

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

The September 10, 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; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that all Personnel Items as well as one fiscal item on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) Mr. Clippinger will make a detailed report on the PSSA results at an October meeting. Mr. Yeager asked if he would include the percentages that will be required for next year.
- 2.) On September 13th Lowe's will make a check presentation for the \$20,000 grant award. The press release and details will be presented at that time. He asked the press not to report on the grant award until after the 13th.

President Meyer reported that an executive session would be held following the board meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on the past Thursday. The high school corridor lights project is complete. There was a change order for two additional lights, which was included in the project. The gymnasium heating units are installed, but there is a problem with the controls. Solicitor Roberts noted that if the change order is a large percentage of the contract, it would generally need to be re-bid, but he will research it. After a brief discussion, it was determined that Mr. Rodgers should begin to prepare the bid specifications and move ahead with the bid process pending Solicitor Roberts approval. Mr. Yeager noted that the total project would probably still come in under budget. The well pump project has been put off because other projects have been taking precedence. Following the Shamokin football game, it was determined that lights might need to be placed directly behind the

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press box to light the parking area. Mr. Geffken noted that it would entail more wiring and conduit than originally anticipated. Mr. Porter asked if there was power directly under the bleachers. Mr. Geffken replied that there is power available underneath the bleachers, but it is not directly under the press box. Mr. Reh recommended the use of battery operated lights since there are only a few home games per season. Mr. Geffken commended Mr. Danilowicz and Mr. Hunsinger for completing the locker installation over the weekend. Mr. Yeager noted that they discussed placing a time clock in the bus garage. Mr. Rodgers noted that he has some preliminary work done. It was his understanding that the project would need to be up and running by January 1st. Mr. Porter noted that it has been a long time since the asphalt was seal coated. Mr. Rodgers noted that he would research when it was last done and would contact several contractors. He noted that the project would need to put out for bids. Mr. Porter recommended doing only one section at a time to conserve funds. Mr. Rodgers noted that it would be a good idea. He noted that some of the handicapped accessible areas and line painting would also be addressed. Mr. Yeager asked if there was any further information available on the fencing from Bloomsburg University. Mr. Rodgers noted that he has made several calls and has received no response. He will try another contact. Mr. Yeager noted that the football boosters have their storage shed ready and they should be in contact with Mr. Geffken regarding placement.

Finance - Karl Meyer, Chairperson, reported that the band truck has been received and is working well. The new buses have arrived. Seven buses have been sold to a company from Pittsburgh. Some of the board members wanted the buses to be made available to the public, however a deal had already been struck. Mr. Rodgers noted that there is still one bus available. It will be advertised with a minimum bid of \$1,000. If they receive a bid over \$1,000, the bus would be sold. If no acceptable bids are received, the district would keep it. A bulk surplus sale was held and \$142 was received. There are still desks and chairs available to the public. Mr. Rodgers noted that there will be some surplus equipment, which will be advertised in the near future.

Mr. Reh reported that Eric DeWald, Executive Director of the Central Susquehanna Foundation, will address the board at the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting concerning the possibility of Southern Columbia going in with the Central Susquehanna Foundation to establish its own foundation. They would pick up all of the administrative costs, which would alleviate a lot of the work from the secretarial staff. He noted that there is a lot of work involved and they would accept the administrative responsibilities. Mr. Porter stated that the reason they called him, was because his organization is a 501C3 corporation and the district would not have to undertake the expense that Mr. Richard Caputo had earlier indicated would be involved. The local tax collector audit has begun and the financial audit will begin within the next few weeks.

CSIU - Mr. Porter replaced Dr. Meyer as a representative on the CSIU board of directors. Dr. Meyer got re-elected to the position in error and the board would be accepting his resignation later during the meeting.

Vo-Tech – Mike Yeager noted that a five-year teacher contract was approved. Salaries and health insurance co-pays are based on an average of the sending districts. They evaluated Mr. Curry and noted that he had done a very good job. Mr. Curry and Mr. Capoccioni sold approximately 400 copies of the lesson plan book and have orders for many more. Mr. Capoccioni has taken a job near the Pittsburgh so Vo-Tech will be looking for a new principal.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

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ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

The August 13th board minutes will be corrected to reflect that Vice President Yeager opened the meeting.

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Porter asked how many times Andre & Sons were on campus. Mr. Geffken replied that they came three different times. Mr. Rodgers noted that two invoices were received. One invoice was for the USGA sand mix which was paid through the Capital Project Fund. The labor was paid through the General Fund. Mr. Porter expressed concern that the invoice that was paid last month was over \$5,000 and the current invoice was \$3,500 and they were only here for one project. Mr. Geffken explained that they delivered sand over the course of one and half days and they delivered other materials and then performed the work. Mr. Porter noted that he would be looking at the invoices. He questioned an invoice from King Coal Tours. Mr. Rodgers noted that it was for a trip that was taken last spring at the end of the school year.

On a motion by Porter and second by Slusser, to accept additional funds into the 2007-2008 budget as follows was presented for approval:

- Lowe's Vendor Grant - \$20,000 - Funds to be used for renovation of the exterior and entrance of the Auditorium.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

Prior to board action, Mr. Porter questioned the salary of the Title I Reading Assistant and the ACCESS Secretary. Mr. Mehalick noted that the Title I Assistant's salary was based on the outgoing position salary. Mr. Rodgers reported that the ACCESS Secretary was transferred from a paraprofessional position to the ACCESS Secretary position, which is a non-bargaining position. The rate of \$10.11 is based on what she would have been making as a paraprofessional. The individual is actually being changed from a 4-hour secretary to a 3-hour secretary. Mr. Porter asked how much other secretaries are being paid. Mr. Rodgers noted that it varies. The other part-time ACCESS secretary is making \$10.60 per hour. There are some secretaries making more and some making less. Mr. Rodgers noted that the position is fully funded through ACCESS. He reported that they have already seen some increased revenue due to the position.

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

- A. To accept the resignation of Michael Bobersky from the position of Learning Support Teacher effective September 7, 2007. Mr. Bobersky has been with the district since August 2003.
- B. To accept the resignation of Christi O. Babb from the position of Title I Reading Assistant effective August 23, 2007. Ms. Babb was approved for the position on August 13, 2007.
- C. Employment of Rhonda Ivey for the position of Title I Assistant effective September 11, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$11.00 per hour; benefits per the Non-union Support Staff Handbook.

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- D. To change Linda Tomashefski from 4-Hour Access Secretary to 3-Hour Access Secretary effective August 27, 2007, at a rate of \$10.11 per hour.
- E. The addition of the following individuals to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective August 27, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Jill Greco (Elementary)
 - Jayne Pensyl (Elementary)
 - Robert Scott (Aide)
 - Vanessa Broschious (Aide/Clerical)
 - Kara McHale (Aide)
 - Sheena Hoffman (Elementary/Special Education)
- F. Employment of Donna Slagel as Elementary Secretary effective September 17, 2008, (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. Employment of Maria Sock (Teacher) as an After School Tutor effective September 4, 2007, at the contracted rate, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- H. Employment of Amy Brokus as Half-time Instructional Aide (*working 3 days of 6-day cycle*) effective September 24, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- I. To accept the resignation of Karl Meyer as a member of the CSIU Board of Directors effective August 12, 2007.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Jones and second by Slusser, the first reading of new Policy 916 School Volunteers (Per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. The item was opened for discussion from the public. Hearing none, the motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter noted that there will be a negotiations session on Wednesday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Reh noted that no applications were received for the board vacancy. Solicitor Roberts recommended that the position be re-advertised. It was agreed that Mr. Porter would serve as Chairperson of the Negotiations and Personnel Committee.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Jim Giles, expressed his concerns over the transportation of students attending St. Joseph's School in Danville. He stated that it seemed unfair that one parent was getting door-to-door service, while the others were getting picked up and dropped off at one location. Mr. Reh explained that one of the parents contacted him and reported that it would be dangerous for her three children to walk along Route 54 from Saint Mark's bus stop to her residence. She asked if it would be possible for the bus to stop at the furniture store along Route 54, which is across the road from her house. She assured him that the sitter would be there to walk

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the children across the road. Mr. Reh agreed to make the change since the stop was along the bus route. Mr. Giles and other parents felt that the best drop-off in town would be at Little Britches Day Care. President Meyer assured Mr. Giles that the administration would address the issue.

Mr. Reh reported that Mr. Shirvinski expressed concern regarding parents or a guardian not being present when younger students are being dropped off. The policy has always been for the bus driver to make every effort to contact the parents. The bus driver would bring the student back to the school until the parent has been contacted and then the bus driver would take the child home. It is a concern because the elementary secretarial staff is not always able to contact parents at their emergency contact numbers. The administrators discussed the possibility of notifying parents that on the first offense the bus driver would make every effort to contact the parents and would keep the student on the bus until the parent was reached. On the second offense, the district would contact Children and Youth. And on the third offense, the children would be taken to the local police station, and Children and Youth would be contacted again. The question of legality arose. Solicitor Roberts stated that Children and Youth would probably not want to get involved. He stated that he wasn't sure that it would be a good solution. Mr. Shirvinski noted that there are several parents that are habitual offenders. Mrs. Lombardo noted that it also happens with after school tutoring transportation. Mr. Porter stated that a delineation of what age students can and cannot be dropped off should be addressed through the Policy Committee.

Mr. Porter noted that he got a lot of positive feedback regarding students cleaning their own desks and cleaning up their classrooms. He asked if anyone had moved forward with that suggestion. Mr. Reh stated that from his experience, there would be parents who feel that it is not their child's responsibility. Mr. Shirvinski noted that it depends on the atmosphere that the teachers create. The elementary students are always asked to clean up their classrooms and if there is a problem in any area, the custodians inform him. Mr. Yeager noted that other districts feel that giving students spray bottles of chemicals is a liability issue. Mr. Geffken stated that he has seen a lot of improvement over last year. He noted that the standard of cleanliness is held much higher and the condition of the classrooms has improved over the past year. Mr. Becker noted that the lighting in the high school has helped and he has noticed students picking up trash in the hallways.

Mrs. Kay Rodriguez expressed concern over the mulch piles on the playground. Mr. Geffken stated that he has a backhoe on campus and would address it the following morning. He apologized for not getting it done sooner, but there were other things that took precedence. Mr. Reh mentioned the possibility of having Fleming's Nursery spread the mulch when they do their regular landscaping.

Mr. Savitski questioned the status of the air conditioning in the elementary building. Mr. Geffken responded that two of the electric motors on the condenser fan have gone down. He is waiting for the motors to be delivered. Mr. Porter asked if the preventive maintenance program is up and running. Mr. Geffken replied that it is on his computer. He stated that it prints out 85 items per month. He noted that most of those 85 items are already done on a routine basis.

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