staff Handbook. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, to increase the annual salary of Joseph Danilowicz from \$31,500 to \$32,000 effective October 10, 2006 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, employment of Dion Eppinette as a member of Security Personnel for the 2006-2007 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$30 per event was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to approve adding the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Antoinette Davis (Registered Nurse) - effective September 22, 2006
- Regina Reigle (Van Driver) - effective September 26, 2006
- Ruth Shepperson (Bus/Van Driver) - effective October 10, 2006

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to designate Philip Miccio as a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling 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 Porter, a Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Christina Force (Business/Technology Teacher) to begin on or about February 6, 2007, and continue through the end of the third marking period, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, a 5-Hour Instructional Aide position was presented for approval. The position has been budgeted through ACCESS funds. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to increase the hourly rate of Brian Leffler (Maintenance Substitute) to \$11.00/hour effective September 18, 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, to change the effective date of employment for Amy Kuklis (Learning Support Teacher) to November 1, 2006, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Slusser, to approve Jessica Heckman (Teacher) as an After School Tutor effective September 12, 2006, at the contracted rate, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers Grant, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, Homebound Instruction for a middle school student effective September 16, 2006, for a maximum of six hours per week until further evaluation by a physician. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the motions to approve the field trips to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. would be reworded to include partial transportation and the Senior Class trip would include possible substitute costs only. The senior class advisor will be present at the next meeting to answer any questions regarding the trip request.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager reported that he attended the Honor Society Induction ceremony. He noted that it was amazing to see how many students are involved in the Honor Society.

Mr. Yeager asked if a new server was purchased. Mr. Rodgers replied negatively and noted that Mr. Davis got initial quotes but was in the process of getting detailed quotes. Mr. Yeager reported that the 1966 Championship Football Team would be honored at the upcoming Southern Columbia/Central Columbia football game.

Mr. Starr thanked the representative from FMS for attending the meeting.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Clippinger reported that Mrs. Kanaskie was in her 21<sup>st</sup> year at Southern Columbia. She received state and national recognition in 1990, and last year she and her colleague published a chemistry book, which is an integral part of our chemistry curriculum.

He noted that he was present at the executive session in May and FMS did promise the Board that they would bring additional people in to get the buildings ready for the start of school. All Dr. Lonoconus did when asked, was repeat what he was told by representatives of FMS.

District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, thanked Mr. Clippinger for clearing up that matter. Mr. Madara asked who reviewed the contract with FMS prior to approval. He asked why they didn't have a trial period when they were hired. Mr. Porter replied that there was a 30-day clause. If they were not performing, they would be given 30 days to improve their performance. Mr. Madara noted that a lot of the supplies are purchased through the state contract or below state contract prices. He asked how much money they could actually recoup through supplies. Mr. Porter responded that tissue paper was being purchased at \$1.35 per roll. He hoped that it could be purchased for less. Mr. Rodgers added that FMS could possibly save the district money by looking at some of the waste and inefficiencies.

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Mrs. Bell-Perry reported that all of the board members had a chance to review the contract. She noted that when it was e-mailed to her, she replied to Mr. Rodgers with her concerns. She noted that she voted no on approving the contract because of those concerns.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Bell-Perry, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary