

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

The June 11, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:55 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	Charles Porter	Paul Starr
Hugh Jones	Ronald Savitski	Michael Yeager ( <i>Absent</i> )

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Richard Beierschmitt, Acting Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Roy Clippinger, James Becker, Roger Nunkester, Joseph Shirvinski, 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 with the exception of Item G would be considered action items, as well as Fiscal Items D, H, I, J, K and L. Policy and Programs Item A would also be an action item. President Meyer announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting for personnel reasons. District resident, Mr. Blaine Madara, questioned the difference in the bids for the air-handling units. Mr. Rodgers replied that he checked on references for Spotts Brothers and previous customers were very satisfied with their work.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Beierschmitt's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He commended Mr. Becker and all staff involved in the commencement ceremony.
- 2.) He thanked the board for allowing him to serve as Acting Superintendent over the past year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee did not meet due to the executive session.

Facilities & Services - Karl Meyer, Committee member, reported that the FMS contract was the main topic of discussion. A representative from FMS was present. There is still discussion underway concerning the contract. The high school corridor lighting and gymnasium air-handling units would be acted upon later during the meeting. Further prices for air conditioning units for the weight room and band room are due later in the week. The telephone line issue to the bus garage has been addressed. Field issues such as top-dressing and aeration were discussed. Mr. Geffken reported that several contractors are providing information and quotes. The hockey field is the biggest issue. The priority projects list and summer workers were discussed. Mrs. Lombardo noted that she is looking into the possibility of moving the Family Center to a new location in Numidia.

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Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the first item discussed was the school physician services. Potential transportation efficiencies were discussed. Two used buses, a mini-bus and a van will be purchased instead of two new buses. They discussed the financial audit. It was agreed that the current auditor would be used again this year, but Mr. Rodgers would request proposals beginning in January. They discussed an educational foundation and all of the steps necessary in getting a foundation started. The next board meeting will be rescheduled from June 19<sup>th</sup> to June 21<sup>st</sup> in order to meet the 30-day advertising requirement before passing the final budget. The budget will be discussed further. At the current time, it would result in a deficit of \$115,000, which would come from the General Fund. There is a proposed tax increase of 1.2 mills for Columbia County and 1.6 mills for Northumberland County. Mr. Rodgers looked at several potential band trucks. He plans to take the mechanics to inspect them. He noted that \$15,000 was budgeted, but a truck could possibly be purchased for under \$10,000. The well issue will be discussed further.

Negotiations & Personnel - The next Negotiations meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>, but has not yet been confirmed.

### ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

#### ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter asked about an invoice for public employee retirement purchase of service. Mr. Rodgers responded that he believed it was for the purchase of some substitute time from years ago. There is a portion that the employee has to buy back and there is a portion that the school district must pay.

Mr. Porter asked the reason for being involved with the Tri-Chamber Foundation. Mr. Rodgers replied that there is a technology benefit. The district is eligible for a small grant through its membership, which more than covers the cost of the dues.

#### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to adopt a Resolution authorizing the payment of school property taxes in installments as required by Act 1 (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, to award the bid (*Base bid*) for High School Lighting Systems Replacement and Renovations to J. B. Electric Corporation at a cost of \$13,869 (**bid tabulations per Exhibit E**), was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, to award the bid (*Alternate 1*) for High School Gymnasium Indoor Air Handling Units Replacement and Renovations to Spotts Brothers at a cost of \$79,700 (**bid tabulations per Exhibit F**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bittner and second by Slusser, to approve Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner, LLP to audit the financial records of the 2006-2007 fiscal year for a fee not to exceed \$13,571 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Starr and second by Jones, the additional compensation to Tax Collectors of \$1.00 per property parcel for taxpayers who choose the installment option was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Bittner, to adopt a Resolution appointing Ashley M. Rohrbach to collect Catawissa Township school real estate taxes (per Exhibit E-1) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

In reference to the FMS Contract, Mr. Porter noted that he would like to see a one-year contract. The heating system in the elementary building is still not functioning properly. The cost is also an issue. He noted that he would not vote for a three-year contract. Mr. Jones said he would also like to see what they would offer with a two-year contract. Mr. Porter stated that FMS made it clear that they do not want any responsibility on the licensing to run the sewage plant. He noted that several of the board members were under the assumption that they were going to provide a licensed sewage plant operator and now they have made it clear that they will not.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, Personnel items A through F were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Bittner stated that she would like to see item A voted upon separately. Mr. Jones and Mr. Slusser withdrew there motion and second respectively.

On a motion by Jones and second by Porter, to approve the Agreement with Geisinger Health Systems to provide School Physician services for the 2007-2008 school year (per Exhibit G) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that this came about through a presentation at a Finance Committee meeting. The administration looked into it and found an \$8,000 difference. Dr. Bobek submitted another proposal and there was still a \$4,000 difference. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 1-No, **1 Abstention** (Bittner voted No, Porter abstained).

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

- B. Dr. David J. Leshock (Bloomsburg) as Consultant to the Dental Hygiene program for the 2007-2008 school year to include a \$50 consultant fee.
- C. Personnel (per Exhibit H) for the Southern Columbia 2007 Summer Fundamentals Program (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- D. To retain Carl Beard, Jr., Esquire, to represent the District in connection with Grievance #2006-2007-001.
- E. To provide (3) students with on-the-job clerical training and (5) students with on-the-job custodial/maintenance training in the district during the summer months at minimum wage (35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks).

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- F. Employment of Maria Callahan as a long-term substitute teacher effective August 23, 2007, for the entire 2007-2008 school year to replace a Learning Support teacher on leave.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, Homebound Instruction for a middle school student beginning May 22, 2007, until further evaluation by a physician for a maximum of 6 hours per week, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Beierschmitt for a job well done. Mr. Porter asked for an executive session to consult with counsel concerning litigation.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Madara congratulated the board and administration on graduation. He noted that the board has been discussing the well issue for several months and noted that they might want to look into grounding the well. He asked what type of units they were looking at for the gymnasium. Mr. Rodgers noted that they would be heating units but would have cooling capability. He asked why Mr. Geffken would not be the primary sewage plant operator if he becomes licensed. Mr. Geffken replied that it is because of the liability issue. Mr. Porter wanted ownership of a preventative maintenance program put into the contract. He was told that it was a software license and FMS would have ownership of the license. It could be purchased on the open market and Mr. Porter would like to see it purchased.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary