

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

The February 19, 2007 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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	Karl Meyer	Thomas Slusser
Elsie Bittner (<i>Absent</i>)	Charles Porter	Paul Starr
Hugh Jones	Ronald Savitski (<i>Absent</i>)	Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard F. Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that all items on the agenda would be action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

1.) He commended the maintenance staff on the excellent job they did on snow removal following the storm.

Mr. Porter asked about the status of the driver education program. Mr. Becker replied that there is a backlog of students for behind the wheel instruction. He noted that Mr. Conner's schedule is very tight. He asked for direction from the Board. Mr. Beierschmitt recommended that Mr. Conner or another instructor should come in on weekends or after school to handle the backlog. Mr. Porter stated that it seems to come back to Strength Training. He noted that 10th graders now have Strength Training two days per week, 11th and 12th graders have it three times per week, which was a change. Mr. Becker clarified that 10th graders always had Strength Training two days per week. Mr. Porter expressed concern over taking Mr. Conner away from Driver Training because he is teaching Strength Training. He noted that students can lift weights before and after school, but driver training students do not have that opportunity. Mr. Becker noted that there has been a backlog prior to this year. He also noted that some changes would be made to next year's schedule. Strength Training would be scheduled three days per six-day cycle instead of three days per week, which would free up some instructor time in the schedule. Mr. Porter stated that it would address the problem for next year, but asked what could be done for the current year. Mr. Becker noted that Mr. Peters was already contacted, but he would discuss the issue with Mr. Conner. Mr. Yeager noted that some schools no longer offer Driver Education. Students pay for the course on their own.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mike Yeager referred to a Legislative Report which was distributed to the board members. Governor Rendell created a task force to look at graduation requirements and at

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where districts are in relation to international and national standards. He discussed Governor Rendell's proposals. He reported that all of the students that took Connected Math were advanced or proficient on PSSA testing. Mr. Clippinger noted that more rigorous courses are being recommended and Connected Math is a very rigorous course. He noted that grades are showing that the students are being challenged because there are slightly fewer students making the honor roll because of Connected Math, but when they take the PSSA, they are doing well. The committee discussed the snow days and delays and the possibility of making up the instructional time. Mr. Porter stated that additional days cannot be added beyond what is required in the contract. Mr. Yeager noted that upper level students are having difficulty fitting all of the classes that they want to take into their schedules. They discussed the possibility of offering the summer program as enrichment to allow students to have more opportunities to take additional courses for credit. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that students have the opportunity to take college credits at a reduced rate through Bloomsburg University. Middle States evaluation was discussed. Mr. Beierschmitt noted that it is very time consuming and costly. Mr. Yeager noted that there is a new process for Middle States. He also discussed Board Certification for teachers and noted that there are very few Board Certified teachers in Pennsylvania compared to some other states.

Mr. Porter stated that in the past, Middle States evaluators only looked at information that was presented to them by the administration. Now that the curriculum is aligned to the standards, there is a better tool for evaluation.

Mr. Yeager asked if there is a reporting form that teachers complete following a field trip. Mr. Beierschmitt replied negatively. Mr. Yeager recommended that something be implemented to follow up on what students learn from a field trip.

Negotiations and Personnel - Amanda Bell-Perry, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last month to discuss the Athletic Director position and Mr. Sharrow's contract. Mr. Porter reported that they also discussed the cafeteria and some way of getting organized feedback from students. Mr. Becker noted that a senior student is doing an internship with Mrs. Bodman and he will assist Mr. Becker to form a committee with representatives from different grades to meet regularly and provide input for the food services program. A survey form was discussed.

Mr. Porter clarified the issue regarding Mr. Young and a reimbursement request for his time. He noted that he was under the impression that Mr. Young had volunteered his time, but Mr. Young informed the committee that he had been upfront about being paid for his services. The committee discussed the matter and agreed to reimburse Mr. Young for his time. He apologized to Mr. Young for any consternation he may have caused.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee is still working on the Electronic Devices Policy. The first reading of Policy 006 Meetings is on the agenda. The Policy Committee feels that the board could conduct all of its necessary business in one meeting per month with the possibility of a work session one hour prior to the meeting.

Mr. Yeager asked if the policy needs to be revised regarding what authority bus drivers would have to deal with cameras on buses. Mr. Becker noted that it would be a disciplinary matter and would go through the proper channels. It was agreed that other districts' policies would be reviewed to determine necessary revisions.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

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MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Slusser and second by Jones, the minutes of January 8 and 15, 2007, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Porter, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$517,248.60 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$6,767.82 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Jones, 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.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Jones and second by Yeager, an employment agreement with Terry Sharrow for the position of Athletic Director was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Slusser, to change Tracey Boyer from a 5-hour Instructional Aide to a full-time Instructional Aide effective February 21, 2007, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Yeager, a field trip for gifted students in grades 9-12 (and possibly grade 8) to New York City on March 8, 2007, was presented for approval. Students will visit the Bodies Exhibition and Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. The teacher and parents will chaperone, with no expense to the district. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the first reading of revised Policy 006 Meetings (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, concerns such as a work session, committee meetings, the length of the meeting and public service were expressed. A roll call vote resulted in 4-Yes, 3-No (Bell-Perry, Porter and Yeager voted No). It was not clear if a two-thirds vote of the full board was needed for approval. Solicitor Roberts would check on the matter.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Meyer asked the board members to consider the concept of "block" voting. Mr. Yeager referred to Policy 006 Meetings which states that the affirmative votes of the majority of the full number of school directors is required to adopt, amend or repeal a policy of the board. Solicitor Roberts confirmed that the above motion failed for lack of five affirmative votes.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Rodgers where he anticipated being in the budget process for the next Finance/Facilities Committee meeting. He replied that prior to the March Finance meeting he would like to sit down with each administrator and go over their specific budgets, have the final calendar documented for the board to review and hopefully start looking at personnel items in March and have them ready for April. He would like to have the individual departments as well as technology and the District Office addressed in March and then address any staff requests or

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reductions if necessary in April. He also plans special budget meetings toward the end of the process to add or eliminate items if necessary as was done last year. Mr. Porter asked the status of the administration looking into the transportation department to make it more efficient. Mr. Rodgers replied that he would be working with the Transportation Director and the mechanics to look at the efficiency of routes. He would also be looking to the administrators in reference to field trips.

Mr. Yeager asked if the "priority list" would be ready for March. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively. He also noted that the topic of an educational foundation arose at the last Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Caputo from Stevens & Lee agreed to come to the March 12th meeting to give a presentation. It was agreed that his presentation should be included in the agenda. Mr. Porter asked if the topics of VersaTrans and fuel oil could be included on the March Finance agenda.

Mr. Starr asked if any progress had been made concerning the trophy cases. Mr. Beierschmitt replied that the prison will make them, but the district needs to purchase the glass separately.

Mr. Rodgers noted that there was some concern about board members' school e-mail addresses. Mr. Davis assured him that the accounts were established and Mr. Rodgers would provide the passwords to anyone that was having problems accessing their account. He reminded the board that the Music Boosters requested to add a shed to expand their concession stand. The Track and Field staff along with Mr. Sharrow also requested a storage shed to house their equipment. The two groups are requesting to purchase one larger shed and have the maintenance staff install a dividing wall. The request is for the Band Boosters, the Athletic fund and the General Fund to each contribute one-third, which would amount to approximately \$700 each. Mr. Rodgers asked for direction from the board. The board gave him verbal authorization to move forward with the project.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Richard Gotshall, asked for clarification on the need for a majority vote among the board. Solicitor Roberts explained that the School Code provides that on certain issues a majority of votes of those present is required. On other issues, a two-thirds affirmative vote is required. Mr. Gotshall asked if the single monthly meeting would be held as an executive session. President Meyer responded negatively and added that the meeting would be held publicly in the same manner as the current meeting.

District resident, Mrs. Jill Haas, asked if the administrators went to see the prospective band trucks. Mr. Beierschmitt replied that they were unable to make the trip due to the weather.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Starr, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary