

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

The August 20, 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 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

Elsie Bittner (*Absent*)

Hugh Jones

Karl Meyer

Charles Porter

Ronald Savitski

Thomas Slusser

Paul Starr

Michael Yeager

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; 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

The board entered into executive session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter and reconvened the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. All members were present, with the exception of Elsie Bittner.

Due to the large number of district residents present, President Meyer deviated from the agenda and allowed recognition of the public. Mrs. Lynn Snyder read a statement expressing concern over the conditions of the football stadium and presented pictures. Mr. Geffken reported that the football stadium is not a priority during the summer months other than managing the turf, basically because it is not used. He was not aware that the stadium would be used prior to the first game, at which time the stadium would be ready. He noted that the weeds were sprayed on Saturday, the field will be mowed and lined. He noted that only three maintenance workers are on staff and due to his administrative duties, he is not always available. A lot of the work falls on only two guys. The district is also short one custodian. A lot of ambitious projects were undertaken this year. A well project is underway and should be completed later in the week. There are a lot of issues that have been ongoing. He noted that it takes every hour in the summer to get the buildings and grounds ready for the next year. Mr. Reh noted that every effort has been made to upgrade and improve the playing field at the stadium. Mr. Geffken reported that the improvements that are currently being made might not be aesthetically pleasing at the present time, but they will make the stadium a better facility. He noted that he didn't anticipate how heavily the locker room is used. He switched shifts around to make someone responsible for cleaning the locker room every night. President Meyer asked the administration to look into the possible necessity of more staff.

Mrs. Betsy Joseph noted that she is concerned about the possibility of football being low on the priority list to avoid the appearance that Southern only cares about football. President Meyer assured her that it is not the case. He noted that the school is the heart of this community and every effort will be made to address the issues. Mr. Reh stated that it is important to

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improve the aesthetics. He noted that if additional staff is needed to get the work done, they will consider it.

Mr. Ray Roth reported that he moved back into the area in 1999. He has no regrets in sending his children to Southern Columbia. He noted that there is a minimum standard here. There are minor items that need to be addressed and it is inconsistent with the standard of pride. Mrs. Snyder asked why the junior high practice field was taken away with no notification to Mr. Roth. Mr. Reh reported that it was understood that Mr. Sharrow would work with the coaches and make a schedule that would work for all of the teams. Mr. Geffken noted that the hockey field was the worst field on the campus and it was reseeded. They needed to limit the amount of time on the field, and because field hockey does not have a practice field, other arrangements were made. Mr. Becker reported that he found out about the situation early last week and noted that there was a miscommunication. Mr. Yeager noted that they discussed all of the practice fields and they did talk about rotating the junior high practices. He added that they did direct the Athletic Director to inform all of the coaches. The hockey team is the only team without a practice field. There is space for a practice field and they will try to have it up and running for next year to alleviate this problem in the future.

Head Football Coach, Mr. Jim Roth, reported that he has been with the district for 27 years. He did not want to bring it up in a setting such as the present, but he was not getting any answers. He felt it was disrespectful for the field to be taken away without any notification. President Meyer apologized to Mr. Roth and noted that it was not the board's intention. Mr. Roth noted that Mr. Sharrow seemed surprised that the field was taken away and did not agree with it. Mr. Roth stated that he does not want his hands tied in the future; especially with next year's schedule. Mr. Reh reported that the direction the board stated was that the Athletic Director was in charge of scheduling the fields. The Athletic Director and High School Principal work together to schedule athletic events. Mr. Reh stated that he is committed to making the district the best it can be both academically and athletically.

Mr. Clippinger stated that this discussion is not about football; it is about money. Act 50 limited the tax money coming into the district. He noted that the board and administration have been trying to hold the district together on a shoestring budget. President Meyer noted that it is not the opinion of the board. Mr. Porter noted that local income went up 11 percent the first year after Act 50 was enacted and 20 percent the second year. President Meyer noted that Act 50 was not the issue at hand.

Mr. Porter noted that the hockey field was seeded later than it should have been. Mr. Roth noted that he has had much more cooperation and support from the administration in the past few years, but he doesn't understand how the field was taken away with no communication with him. President Meyer stated that there is a community effort underway to get all of the fields and facilities ready for the upcoming school year. Mr. Ray Roth noted that basic cleaning of the lockers and showers is much appreciated and very effective in preventing communicable diseases.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) An appreciation luncheon was held for the maintenance and custodial staff. The secretarial staff, administration and Mr. Geffken provided the food. It was much appreciated by the staff.
- 2.) The band truck has arrived.

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3.) Bloom Brothers completed the tile in the last four classrooms over the weekend, so all of the classrooms are ready for the first day of school.

4.) In-service days are scheduled for August 23rd and 24th and classes will begin on August 27th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – Mike Yeager, reported that six individuals will be going to Pittsburgh to learn about the Science in Elementary grant. All of the Advanced Placement courses have been approved. All of the textbooks and new software have arrived, along with a new writing program called My Access for 5th, 6th and 7th grade Learning Support students. The students do their writing on the computer and the computer checks it. It allows the teacher to have more time to teach. It will cost less than anticipated. Mr. Clippinger reported that the program has been in use for ten years. He noted that as students improve their writing skills, they also improve intellectually. He added that they have been looking at the program for the past four years, but couldn't afford it. Special Education IEP writing software has also been purchased and is in place. An assessment schedule has been developed. Thirty-three teachers took part in the DIBELS training on campus. Six computer courses were offered. There are five new teachers that will have to go through the induction process. Mr. Clippinger will give the board a report on the induction process in October. A graduate course will take place on campus. The cost is \$535 for three graduate credits.

Mr. Clippinger stated that he gets the feeling that the board agonizes over decisions for weeks and months because it is trying to make things fit into the budget. When you have to work under those conditions, it takes longer to get things done. The district is down custodial and maintenance workers and they are working without a teacher contract. Some things just don't get done when the resources aren't available. He noted that he feels all of the board members are looking at everything very sincerely.

Policy - Hugh Jones, Chairperson, reported that the committee looked at a school volunteers policy, which categorizes volunteers as single-event, short-term or long-term volunteers. The first reading of the policy will be presented in September.

CSIU - Mr. Reh met with Dr. Witten the previous day.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Capoccioni will be leaving Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech. He took a Principal's position in Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Yeager asked for an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel issues. The Collective Bargaining Agreement will be acted upon the following night.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, the minutes of July 16, 2007, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Savitski and second by Jones, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$628,111.45 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$26,571.90 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter referred to the FMS invoice and stated that by contract, FMS is to provide a competent person when James is not here. Solicitor Roberts confirmed that

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the contract states that FMS will ensure that a responsible person is in charge in the event that the resident manager is out of the district. He doesn't feel the person necessarily has to be on campus. Mr. Slusser stated that he would like to look at check #15853 to Sunbury Motors.

On a motion by Jones and second by Porter, to amend the previous motion to exclude payment of the invoice covered by check #15853, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

The amended motion was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No.)

ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To change Linda Robinson from Half-time Spanish Teacher to Full-time Spanish Teacher effective August 23, 2007 at Step 3 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$35,506*); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval.

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

- B. Employment of Richard Maciejewski for the position of 2nd Shift Custodian effective August 21, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$7.15 per hour plus shift differential; benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval.
- C. The 2007-2008 Substitute List (pending completion of all employment requirements) [**per Exhibit A**] was presented for approval.
- D. The following Support Teachers at the contracted rate for the 2007-2008 school year were presented for approval:
- Brian Davis (for Ian McCoog)
 - Paul Jankowski (for Steven Sirota)
- E. Employment of the following individuals as Security Personnel for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate of \$30.00 per event, was presented for approval:
- Phyllis Baylor
 - Robert Beyers
 - Dean Delsite
 - Dion Eppinette
 - Thomas E. Gotshall
 - Robert M. Marut
- (List continued on page 5)*

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- Linda L. Mayernick
- Stephen Price
- Ralph Shoup

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-Abstention (Savitski abstained).

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Jones questioned the status of Amanda Bell-Perry's resignation. Solicitor Roberts replied that it was accepted. The newspapers misquoted. Mr. Starr asked if another quote for the well pump was received. Mr. Geffken replied that he only received a verbal quote and was waiting for something in writing.

Mr. Porter mentioned alternative energy sources and reported that Sun Techniques, a company that supplies Solar Panels, would do a site survey via satellite. The Governor has some legislation to help school entities with grants to procure alternate energy sources. He also mentioned wind power and noted that some of the groundwork could be done if the district would set up its own weather station.

Mr. Porter asked if students would be along the highway for cleanup projects. Mr. Becker replied that if the board would like to keep the students off of the highways, he would take care of it. He asked for their direction. The board directed him to not allow students to participate in cleanups along the highways.

Mr. Porter also mentioned the possibility of having students clean their desks and pick up trash at the end of the day. He stated that it would teach students responsibility and free up some custodial time. It could provide many positive values and create more ownership.

Mr. Nunkester stated that he would like to initiate a holiday dinner for senior citizens, which would be sponsored by the staff. All of the food items would be donated by staff.

After a brief discussion concerning placement of the storage shed, which was being donated by the Football/Cheerleading Boosters, the following motion was presented:

On a motion by Porter and second by Starr, to direct the administration and maintenance supervisor to meet with the Football/Cheerleading Boosters to come to an agreement as to the best placement of the storage shed. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Yeager asked if anyone had looked into the road issue. Mr. Geffken replied that Mr. Rodgers was contacting the contractor who performed the work.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary