

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

The May 14, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:36 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 ( <i>Absent</i> )	Karl Meyer	Thomas Slusser
Elsie Bittner ( <i>Absent</i> )	Charles Porter	Paul Starr
Hugh Jones ( <i>Absent</i> )	Ronald Savitski	Michael Yeager

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Richard Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Roger Nunkester, 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, as well as Policy and Programs Item H.

**STUDENT PRESENTATION**

Students, Lindsay Carl and Meghan Duell, gave a brief report on their field trip to New York City to visit Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, the Bodies Exhibition and Model United Nations.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) Mrs. Yodock will be presenting a Connected Math lesson at the next meeting.
- 2.) Mrs. Kelly Konyar was named Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year and the district received \$1,000 in her name.
- 3.) Mr. Becker announced that student Ralph Beishline won in the FBLA State competition and will be going on to compete at the National FBLA competition in Chicago in the field of Business Math. The Envirothon Club won the county championship in recent competition. Mr. Shirvinski announced that Miss Jessica Heckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, received the Keystone Technology Integrator's Award. She will be attending a summit in July with other teachers from across the state.
- 4.) Mr. Marty Behm from FMS, Inc. gave a Power Point presentation of some of their accomplishments over the past year and pointed out savings the district realized by doing some projects in-house. Mr. Porter asked if a contract proposal had been submitted. Mr. Behm replied negatively. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see the following items included in the proposal: 1) the account manager would be a hands-on person, 2) the account manger would work a guaranteed number of days, and 3) a preventative maintenance plan would be established. Mr. Behm reported that up until March, they were working on a backload of work orders. A preventative maintenance plan will be implemented, but FMS will own the site license. Mr.

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Porter asked if the administrators received staff evaluations. Mr. Geffken noted that the staff is involved in on-going evaluations, which are provided to FMS, Inc., but formal evaluations have not been provided to the administration, however, any discipline or corrective action has gone to upper level administration.

Mr. Porter noted that part of the proposal from FMS was that savings could be realized through supplies. He asked when the IU bids are approved. Mr. Rodgers replied that they are currently in that process, but there are very few custodial supplies purchased through the CSIU bid. Mr. Geffken stated that they have gone to other vendors for some items that were previously purchased through the IU bid. He can't purchase large quantities due to lack of storage space.

Mr. Geffken noted that there were a lot of manual overrides involved with the HVAC system. He will have a better opportunity to balance out the system over the summer. Mr. Slusser asked if Mr. Geffken uses the expertise of Mr. Danilowicz and Mr. Hunsinger. Mr. Geffken replied affirmatively.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that they discussed the Girls Basketball Cheerleading uniforms. Mr. Rodgers confirmed that the cost of the uniforms is included in the budget.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, announced that the committee met on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mick Fleming was present and expressed concerns regarding over-use of the fields and the lack of enough water supply to keep the fields watered. They discussed the possibility of pumping water from the creek and also drilling a new well. Mr. Porter noted that less than 20,000 gallons per day over 30 days would be allowable. Mr. Geffken noted that it would be a long draw from the creek to the fields. The cost of a pump and piping might outweigh the benefit. The cost would need to be compared to the cost of a new well.

The bids for the high school lighting and gymnasium ventilation system are due June 1<sup>st</sup> and will be awarded and then completed by August 1<sup>st</sup>. The elementary window analysis will be done by FMS. Mr. Tony Scicchitano gave a price for air conditioning units for the high school band room and weight room. The units would cost approximately \$2,500 per unit. Three units would be considered. Mr. Geffken has another quote and is in the process of getting a third. Prices were obtained for the telephone lines at the bus garage. Guyette would charge \$3,700 and Verizon would charge \$20 per line for two lines and \$20 per month. It was decided that Verizon would install the lines. Mr. Geffken passed his waste management test and is in the process of getting his license. Mr. Geffken rewrote the vendor grant and will resubmit it. Mr. Rodgers noted that he would forward a copy of the projects list to all of the board members. Mr. Yeager noted that the committee also discussed security cameras and a keyless entry system. Mr. Slusser asked about the status of moving the concession stand. Mr. Rodgers replied that the job is on the projects list and would be addressed as soon as possible. There is an electrical issue involved. Mr. Porter noted that it was his understanding that the grant was due tomorrow. Mr. Rodgers stated that they would submit the grant following the meeting.

Finance - Charlie Porter noted that discussion on most of the items was put off until the next special meeting due to the amount of time spent on Facilities items. Mr. Porter questioned the status of the band truck purchase. Mr. Rodgers noted that they will be taking Mr. Leffler and Mr. Stine to look at several vehicles. The cost should be less than \$10,000. Mr. Porter noted that the committee discussed the financial audit and he believes that the district should get quotes from other auditors. Mr. Rodgers noted that the proper process would be to request proposals, but his concern would be the timeline. They discussed an educational foundation and are trying to keep

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the process moving forward. Physician services are being discussed and costs are being broken down. Mr. Beierschmitt reported that the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> and that it would conflict with graduation.

Negotiations & Personnel - A negotiations meeting is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be held at 5:00 p.m. prior to the school board meeting.

Curriculum - Mike Yeager reported that the meeting was cancelled due to the executive session. It was rescheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office conference room.

### ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

#### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter asked about the invoice from Dr. Bobek for Hepatitis B vaccines. Mr. Rodgers replied that Dr. Bobek provides the vaccines at cost, but the cost is not included in his retainer.

#### ITEMS – FISCAL

#### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

Personnel Item “A” was tabled until the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Mr. Porter asked for the amount the district pays for legal services per year. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would provide a 5-year history of legal costs for the next Finance Committee meeting.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager the following items were presented for approval:

- B. To appoint Paul Starr from Region II (Catawissa Borough/Catawissa Township) as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, with the annual salary of \$240 waived.
- C. Employment of Erin Snyder as Assistant Girls Varsity Basketball Coach for the 2007-2008 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) with 14.0 points.
- D. The addition of the following individuals to the 2006-2007 Substitute List effective May 15, 2007, unless otherwise listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
  - Susan Walters (Art K-12) - effective April 24, 2007
  - Danielle Miller (Elementary)
  - Lindsay Regec (Spanish)
  - Megan Yuskoski (Early Childhood)
  - Amy Brokus (Aide)
- E. To acknowledge tenure for the following teachers effective with the end of the 2006-2007 school year:
  - Daylene Bloom
  - Linda Robinson

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- F. Employment of the following individuals as After School Tutors effective April 12, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$20 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
  - James McGinley
  - Shannon Pascoe
- G. To accept the resignation of Jeffrey Fleming from the position of Head Bowling Coach effective April 20, 2007. Mr. Fleming had been in the position since November 2004.
- H. To change Linda Tomashefski from half-time Instructional Aide to 4-Hour ACCESS Secretary effective May 11, 2007.
- I. To accept the resignation for retirement of Patricia Brophy from the position of 2.5 Hour Cafeteria Worker effective June 8, 2007. Mrs. Brophy has been with the district since August 2001.
- J. A Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Amy Bender (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher) beginning on or about November 12, 2007, and ending on or about February 12, 2008.
- K. Employment of Louise Baran as Keystone Integrator for the 2006-2007 school year at an annual salary of \$5,000, which will be paid through the Classrooms for the Future Grant.
- L. To change Cheryl Gipple from full-time Instructional Aide to half-time Instructional Aide effective August 23, 2007.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

The Electronic Devices policy was discussed. Some minor changes would be made prior to the first reading.

It was agreed that the Special Interest Group Agreement and Special Interest Group Lease Agreement would be sent to board members with the next Friday Letter

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, an Olweus Survey, which will be administered to all middle school students, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager thanked the senior high staff for sending students to report on their field trip. He asked the status of the AP course audits. Mr. Clippinger replied that five out of seven are completed. Two are still in process. Mr. Yeager asked how many students are taking the exams. Mr. Becker replied that he didn't know the numbers off hand, but all students are encouraged to take the tests.

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Mr. Nunkester reported that he attended two very successful Band and Chorus presentations. He added that Mrs. Stone and Mr. Thomas did an excellent job with their students. Mr. Yeager noted that the Encore presentation was phenomenal. Ms. Diane Wittig reported that the elementary students that attended the Song Fest performed very difficult pieces and did an excellent job.

Mr. Porter questioned the status of students receiving behind-the-wheel driver training. Mr. Becker replied that he currently has a substitute in place for Mr. Conner so he can get the seniors through the program. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Rodgers if he would have figures for the next Finance meeting showing how the budget would look with and without a tax increase. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively.

Mr. Porter asked about the athletic policy and if it would be made uniform across the board. Mr. Becker replied that Mr. Sharrow met with the coaches and they are in the process of developing an athletic handbook to make it consistent with school discipline. Mr. Charles Reh stated that he understood that Mr. Sharrow was going to submit the athletic handbook to the board for approval in July or August.

Mr. Clippinger asked Mr. Rodgers how he would present the budget without a tax increase, because it would entail cutting programs. Mr. Rodgers replied that it would simply show revenues, expenditures and use of the fund balance. Mr. Clippinger stated that before cuts would be considered, everyone would need to be aware of the potential cuts.

Mr. Savitski asked for the results of the cafeteria surveys. Mr. Rodgers replied that the surveys are going out to six classes and the results should be compiled in the near future. He reported that an audit of the food services program was completed for the elementary building. The results were excellent and he commended Mrs. Kathy Holleran for the successful audit. Mr. Yeager asked if portion sizes were discussed. Mr. Rodgers replied that the portion sizes are mandated by the state and the portion sizes met the state standards. A copy of the audit would be included with the Friday Letter.

Mr. Yeager noted that there is only one meeting in July and he recommended the possibility of scheduling a board retreat with Mr. Reh. Mr. Yeager reminded everyone to go out and vote on Tuesday.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

No public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary