

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

The November 13, 2006, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 8:36 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  
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.

President Meyer announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

**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). The Tax Study Commission will hold a public hearing concerning their progress in developing their recommendation to the Board of Directors.
- 2.) Mr. Sharrow reported on the Heartland Coalition. He reported that the goal is to get all schools on the same page academically and athletically. All twenty-five schools are in agreement academically, however there are some reservations regarding the athletic aspect of the coalition. The main concern is football. The Board authorized Mr. Sharrow to pursue the coalition concept.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed personnel matters. The district is currently advertising for a custodial position. Mr. Hunsinger has been hired as a Maintenance Worker and is working out quite well. The boiler tube replacement project is complete. Representatives from FMS will provide information in January regarding the elementary system. They discussed security issues and are looking into available funds. They discussed exterior doors. Mr. Hunsinger has been coming in at 6:00 a.m. to complete work orders. Repairs and insulation to the pump house have been completed. There is still concern over the ditch which handles the run-off water. A pipe will most likely be needed. The windows in the elementary have been caulked, but a heat loss evaluation will be conducted. The elementary

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building was disinfected with the help of representatives from DeHart, Inc. The gym lights were discussed and further investigation into energy conservation will be conducted. The committee is recommending that speed limit signs be placed by the sidewalk in an attempt to slow down the traffic in front of the school. They talked about reseeding the hockey field and possibly using one of the alternate fields for the spring season. Mr. Yeager noted that Mr. Geffken is doing a great job and with Mr. Hunsinger on board, the condition of the buildings is improving. Mr. Porter noted that they discussed getting district personnel licensed for sewage and wastewater management. Mr. Geffken noted that HDC has been very valuable. Mr. Yeager noted that they discussed locking chains to the lower fields after hours.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the local financial audit report should be received in the near future. He reported that the district is approximately \$84,000 in the black after the 2005-2006 fiscal year. They discussed establishing a safety committee. Mr. Rodgers has been in contact with Marty Behm from FMS, Inc. regarding the necessary steps in developing a safety committee. Once a committee has been established, the district could receive up to a 5 percent discount on the worker's compensation insurance premium. They discussed the aluminum bleachers that were stolen from the lower field area. Mr. Rodgers reported that the district's numbers for free and reduced lunch have increased this year due to the aggressive approach by Mrs. Holleran and the district office staff. The increase will benefit the district through increased subsidies and families that are in need are taking advantage of the program. The district is locked in to the consortium for fuel prices, but will look into pricing when the current agreement expires.

Negotiations & Personnel - No report.

CSIU - Karl Meyer will be attending the next meeting on Wednesday.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that the last meeting was relatively short. Their adult program is very successful. They talked about the possibility of developing a motorcycle licensing test site on the Vo-Tech campus.

### **ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS**

### **ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

### **ITEMS – FISCAL**

### **ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, employment of Martha Kanaskie as a 7-12 Tech Lead Teacher effective the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year through October 20, 2006, at the contracted rate (\$709/prorated) was presented for approval. Mrs. Kanaskie replaced Shannon Jeffrey who had been approved in error. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Yeager, employment of Kristen Vitkauskus as a 7-12 Tech Lead Teacher effective October 23, 2006, to replace Martha Kanaskie for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year at the contracted rate (\$709/prorated) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, employment of the following 7-12 Tech Lead Teachers for the 2006-2007 school year at the contracted rate (\$709/prorated) was presented for approval:

- Christopher Brown (replaced Dean Brewer who was approved in error)
- Tricia Hoffman (replaced Louise Baran who was approved in error)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, employment of James A. Becker as High School Principal effective January 16, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at an annual salary of \$74,000 (prorated) was presented for approval. His benefits are as per the Act 93 agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, employment of Yvonne Rhodes (Teacher) as an After School Tutor effective November 9, 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.

On a motion by Jones and second by Porter, to designate Daniel Hauer (Substitute Teacher) as a Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for the 2006-2007 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

#### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Becker back to the district. Mr. Slusser thanked the district on behalf of the veterans that participated in the Veteran's Day program. Mr. Yeager noted that the Gospel Choir sang at a Barber Shop concert at Central.

Mr. Yeager requested an executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

Mr. Yeager asked for an update on the senior trip that was discussed last month. Mr. Beierschmitt reported that the cost would be minimal if at all. There would be no substitute costs. Mr. Porter noted that he was concerned about the district taking instructional time and district funds to support a recreational and non-educational trip.

President Meyer reported that it was brought to his attention that the only items required in the minutes are the action items. Solicitor Roberts noted that a narrative is not required. The items required are attendance and the items being acted upon. He asked for input from the board members. Mr. Yeager noted that the Vo-Tech minutes are limited to the required items.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked for a definition of higher education. President Meyer replied that anything beyond high school would be considered higher education.

Mr. Porter asked about the position which would be open due to a technology grant. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that it was a requirement of the grant. It was determined that the position was posted internally and advertised in local newspapers.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary