

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

The January 15, 2007, 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, 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 F. Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

1.) On Wednesday, January 24th, a State Policeman is coming in to give an internet safety presentation to the students in grades 5 through 12. A presentation for parents will take place on Monday, February 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

2.) The district will be advertising for a replacement bus and hopefully the purchase will be approved at the February meeting.

3.) Advertisements for the superintendent's position available July 2007 have been placed in several newspapers and also in PSBA's School Leader News. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2007.

4.) An alternate representative is needed to attend the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 16th. An agenda was available for anyone who could attend.

5.) He announced that Mr. Becker and Mr. Shirvinski would be starting full time the following day.

Mr. Porter noted that it had been reported at a Facilities meeting that because of the emergency situation, the district did not have to solicit bids for the replacement bus. Mr. Rodgers explained that after further investigation, it was determined that because the cost would be over \$10,000 the bid guidelines must be followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mike Yeager, reported that the committee has been discussing the possibility of having a directive from the board that would require an ineligibility list not just for athletics, but for all extra-curricular activities. After a brief discussion, it was determined that more work would need to be done, and it was agreed that the administration should move forward.

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According to the state standards, if a student would take the Strength Training course more than one time, that student would not meet the Health and Physical Education standards for what should be taught in grades 9 through 12. The course does offer students a great opportunity and does meet goals of the Wellness Policy. Mr. Yeager noted that a problem lies in staffing. The number of students enrolling in the course is escalating therefore more teachers are needed to teach the course. Mr. Clippinger reported that Strength Training was set up as a one-time elective. The curriculum was set up so a student would take three Physical Education classes and one Strength Training course and the standards were spread over those four courses. He added that if students continue to take one course, it is true that all of the standards would not be met. His concern was not as great with not meeting all of the standards, but with the negative impact it has in other areas of instruction. Mr. Clippinger stated that if some of that impact could be eliminated, he would be satisfied with maintaining status quo. If the impact cannot be eliminated, then the administrative team has to make a decision based on everything that it is affecting. President Meyer asked how some of the issues could be addressed. Mr. Clippinger replied that additional time would be needed in some areas, such as was done last year in Driver Education. He noted that the outcome of the Strength Training course has had a lot of very favorable impact on students. Mr. Porter asked if most of the interest in the course was from athletes. Mr. Clippinger replied that to the best of his knowledge, it is a cross-section of students participating in the course. After further discussion regarding scheduling of the course, it was decided that action would be taken on the course offerings and the administration would handle the scheduling issues internally. Mr. Clippinger also pointed out that the Mass Communications course should be listed under English and not Technology. Mr. Yeager asked if continuation of the Mass Communications course would depend upon whether or not the technology equipment was going to be upgraded. Mr. Clippinger noted that the scheduling process could not be held up until the budget is developed.

Mr. Beierschmitt reported that the cost to contract driver education from CSIU would be approximately \$26,000 per year for both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting with all members present. Two policies should be ready for first readings at the next meeting. The first is Electronic Devices. The second is meetings. It is the unanimous decision of the committee to recommend that the policy be changed to reflect that the board should meet once instead of twice per month. The issue of a work session would be open for discussion.

Negotiations and Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported

CSIU - President Meyer will attend the next meeting and give a report at the next board meeting.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that Mr. Schooley has been appointed as president of the Joint Operating Committee. Mr. Greg Capoccioni will be recommended for the Principal position and Mr. Andy Bubnis will be recommended as a temporary replacement for Mr. Capoccioni's position.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the minutes of November 13 and 20, 2006, and December 4, 2006 (Reorganization meeting) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$751,437.17 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$3,623.23 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Bell-Perry asked for clarification on check #14604 payable to Randy Young. Mr. Rodgers explained that Mr. Young submitted a request for payment for the time he had spent on weekends watering the infield sod on the baseball field. Mr. Beierschmitt and Mr. Rodgers agreed to pay Mr. Young at the part-time maintenance rate instead of the regular teacher rate. After a brief discussion, Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see that bill separated from the list of invoices on the basis that there are a lot of people volunteering and approving this payment may cause other bills to be submitted. On a motion by Porter and second by Slusser, to amend the motion to delete invoice 14604 from the list of invoices was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Savitski voted No). Prior to voting on the amended motion, Mr. Porter noted that in previous years, booster organizations paid the additional cost for coach buses. The district paid a base fee of what it would cost for school bus transportation. An exception was made last year after the State Championship football game, because the boosters were short on funds. The board agreed to pay for the coach. No such discussion took place this year. He was concerned that this would become a regular practice. He would like this issue handled differently in the future; not after the fact. Any requests for coach buses should be brought before the board. Following the discussion, the revised motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. President Meyer then called for a motion to pay invoice #14604. The issue died for lack of a motion.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Jones and second by Starr, 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 Yeager, to pay the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund was presented for approval:

➤ Fleming's Nursery, Inc. - \$5,225.00 (baseball field)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, to adopt a Resolution pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to establish a student activity account for the SCA Angel Network; Jayme Toczylousky, Advisor, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, to change Linda Mayernick from Instructional Aide to Administrative Assistant for Safety and Security effective January 16, 2007,

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at an hourly rate of \$10.00; benefits per the Non-union Support Staff Handbook, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to approve the addition of the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Substitute List effective January 16, 2007, except as noted (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Ronald L. Stump (Citizenship 7-12)
- Timothy Demko (7-12)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Porter, an extension to the unpaid Medical Leave of Susan Maciejewski (Instructional Aide) 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 Starr and second by Slusser, employment of Kent Lane as an Elementary Wrestling Coach for the 2006-2007 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$7.70 per hour/70 hours maximum was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, employment of Jennifer Monaghan as an After School Tutor effective January 9, 2007 (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.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, to revise the 2006-2007 School Calendar to reflect that schools and offices were closed on December 15, 2006, to allow students and staff to attend the State Championship football game, with December 22, 2006, as the make-up day was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, the 9-12 Course Offerings for the 2007-2008 school year (per Exhibit C) were presented for approval. The motion carried by roll call vote; 7-Yes, 1-No (Bell-Perry voted No).

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter requested an executive session to consult with counsel concerning potential litigation and a tax assessment case. Mr. Slusser initiated a discussion concerning trip rosters. It was agreed that Mr. Becker would address the situation. Mr. Slusser also asked about the status of the scrap aluminum. Mr. Rodgers replied that an advertisement soliciting bids for disposal of the aluminum would be placed in the near future. He plans to be able to award it to the highest bidder in February.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary