

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

The October 16, 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Meyer welcomed everyone and apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting. He announced that the meeting would be audio taped, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Karl Meyer
Charles Porter
Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser
Paul Starr
Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard F. 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

Dr. Alan Lonoconus, former Superintendent, asked what was being amended in the minutes. President Meyer responded that on page 5 of the September 11, 2006, minutes the third paragraph was being amended to read, "Mr. Porter noted that During the meeting when they hired FMS, Inc., he was told by Dr. Lonoconus that they agreed to bring in extra people." After a brief discussion, Dr. Lonoconus requested that the minutes be amended to read, "he was told by Dr. Lonoconus from information provided by FMS, that they agreed to bring in extra people."

After a question from district resident, Mr. Mereby, regarding the approval of the contract, Solicitor Roberts explained that he was told by someone that FMS was going to provide additional personnel to get the buildings ready since time was limited. In the first draft of the proposed changes to the agreement, he proposed language that said that. FMS would not sign the contract with that language included. There was another issue with regard to language in which the district would have authority to approve their Account Manager. They would not agree to that language either. He reported that to the Board and time was short before the start of the school year and the board felt they had to get the buildings ready, so they decided to go with FMS even though FMS would not allow that language in the contract. President Meyer said that bringing in extra people was not an issue for him. Mrs. Bell-Perry stated that the board members were all given the opportunity to read the contract twice.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

1.) Recently, Dr. Meyer, Mr. Yeager and Mr. Beierschmitt attended a presentation on the Pennsylvania Heartland Coalition kickoff. The board will be asked to formally adopt the concept that is being presented in the future. The purpose of the Coalition of the school districts is to develop and promote academic relations throughout the Intermediate Unit and also the six

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or seven districts in the BLaST IU. The goal is to have districts work together on professional development days. In addition to the academic concepts, it will also have an athletic league. The charter is available to the public in the District Office.

Mr. Marty Behm, Senior Manager of FMS, Inc. gave a brief presentation concerning the status of the Buildings and Grounds Department. He noted that Mr. James Geffken would be taking over as Account Manager and the former temporary Account Manager would be leaving.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mr. Clippinger reported that the committee would try to meet next week.

Negotiations and Personnel - Solicitor Roberts reported that he is waiting for proposals from two negotiators.

Policy - No meeting was held.

CSIU- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Yeager, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Porter and second by Slusser, the minutes of September 7 (Special Meeting), 11 (as amended) and 18, 2006, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Slusser, General Fund invoices with the exception of check #14122 in the amount of \$442,444.09 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$60,095.55 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, budgetary transfers in the 2006-2007 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to accept the Tax Collector Audit Report from Brewer, Gehrig & Johnson for the real estate taxes collected during the 2005-2006 fiscal year (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Starr and second by Yeager, employment of Danielle Alexander (student teacher) as an After School Tutor effective October 10, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$10 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, the addition of the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Instructional Substitute List effective October 17, 2006 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Amy Fronhofer (Elementary/Mathematics 7-9)
- Jayne Pensyl (Elementary)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to designate James Geffken 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 Savitski and second by Yeager, an extension to the Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Allison Burrell (5th Grade Teacher) through the end of the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bell-Perry, an intermittent FMLA Leave for Susan Welkom (Bus Driver) effective October 10, 2006, not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to accept the resignation of Glenn A. Heim, Sr. from the position of 2nd Shift Custodian effective October 16, 2006, was presented for approval. Mr. Heim has been employed with the district since March 2000. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, the second reading and adoption of revised Policy 008 Organizational Chart (Per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, the first reading of new Policy 810.1 School Bus Idling (Per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, a field trip request for April 13, 2007, of Art 1-4 (60 students) to visit various Baltimore museums and the Baltimore Aquarium was presented for approval. District expense to include partial transportation and possible substitute costs. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, a field trip request for April 18, 2007, of 10th Grade to visit Washington, D.C. was presented for approval. District expense to include partial transportation and possible substitute costs. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, a Senior Class trip request for May 20 and 21, 2007, to Great Wolf Lodge, Stroudsburg, PA, was presented for approval. District expense to include possible substitute costs. After some discussion with Mrs. Christina Force, Senior

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Class Advisor, it was determined that the motion should be amended in regard to the district expenses.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager to amend the above motion to read as follows: A motion to approve a Senior Class trip request for May 20 and 21, 2007, to Great Wolf Lodge, Stroudsburg, PA, with the issues of transportation and substitute costs to be addressed at a later date, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to approve the motion as amended was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Bell-Perry asked if the Tax Study Commission needed to report to the board regarding its progress. Solicitor Roberts responded that there is nothing in Act 1 that provides for regular reporting. The Commission's recommendation must be reported to the board, but any other communication is at the discretion of the Commission.

It was announced that a brief executive session would be held following the board meeting to discuss personnel matters (the High School Principal candidates).

Mr. Slusser asked if anything had been done regarding security and the doors. Mr. Geffken and Mr. Beierschmitt have identified the problem doors. They will be fixed until a decision can be made as to what is going to be done. Mr. Beierschmitt has been in contact with an agency that provides volunteer workers that could serve as greeters in the district. He is waiting for a reply from them. On November 7th, the Bloomsburg State Police will be meeting with school administrators regarding their concerns next week. He will be attending the meeting. A crisis manual is also being formulated for the faculty and staff.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Dr. Lonoconus questioned the practice of hiring without advertising. President Meyer responded that they felt that the teacher in question needed to be hired as soon as possible and it was in the best interest of the district. Solicitor Roberts explained that advertising is at the board's discretion. It was determined that advertising for open positions would continue in the future.

District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, asked the board to be more considerate of the public in regard to executive sessions. Solicitor Roberts noted that he agreed with his request, but the meeting held prior to the board meeting was a special meeting for a disciplinary matter, which had to be dealt with. It was not an executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Starr and second by Bell-Perry, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary