

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

The September 17, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 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*)

Charles Porter

Paul Starr

Hugh Jones (*Absent*)

Ronald Savitski

Michael Yeager

Karl Meyer

Thomas Slusser

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roger Nunkester, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that all items including addendum items would be considered action items. He also announced that an executive session would be held immediately following the regular meeting to consult with counsel concerning possible litigation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Clippinger and Mr. Shirvinski were not present as they were attending a "Science It's Elementary" strategic training in Pittsburgh for the grant which was received by the district.

2.) District Activities Calendars are available to the public at all of the school offices as well as the Ralpho Township Public Library in Elysburg, Union National Bank in Elysburg and First Columbia Bank and Trust in Catawissa.

3.) The Classrooms For the Future (CFF) grant was approved. The district will receive \$250,000 for hardware such as laptops, whiteboards, carts, projectors, etc. This is the second year of the grant. The grant is specifically designated for core subjects in the high school. There is \$30,000 additional funding for the CFF Coach. The hardware is to be received December. The district had 25 laptops prior to the grant. Through the grant, the district will have over 400 laptops.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – Mr. Yeager reported that the meeting was cancelled.

Policy – Mr. Reh reported that two policies were discussed. They are both included on the agenda for board action.

Negotiations and Personnel – Mr. Porter reported that a meeting was held the previous Wednesday. He reported that the negotiations sessions have been on good terms. He thanked Mr. Reh for providing a clarification and assurance of his practices. He noted that having the Superintendent and Business Manager available for negotiations is a valuable tool. He added that it would probably come down to salary. He reported that the student population increased in 1999

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to a high of about 1,531. The faculty numbers also increased. Since then, the student population decreased, but the number of faculty members has not decreased. He stated that when other districts were laying off teachers, Southern Columbia did not as a service to the students, however the additional staff causes the payroll to be higher. Other items discussed were classroom sizes and faculty meetings. Mrs. Tia Brown, Elementary Art Teacher, reported that health insurance was also discussed. She noted that Southern teachers have one of the highest co-pays in the state.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

Prior to any board action, Mr. Rodgers explained that check #16023 in the amount of \$1,065.27 was voided. Check #16077 in the amount of \$900 and check #16078 in the amount of \$165.27 represented a reissue of check #16023. The total amount is the same, however there were two different vendors involved and the check was originally issued to one vendor.

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

- A. The Minutes of August 13, 2007 (*as revised*) and August 20, 2007.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$371,600.30 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$165,061.89.

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if purchasing soda from Catawissa Bottling is in compliance with the contract with Coca-Cola. Mr. Becker replied that as long as the district doesn't sell it, it is in compliance. Mrs. Lombardo explained that it was purchased for the celebration at the end of the summer program. Mr. Porter asked Mrs. Lombardo to look into whether on not serving soda followed the Wellness Policy. She agreed to do so.

Mr. Porter asked why two invoices to Andre & Sons were paid in two different months. Mr. Rodgers replied that it was due to the date they were invoiced. He explained that one invoice was paid through the Capital Project Fund for the USGA sand mixture and the other invoice was for labor, which was paid through the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Porter stated that both invoices were dated July 13th. Mr. Geffken explained that he requested the weigh slips and the original bill for the sand mixture was received with the weigh slip.

Mr. Porter stated that he was told in the past that when employees submit their expenses, it would be done on a monthly basis. He noted that Mrs. Lombardo's mileage reimbursement request goes back to April. He would like to see that the process is cleaned up. Mrs. Lombardo stated for the record that her mileage reimbursement was all verified.

Mr. Porter questioned an invoice for Penn State Cooperative – Building Leaders for Susquehanna Valley. He asked how the program is run and if it is offered to all students or if it is a selective offering. Mr. Yeager explained that districts select six or eight juniors to participate in the program. They go to Shikellamy one day per month and they do team building activities and build leadership skills. Mr. Becker stated that the guidance department selects the students. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of After School Tutors (**per Exhibit A**) for the 2007-2008 school year effective September 18, 2007 (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- B. To accept the resignation of Christopher Brown from the position of Head Varsity Wrestling Coach effective September 17, 2007. Mr. Brown has been in the position since September 2002.
- C. Employment of Joseph C. Shirvinski, Jr. as Head Bowling Coach for the 2007-2008 school year with 5 points and a salary of \$953.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. A motion to approve the first reading of revised Policy 210.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epi-Pens (**Per Exhibit B**).
- B. A motion to approve the second reading and adoption of new Policy 916 School Volunteers (**Per Exhibit C**).
- C. A motion to approve the following revised Family and Consumer Science courses:
 - Global Foods - grades 10-12
Teacher: Deborah Breech
 - Parenting and Child Development - grades 10-12
Teacher: Nancy Bodman
 - Eighth Grade, Family and Consumer Science - grade 8
Teacher: Deborah Breech or Nancy Bodman
- D. A motion to authorize the administration of the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12. The survey asks questions about SCA youth attitudes and behavior and compares them to the answers of PA youth statewide. The survey is funded by the Communities That Care grant.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that he was sorry to see Mr. Brown resign as Head Wrestling Coach. He asked what type of advertising would be done for the position. Mr. Becker replied that the

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position just opened and he asked that it be posted. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the position would be publicly advertised.

Mr. Slusser questioned the status of the blinking light on the highway. Mr. Geffken replied that they have reset it several times, but the processor has not functioned properly for some time. Mr. Savitski recommended that the local police should be asked to sit along the highway to slow the traffic until the light is repaired. There was some question as to who is responsible for the light.

Mr. Porter asked if any response was received from the company regarding solar power. Mr. Reh replied that he contacted them and was waiting for a response. He was told that there would be a 25 percent rebate. Mr. Porter stated that there are several grants available.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary