

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

The August 13, 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 Vice President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Vice President Yeager welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amanda Bell-Perry (*Absent*)
Elsie Bittner (*Absent*)
Hugh Jones (*Absent*)

Karl Meyer (*Absent*)
Charles Porter
Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser
Paul Starr
Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, Charles Reh, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

Vice President Yeager announced that an executive session was held prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel matters. He also announced that all Personnel Items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's reported on the following:

- 1). The administrators had a productive retreat and are prepared for the opening of the 2007-2008 school year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – The meeting was cancelled due to the executive session.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that a third bid was received for the band and weight room air conditioning units. The lowest quote was from Scicchitano's. The well was drilled at 400 feet with 35 gallons per minute. The estimates for the well pump and cap are a little higher than expected due to additional piping, the 3-phase pump and the constant pressure system. Plastic pipe could be used instead of galvanized pipe. Mr. Geffken contacted Stackhouse Well Drilling to provide another quote to compare the upgrades. A third well driller refused to quote. A third quote is still needed. Mr. Savitski noted that the quote was for 500 feet of drilling. He asked what savings were realized by only drilling to 400 feet. Mr. Geffken replied that the savings were \$6.00 per foot for a total of \$600. Solicitor Roberts noted that the board could give Mr. Rodgers the go-ahead once the proper comparable quotes are received.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Slusser, to authorize the administration to contract for the pump and piping system after they have secured three quotes and once they have verified that the quotes are for basically the same system. It is understood that they must go with the

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lowest quote. The motion was opened to the public. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

The athletic fields were seeded, sprayed, top-dressed and aerated, and are continually being watered. Some adjustments to practice locations have been made. Mr. Geffken noted that the fields are coming along well. The hockey field is not improving as quickly as the soccer field but it was in the worst shape. The watering cycle per field is about every four days. The field hockey is available for games only. The hockey team will be using an alternate field for practice. Mr. Geffken noted that it is not the maintenance department's responsibility to determine which teams play on which fields. He asked for direction as to where to put the fields and he will follow through. It was agreed that the Athletic Director is responsible for scheduling field use.

Junior High Football Coach, Mr. Troy Heath, expressed his concern over the amount of football players involved in the program and the availability of only one practice field. Assistant Junior High Football Coach, Mr. David Townsend, noted that he is getting conflicting information. The Athletic Director told him that the board made the decision to eliminate a football practice field and add a hockey practice field and that he did not agree with it. He asked for clarification. Mr. Yeager noted that the hockey field was actually becoming dangerous and the goal is to rejuvenate that field. Field Hockey is the only team that does not normally have a practice field. They had to play and practice on the same field, which eventually wore it out. Mr. Yeager noted that there has been a lack of communication. It was planned that the teams should rotate the use of the practice field. The intent was never to completely ban the junior high football team from playing on their practice field. Mr. Reh noted that the board direction was to have the Athletic Director work on a schedule for the fields. Mr. Becker agreed to talk to Mr. Sharrow. Mr. Yeager noted that they need to come up with a plan for a practice field for field hockey. The football storage shed, roadway, and windows in the elementary school were discussed. Music Booster member, Mrs. Jill Haas, reported that she received several quotes for an exhaust fan and hood system and also mentioned a fire suppression system. Mr. Geffken asked for direction from the board, but does not feel that a restaurant grade hood system is necessary. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Geffken to look into the code requirements. Music Booster member, Jolene Rudisil, noted that the Music Boosters depend on the proceeds from the concession stand and noted that they need to use the stand in two weeks and they need to know that it will be safe. They asked for direction. Mr. Rodgers noted that they could supply something better than what currently exists, but noted that funding needs to be considered. Mr. Rodgers noted that the administration would look into code and then set up a meeting with several Booster members to look at long term solutions. Mr. Geffken recommended that a sealed motor be purchased at this time. Mr. Yeager reported that the board needs to look into ways of funding so that the district is not fully responsible for this type of improvements. Mr. Porter noted that there is some concern over the discoloration of the bleachers, some of the joints and the quality of the product. Mr. Rodgers agreed to look into the matter.

Finance – Charlie Porter, committee member, reported that they discussed the band truck and the bus bids. Mr. Rodgers noted that there is a misunderstanding concerning reimbursement for buses. There are two types of reimbursement. There is a reimbursement on capital outlay. The district would receive reimbursement of approximately \$90,000 to \$100,000 thousand of the \$135,000, which is budgeted for the purchase of buses for capital outlay. The year of the bus has no relevance on that type of reimbursement. The reimbursement for daily miles could be paid at a higher rate for newer buses. Mr. Rodgers did not think that it would make a significant difference between three 1999 buses or three 2004 buses in a fleet of 35 buses. He added that if you look at the entire fleet and the 400,000 plus miles that are traveled, the five year difference in the buses

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would not make that much difference in the total transportation reimbursement. Mr. Rodgers reported that by going with the 1999 models, the district would be able to buy a 24-passenger bus and an additional van. That would be the recommendation of the administration.

The committee discussed the disposal of the old buses. Sale of some of the excess desks and chairs took place at the Music Boosters yard sale over the weekend. Another sale will take place on the upcoming Saturday. Additional items may be added to the list of sale items. The sale will be advertised. Educational Foundations will be given higher priority. The vendor grant will be discussed further. They had a suggestion to put a waste oil burner in the bus garage to burn waste oil from the buses. One of the vans being replaced will be kept in the district for the soccer coaches to use on campus.

Negotiations & Personnel – Charlie Porter noted that they met with the teachers on August 7th and will meet again on August 22nd. Salary, health care, educational credits, extra time, field trips and tuition reimbursement are among the items being discussed. Negotiations are progressing amicably.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter asked about the invoice for Farm Home Oil. He reminded the administration that a history of the fuel purchases needs to be established for future reference.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to award Technology Education supplies bids (**per Exhibit A**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to award the bid for (3) used 72-passenger School Buses to Brightbill Body Works, Lebanon at \$19,500.00 each for a total cost of \$58,500.00 was presented for approval (**Bid Tabulations per Exhibit B**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to award the bid for (1) 24-passenger School Bus to Brightbill Body Works, Lebanon at a cost of \$40,423.00 was presented for approval (**Bid Tabulations per Exhibit C**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to award the bid for (1) 9-passenger School Van to Brightbill Body Works, Lebanon at a cost of \$29,650.00 was presented for approval (**Bid Tabulations per Exhibit D**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to award the bid for (1) used Band Truck with Van Box to Atlantic Motors, Inc., Barnesville at a cost of \$14,185.00 was presented for approval (**Bid Tabulations per Exhibit E**). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, payment of the following invoice from the Capital Project Fund was presented for approval:

- Andre & Son, Inc. - \$5,034.75 (Improvements to the athletic fields)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to accept the donation of a storage shed from the Southern Columbia Football and Cheerleading Boosters to be placed under the north end of the home bleachers was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Steven M. Sirota for the position of Technology Education Teacher effective August 23, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$34,519*); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, employment of Ian McCoog for the position of Classrooms For the Future Coach and Technology Integration Specialist effective August 23, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Master's Salary Schedule (\$36,460*); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

** Salary is based on the expired Collective Bargaining Agreement and is subject to change due to current negotiations.*

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, to accept the resignation of Bonnie Lerch from the position of Registered Nurse (Middle/High School building) effective July 17, 2007, was presented for approval. Mrs. Lerch has been with the district since August 1992. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Kimberly A. Delbo for the position of Registered Nurse (Middle/High School building) effective August 23, 2007, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour; benefits per the Non-union Support Staff Handbook, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, the employment of Sandra Rarig as a half-time French teacher, effective August 27, 2007, at a per diem rate of \$150.00 for a term ending at the conclusion of the 2007-2008 school year or upon the District's hiring of another certified French teacher, whichever shall first occur; provided that Rarig shall not be entitled to earn any credited service under PSERS and that no contribution may be made by Rarig, the District or the Commonwealth on account of such employment, was presented for approval. This action is necessitated by an emergency resulting from the fact that the District has been unable to find another certified French teacher. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, employment of Christi O. Babb for the position of Title I Assistant effective August 23, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$11.00 per hour; benefits per the Non-union Support Staff Handbook, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, to appoint Charles Porter to serve on the CSIU Board of Directors for a three-year term, which expires June 30, 2010, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the Activities Advisors, Department Lead Teachers, Building Lead Teachers, Support Teachers and Tech Lead Teachers for the 2007-2008 school year (**per Exhibit F**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

A question arose as to whether all of the necessary clearances were on file for the Security Personnel. The motion would be acted upon at the next meeting.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to change Diane Baskin from Full-time Aide to Half-time Aide effective August 27, 2007, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, to accept the resignation of Amanda Bell-Perry from the Board of Directors of the Southern Columbia Area School District effective August 10, 2007. Mrs. Bell-Perry has been on the Board since May 24, 2004, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 4-Yes, 1-No (Slusser voted No).

On a motion by Slusser and second by Starr, to accept the resignation of Deborah Pavlick from the position of Elementary Secretary effective August 21, 2007. Mrs. Pavlick has been with the district since October 2004, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, the Elementary Student Handbook (Per Exhibit G) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the first reading of revised Policy #202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students (per Exhibit H) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr, the list of Frequently Used Assessments (Per Exhibit I) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

The new employees were welcomed by the board.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary