

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

The June 21, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 8:00 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

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

President Meyer announced that Personnel Item F would not be an action item, but there would be one Personnel addendum item. Solicitor Roberts announced that there was an executive session prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mr. Mehalick gave a brief presentation on upcoming changes in the Special Education Department. The time that special education students spend in the regular classroom will be increased. They will be moving toward a fully inclusive model. He noted that this is something that the law is dictating. He noted that the response from both the special and regular education teachers has been positive. He noted that there will be additional responsibilities for the special education staff. The IEP Writer software program has been purchased and will be used district-wide by the special education teachers. It will streamline and save time in the IEP writing process.

Mr. Yeager referred to the article included with the Friday Letter concerning the ranking of schools in the state of Pennsylvania as well as nationally. He noted that Pennsylvania's 8th graders are ranked 7th in the country in reading and math. Southern Columbia is in the top 25 percent in the state (135 out of 501). Mr. Clippinger will give a report on proposed changes at the July meeting. There will be a systemic change toward more differentiated instruction. Mr. Yeager noted that he would like to request an executive session sometime in the near future to discuss some personnel issues.

Negotiations and Personnel - The next negotiations meeting is currently targeted for either July 16th or 17th.

Policy - No meeting was held. Mr. Porter stated that the administration reported that they were planning to standardize the athletic policy and that it would come before the board in June or July. He asked if it would be presented for approval in July. Mr. Becker noted that he would check with Mr. Sharrow.

CSIU - No report.

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Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that the J.O.C. met Tuesday night. There is a hold on the bond refinancing issue. All of the districts voted to approve it, but it will be held for 90 days. The district might have to vote on the issue again. Mr. Curry is currently being evaluated. They are still in the process of negotiations. The handbook that was created by teachers and students containing lessons is now in the process of being sold. They will be presenting it in New Orleans in July. They hired a new Director of Student Personnel.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Porter and second by Jones, the minutes of May 14 and 21, 2007, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$338,534.99 were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Savitski 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.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, the Southern Columbia Area School District General Fund Budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year in the amount of \$14,663,951.00 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Bell-Perry and Slusser voted No).

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, to adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit C**) requesting permission to continue to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services Cooperative Purchasing Program was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Yeager, to authorize the Business Manager to make appropriate transfers for proper budgetary accounting to close out the fiscal year and prepare for audit was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, to authorize the Business Manager to transfer unallocated expenditures remaining at the conclusion of the 2006-2007 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Starr, to appoint the following institutions as school district depositories for the 2007-2008 fiscal year was presented for approval:

- First Columbia Bank & Trust Co.

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- Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund
- Pennsylvania Treasurer's INVEST Program
- Union National Bank
- M&T Bank

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, a two year Agreement with Facilities Maintenance Services, Inc. (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mrs. Bell-Perry expressed concern over some of the wording of the agreement and the cost. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 3-No (Bell-Perry, Porter and Slusser voted No).

On a motion by Yeager and second by Jones, to increase the daily rate for Instructional Substitutes from \$70.00 to \$80.00 effective with the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Porter stated that the board was presented with a contract for physician services at the last meeting. The board members were told that Dr. Luxardo would be providing the services and they received a summary of the financial information. Mr. Porter noted that they didn't know exactly with whom they would be contracting. He contacted the board secretary the day before the meeting to ask whose name was on the contract. It is Geisinger Clinic and his wife works for Geisinger Clinic, therefore he asked for unanimous consent to withdraw his vote on that issue. He confirmed that the contract had not yet been signed. Solicitor Roberts clarified that with unanimous consent, his vote would be changed from affirmative to abstained. The board members gave unanimous consent. It was agreed that the board minutes of June 11, 2007, would be amended accordingly.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Bell-Perry, a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Columbia Education Association was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, **1-Abstention** (Porter abstained).

On a motion by Porter and second by Starr, to accept the resignation of Cynthia Fedder as Title I Assistant effective June 18, 2007, was presented for approval. Mrs. Fedder has been in the position since September 2002. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Christopher Brown from the position of Technology Education Teacher effective June 18, 2007, was presented for approval. Mr. Brown has been in the position since September 1999. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, employment of Daniel J. Hauer as an Elementary Teacher effective August 23, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's salary schedule (\$34,519) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, employment of Cassidy Shults as a Middle School Teacher effective August 23, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 6 of the Bachelor's salary schedule (\$36,987) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Porter, Support Staff (non-union) salaries (per Exhibit E) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Yeager asked if any of the individuals on the list were hired for only a portion of the year. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Yeager, a motion to table the previous motion concerning the Support Staff salaries was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Bell-Perry and second by Slusser, additional staff for the Summer Fundamentals program (per Exhibit G) effective June 18, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked how the positions are advertised. Mrs. Lombardo replied that the positions are advertised within the school and by word of mouth. She noted that a lot of the positions are filled by individuals that have previously worked in the program and the remainder of the positions are filled by college students who signed up for the course. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see the positions advertised publicly. Solicitor Roberts noted that there is no legal requirement to advertise outside of the district, but added that it would probably be prudent to do so. President Meyer asked if the staff requirements have been met. Mrs. Lombardo replied affirmatively and noted that she hired nearly everyone that applied this year. She explained that the program is put together within one week's time and it is helpful to have experienced staff to guide other people. Mr. Porter stated that he would still like it announced outside for wider access to the positions. President Meyer stated that he could see Mr. Porter's point, but it seems like it would be an abundant amount of work for something that may not change the outcome. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yeager, employment of the following individuals as Extended School Year Instructors for Summer 2007 at their respective contracted rates was presented for approval.

- Tracey Boyer (Aide)
- Barbara Daulis (Aide)
- Colleen Laskoski (Aide)
- Brenda Webb (Aide)
- Carol Williams (Aide)
- Dani Schwalm (Teacher)
- Cathy Scicchitano (Teacher)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, revisions to the 2007-2008 Middle School Student Handbook (per Exhibit H) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS – PERSONNEL

Mr. Rodgers asked for reconsideration on Personnel Item F. He recommended to eliminate the two names of individuals that would be affected based upon their earlier conversation and to have the board act upon the revised list. He noted that it does cause problems in the payroll department if the salaries are not set by July 1st. The two names which would be removed are Linda Mayernick and Sam Hunsinger.

On a motion by Jones and second by Savitski, to place Personnel Item F pertaining to Support Staff salaries back on the table for consideration was presented for approval. Prior to voting, the motion was opened for public discussion. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, to amend Exhibit E in the aforementioned motion to eliminate the names of Linda Mayernick and Sam Hunsinger was presented for approval. Prior to voting, the motion was opened for public discussion. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Jones and second by Porter, to approve Support Staff (non-union) salaries (per Exhibit E as amended) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Yeager commended Mr. Nunkester for the letter he enclosed with the middle school report cards.

Mr. Porter stated that the middle school office is listed as a priority 3 on the Projects List, however it is scheduled for the summer. He asked the status of the project. Mr. Rodgers replied that the administration is currently evaluating the project. He noted that in the budget process it was ranked a priority project 3; however there has been strong push for that project in the last month and some support in the last few committee meetings. It doesn't appear to be a costly project, hence the support. It would entail extending the walls to the ceiling, but there would be heating and air conditioning issues. Mr. Geffken reported that they would either need to retrofit the unit ventilator with some type of ductwork cap or to install smaller unit ventilators in the other spaces. Mr. Porter noted that it is a privacy issue and should be looked at during upcoming committee meetings. Mr. Porter also asked the status of the band truck purchase. Mr. Rodgers replied that he and Mr. Mehalick, along with the mechanics met with Penske representatives. There were some concerns that the vehicle is not large enough. The board will need to decide if they want to spend the money allocated and purchase something comparable or if they want to spend a little more and provide a vehicle that allows for future growth of the band. If they decide to go with a truck comparable to what they have, the district will not need to request bids.

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary