

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

The January 8, 2007 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:32 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, Joseph Shirvinski, 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, along with Item A under Policy and Programs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He congratulated the football team and coaches for their State Championship win. He also congratulated the players who received post-season honors, especially Henry Hynoski who was named to the "Big 33" team over the weekend.
- 2.) He thanked Mr. Reh for stepping in as Acting High School Principal. President Meyer also thanked him on behalf of the board. Mr. Reh thanked the board for giving him the opportunity to work at Southern Columbia.
- 3.) Mr. Beierschmitt requested a brief executive session following the meeting to discuss some personnel matters.

President Meyer commended all of the students involved in extra-curricular activities.

Mr. Yeager pointed out that Coach Roth had the opportunity to attend the All-Star game in Texas and turned it down because he wanted to be present when the voting took place for the "Big 33" game.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson reported that they discussed a basketball cheerleading program. He asked for guidance from the board. He noted that someone is interested in the advisor position and several cheerleaders signed up. They would be implementing the program next year. Another topic of discussion was the fan and lighting in the weight room and the ventilation in the main gymnasium. The issue was referred to the Facilities Committee. A trophy case is needed.

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The students are doing so well in extra-curricular activities and there is no room to display their trophies. There is also limited room in the gymnasium to display banners. Mr. Sharrow noted that a basketball cheerleading program would cost roughly between \$3,500 and \$4,000. Mrs. Bell-Perry reported that they discussed placing name plates under the pictures in the gymnasium lobby to identify the individuals and their accomplishments. Mr. Porter brought up the issue of reimbursement from P.I.A.A. for playoff games. It was agreed that a letter addressing the board's concerns would be sent to P.I.A.A.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met twice. A new custodian was hired. Representatives from FMS performed an evaluation of the lighting in the building gymnasiums and corridors and gave estimates for improvements. They had a contractor look at the exterior days and the exterior glass. Several estimates were received. Security issues were discussed. An evaluation is in process. The ditch near the bleachers was dug out to improve drainage of run-off water. They discussed the issue of using a thermal imaging camera to determine efficiency of the buildings. It is possible that a local fire company might be interested in doing some practice work with their thermal imaging equipment. That possibility would be investigated. The hockey field would be aerated and seeded. There are some wiring issues with the control panel in the auditorium. An electrician will be called to check on the problem. Mr. Yeager asked for permission to approach the Roaring Creek Water Shed Association and talk to them about making the campus the educational facility for managing storm water run-off. President Meyer stated that he would like to see it pursued, but he wasn't sure what needed to be done administratively.

Finance - Charlie Porter, reported that members of a safety committee are being recruited. Once a committee is established, the district could save up to 5 percent on workers' compensation insurance. A gentleman from Stevens & Lee will be coming in to meet with administrators regarding the groundwork for establishing an educational foundation. It may be necessary to establish two foundations; one for academics and one for athletics, but that would be determined during the process. Mr. Beierschmitt would like to have Solicitor Roberts involved in the process. There are issues with the current band truck. Mr. Porter asked for specs on the type of vehicle the Band Boosters feel would be appropriate. On behalf of the Band Boosters, Mrs. Martha Kreiger expressed appreciation for the board's consideration of their request. The bus that was damaged by the wind storm was totaled by the insurance company. Head Mechanic, Mr. Robert Leffler, reported that a 1999 bus is available at a cost of \$20,000. The district will be accepting sealed bids for the scrap aluminum from the bleachers. The state audit is underway for years 2002 through 2006. The auditors will be present in the District Office for six to eight weeks. Debra Nevius was appointed as Catawissa Township Tax Collector.

In the budget process, there are two different options that the district could take under Act 1. If the board and administration anticipate going to referendum, the budget process would have to go into high gear now. The administration didn't see a need to go to referendum, since the intent is to not increase the rate of local real estate tax beyond 4.0 percent; therefore the accelerated budget process is not necessary. If the board passes a resolution by January 25th stating that intent, the administration can follow the traditional budget process and have the tentative budget approved in May and the final budget passed by June 30th.

An electrical inspector will come to inspect an electrical problem in the bus barn. A discussion concerning cafeteria issues was postponed to another time as it was getting late in the evening. They did discuss transportation. The question came up as to whether the district should contract the service. Solicitor Roberts noted that the district could not contract the service during the term of the contract. He noted that if the district would decide to contract the service, they

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would have to go through a bargaining process to come to some type of resolution. Mr. Porter requested an executive session following the meeting to consult with counsel regarding labor negotiations and collective bargaining. He noted that before contracting transportation services is considered the current transportation system should become as efficient as possible. He noted that the administration has indicated that there may be areas where savings are possible. The ultimate goal is to save taxpayers money and possibly save jobs. Field trips, activity runs and use of overtime are some of the areas in which the administrators would look for savings. Mr. Porter wanted to make it clear that he didn't want the administration to look like the "bad guys." The overall goal is to save money, but also to save jobs.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, noted that the committee would meet on January 15th at 7:00 p.m. prior to the board meeting.

CSIU - Karl Meyer gave no report, but noted that he would be attending the January meeting and would give a report at the February board meeting.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that he had a copy of their financial statement for the year ended June 30, 2006, available for board members.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Porter asked for the amount of the balance of the Capital Project Fund. Mr. Rodgers replied that it was approximately \$15,000, but he would report back to the board with the exact figure. Mr. Porter questioned the interest rate to which Mr. Rodgers replied that he was not 100 percent sure of the rate, but noted that it was competitive at the time the loan was obtained. Mr. Porter stated that with that amount of money, the district may be better off to apply it toward the principle. Mr. Rodgers replied that it would be an option or if it was determined that there was a need within the guidelines of the Capital Project; the money could also be used for that purpose.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, to change Tracy Boyer from Substitute Aide to 5-Hour Instructional Aide effective January 9, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements); was presented for approval. Her salary and benefits are as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Savitski, the addition of the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Substitute List effective January 9, 2007, except as noted (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Regina Reigle (Aide) - effective November 30, 2006
- Rosemarie Manney (Aide)
- Sherri Martin (Aide)
- Eveann Shamus (Aide)
- Martha Krieger (Special Education)
- Sara Pisarchick-Rech (K-12)
- Jennifer Miller (K-12)
- Russel Dunkelberger (K-12)

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- Robert J. MacDonald, Jr. (Social Studies)
- Richard M. Platt (Social Studies)
- Warren T. Smith (Bus/Van Driver)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, employment of Kenneth Murdock as a Game Manager for the 2006-2007 school year at a rate of \$40 per game (80 games maximum for all Game Managers combined), was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to designate Katie Morris (high school student) as a Volunteer Assistant Junior High Girls Soccer Coach for 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 Savitski, to designate Amanda Fedder as a Volunteer Assistant Ski Club Advisor for the 2006-2007 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, an FMLA Leave for Cynthia M. Fedder (Title I Aide) on an intermittent basis beginning January 19, 2007; 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 Jones and second by Yeager, an FMLA Leave for Lori Brobst (Instructional Aide) on an intermittent basis beginning December 18, 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 Savitski and second by Jones, an FMLA Leave for Cheryl Gipple (Instructional Aide) on an intermittent basis beginning January 10, 2007; 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 Yeager and second by Porter, to accept the resignation of Kim Levan from the position of Assistant Junior High Field Hockey Coach effective January 5, 2007, was presented for approval. Mrs. Levan has been in the position since July 1995. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, Homebound Instruction for a middle school student effective January 2, 2007, through February 1, 2007, for a maximum of 6 hours per week, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Porter referred to the information that Mr. Clippinger provided in the Friday Letter. He noted that he appreciated him talking about the process. He asked how the new courses would affect staffing. Mr. Clippinger replied that it appears that they will have no effect. Mr.

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Clippinger noted that TV Production is a non-traditional course in that all of the students do not meet with Mr. Johnston at one time. They do their work on an independent basis and he meets with them before and after school. Mr. Porter noted that the course has no budget support as a separate line item since it came into existence in 1997. There is always a question as to whose budget should cover the equipment and the issue of making a separate line item arose. Mr. Porter questioned the use of the Capital Reserve Fund to upgrade the equipment. Mr. Rodgers recommended using the General Fund instead of the Capital Reserve Fund because of restrictions, but agreed to look into the use of the Capital Reserve for that purpose.

Mr. Porter noted that it appears that Strength Training took the focus of scheduling and other courses were scheduled around it. Mr. Reh noted that it was his understanding that the only time this happened was in the current year. He added that it would be corrected next year. Mr. Porter asked for an update of the driver education program for either the next meeting or next month. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that he was waiting for figures from CSIU.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager noted that music is the universal activity. He noted that there are 100 students involved in chorus and nearly 100 in band. All types of students are involved.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District Resident, Mrs. Jill Haas, addressed a wiring issue at the Band Booster stand with Mr. Geffken. She also noted that they would like additional outlets. Mr. Geffken agreed to work with the Boosters. District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked what the check issued to Fleming's Nursery covered. President Meyer replied that it was for infield sod and grading done to the baseball field.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary