

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

The May 21, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:38 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	Ronald Savitski	Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roger Nunkester, 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 considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1). Mrs. Susan Yodock presented a partial lesson on Connected Math to demonstrate the concept and different form of instruction of the program.
- 2). Mr. Brian Davis and Mr. Ian McCoog gave a presentation on Classrooms For the Future (CFF). Mrs. Mary Ann Yocum, Mrs. Louise Baran and Mrs. Shannon Jeffrey (secondary teachers) were also in attendance to support the presentation. Mrs. Yocum reported that the class average on tests went from 80% without the laptops to 95% with the laptops. Mrs. Baran reported that she sees much more enthusiasm from her students using Promethean whiteboards. Mr. Davis, Mr. McCoog and high school students Lindsay Carl and Sam Springer attended a CFF Student Showcase at the Capital Rotunda in Harrisburg. They met with Governor Rendell, Representative Millard and Secretary of Education Zahorchak and showed their presentations, which were made possible through CFF. They reported that Governor Rendell asked Sam Springer to e-mail his presentation to him. The teachers noted that a lot of planning time goes into lessons. Mr. Porter asked if instead of each teacher spending so much time planning, if information were available from other schools that have already implemented the program. Mrs. Baran explained that there a lot of elementary level plans available, but secondary resources are lacking. There are some plans, which can be downloaded and adapted. The teachers are very enthusiastic about CFF and asked for continued support of the program.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Curriculum - A meeting would be held the following evening.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, announced that the committee met last week. They discussed the tentative budget. There will be some savings realized in the fuel prices. They

Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 2

discussed the possibility of raising the daily substitute rate to \$80. Mr. Rodgers reported that the tentative budget includes a 1.2 mill increase for Columbia County and a 1.6 mill increase for Northumberland County, which is the maximum allowable under Act 1. He noted that the budget is still a work in process. The next meeting will be held on June 5th at 7:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Personnel Committee. Mr. Porter noted that he would vote to continue the budget process, but would like to see Mr. Rodgers continue to pare down the amount taken from the fund balance.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled due to the executive session.

Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that they discussed the history of funding. The trend is that funding is continually decreasing. Mr. Curry spoke with Senator Gordner regarding a bill to fully fund vocational-technical schools. Mr. Curry and Mr. Capoccioni are going to New Orleans for the High Schools That Work program, which is a program to promote achievement throughout vocational-technical schools. They received a curriculum grant for \$25,000. Some of the middle school math, science and English teachers will be going there through the summer. The concept is for the teachers to know what they should be teaching students who plan on attending the Vo-Tech school, so they are prepared. The Vo-Tech budget was passed by all districts with a 53-4 vote with 6 members absent. There is a concern that some vocational-technical schools are not meeting the standards for the 9th grade exploration. Mr. Curry believes that CMAVTS is doing things correctly, but is committed to doing everything possible to make sure that the 9th grade year counts. They discussed the resolution pertaining to funding for cyber schools. They are still in negotiations and are making progress.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, the Treasurer’s Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes of April 19, 2007.
- B. General Fund Invoices in the amount of \$1,126,191.60.

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if a request for proposals is done each year for pest management services. Mr. Rodgers replied negatively and noted that in the past, the district used Ehrlich for inside and outside services, but Keystone submitted a proposal and they are planning to begin using them. Mr. Porter expressed concern over the invoice for the Title I Family Night. He noted that Mr. Mehalick mentioned the possibility of holding two Title I Teas during the day next year to accomplish the same purpose. He agreed to vote to pay Ponder this year because they did provide a service, but he would like to see the district embark upon Mr. Mehalick’s idea. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 3

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2006-2007 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. To appoint Brewer, Gehrig & Johnson, LLC to audit the financial records of the local tax collectors for the year ended December 31, 2006, as required by the Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law, at a cost not to exceed \$2,045.
- C. To adopt a Resolution pertaining to House Bill 446 (**per Exhibit B**).
- D. To approve payment of the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund:
 - Fleming Nurseries, Inc. - \$2,460.00 (upgrades to the Softball Field)
- G. The Southern Columbia Area School District Tentative Budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,680,225 (**per Exhibit C**).
- H. To accept the PAEJPC approved bid award of Fuel Oil and Gasoline for the period of July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008 (**per Exhibit D**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to adopt the Resolution of this School District in the form provided by Bond Counsel, which, among other things, authorizes a refunding project of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School; approves the form, execution, attestation and delivery of the Lease Agreement, Continuing Disclosure Agreement and Incumbency Certificate related to the refunding project; and authorizes appropriate persons to take all action necessary to proceed with the refunding project, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter noted that there were a lot of blanks in the packet that was distributed to the board members. Mr. Yeager noted that it is basically a refinancing of their bond to save money. Solicitor Roberts noted that they also restructured the financing. It was determined that the district would benefit from a one-time savings of approximately \$12,000. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Slusser, to adopt a Resolution of the Area Vocational-Technical Board (the "Joint Board") of Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School in the form provided by Bond Counsel, which, among other things, authorizes a refunding project of the Vo-Tech School; approves the form of the Lease Agreement and Continuing Disclosure Agreement; and delegates the execution, attestation and delivery of documents related to the refunding project to the Area Vocational-Technical School Committee for the benefit of, and on behalf of, the Joint Board, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 4

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To re-appoint Richard J. Roberts, Jr. as School Solicitor for the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008, with a retainer of \$3,200.00 plus \$90.00 per hour for additional work.
- B. To change Casie Geiswite from Volunteer Assistant Field Hockey Coach to Junior High Assistant Field Hockey Coach for the 2006-2007 school year with 10.25 points and a salary of \$1,230.
- C. Employment of William Freeman as a Driver Education Instructor for behind-the-wheel instruction, at a rate of \$90.00 per student (pending receipt of all employment requirements), effective May 22, 2007.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. First reading of Policy #237 Electronic Devices (per Exhibit E).
- B. Revised 2007-2008 School Year Calendar (per Exhibit F).
- C. Special Interest Group Agreement and Special Interest Group Lease Agreement with the Southern Columbia Track & Field and Cross Country Boosters.
- D. To authorize the Board Secretary to send a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment for the 2007-2008 school year to those non-instructional employees and substitutes employed less than 12 months.
- E. Participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program for the 2007-2008 school year.
- F. The following new Health textbook for the Eighth Grade Level:
 - Prentice Hall Health, c. 2007
- G. The following Summer Camps, which will be fully funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, to be held June 18 through 22, 2007; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:
 - Nature Explorers - for 2nd and 3rd grade students with 20 students maximum; Instructor - Kristen Vitkauskus (\$20 per hour)
 - Birds of Pennsylvania - for 4th through 6th grade students with 20 students maximum; Instructor - Randy Young (\$20 per hour)

Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2007

Page 5

- H. An Agreement pertaining to a student disciplinary matter and to authorize the Acting Superintendent to execute the same on behalf of the District.
- I. To authorize the Solicitor to file a petition to add a school director's position to the ballot for the General Election to be held November 2007.
- J. Homebound Instruction for a middle school student beginning May 21, 2007, and continuing through the end of the 2006-2007 school year for a maximum of 6 hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager noted that the concert he recently attended was excellent. Miss Diane Wittig reported that the 7th and 8th grade students that attended the High Note Music Conference at Dorney Park received a superior rating.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Clay Fahringer, expressed his dissatisfaction with the Connected Math program and reported that his daughter has been struggling with it. Mr. Clippinger noted that the program was placed at an exemplary level by the outstanding group of individuals who review math programs. Last year, the 7th grade had 100% proficiency on the PSSA. Mr. Fahringer noted that the program makes it very difficult for parents to help students. He would like to see an objective review of the program. Mr. Becker noted that the first year Connected Math was implemented in 7th grade, the number of students who failed was a few less than his last year of teaching Saxon Math. Mr. Clippinger noted that parent resources are available online, but he had 12 sets of the information copied and bound, which are available in the library for parent access. Mr. Becker noted that the program is very different and is hard to get used to. Mr. Nunkester noted that he only received complaints from one or two parents. He noted that it might be necessary to offer more parent nights pertaining to the program.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary