

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

The November 19, 2007, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:40 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

Timothy Benner

Elsie Bittner (*Absent*)

Hugh Jones (*Absent*)

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, Jr., Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, James Becker, Roger Nunkester, Joseph Shirvinski, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Meyer announced that an executive session would be held following the meeting to discuss personnel issues. He also announced that all items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Reh thanked Dr. Karl Meyer and Mr. Paul Starr for their service to the district. He presented a PSBA certificate to Dr. Meyer in honor of his eight years of service on the board. Mr. Reh noted that Mrs. Elsie Bittner also served eight years and would also receive a certificate.

2.) He gave an update on recent election results. Mr. Savitski was re-elected in Region I and Mr. Slusser was re-elected in Region II. Mr. Benner was the write-in winner for both the two-year and four-year terms. He has chosen to take the four-year term, which leaves a vacancy for the two-year term, which will be advertised. Mr. John Yocum was elected to a four-year term in Region III and there is a tie between David Stellfox and Adam Cherwinski for the other Region III four-year term. The tie-breaker will take place at the board of elections office.

3.) The Pennsylvania School Board Association has a Pride and Promise initiative to inform citizens about public education and to educate local communities about the role of the school board. The main focus is on school district funding.

4.) He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - Mr. Clippinger reported that the committee had a combined meeting with the Policy Committee to look at developing a policy for curriculum development. The district underwent a curriculum audit several years ago. One of the recommendations resulting from the audit was to have more specific items in the curriculum development policy. He gave the board members present at the meeting a sample policy that has been adapted from three other school

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districts' policies. The policy needs to be specific enough to require teachers to deliver instruction of approved planned courses. The policy should also be specific enough to talk about the types of curricular alignment, which are necessary if students are going to be successful meeting the state assessments. Things that are taught that are not part of the official curriculum are referred to as hidden curriculum. It needs to be determined if the hidden curriculum should become part of the written curriculum or if it should be eliminated to allow enough instructional time for the priority curriculum.

Policy - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the first reading of the aforementioned policy would be presented for approval in January.

CSIU - Charles Porter encouraged participation in the Governor's School. The application deadlines are coming up in January and February. He noted that these courses are wonderful opportunities for students. Mr. Yeager asked how students are made aware of the Governor's School offerings. Mr. Becker replied that the guidance counselors notify the students. Mr. Porter stated that the courses are offered free of cost. Mr. Yeager noted that there are other similar opportunities for students. He asked if there would be some type of presentation that could make students aware of what is being offered.

Mr. Porter stated that they also heard a brief report and received a summary on a recent costing out study. They also talked about House Bill 1841, which pertains to statewide health care. The CSIU is opposed to it because they feel they would be lumped into a region and would end up paying more for health care than they are currently paying. The CSIU accepted a three-year 21st Century Learning Grant in the amount of \$284,982 for Mount Carmel and Shamokin school districts.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the Minutes of October 8 and 15, 2007, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Savitski, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$350,758.92 (excluding check #16332 payable to CSIU in the amount of \$88,558.30) and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$512,000.00 were presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Yeager and second by Savitski, paying December 2007 bills with terms equal to or less than "Net 45 Days" was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To waive the April 15 deadline for submitting a resignation under Section 10.1.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Southern Columbia Area Education Association for Mary Ann Yocum due to unanticipated and urgent circumstances.
- B. To adopt a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Columbia Area Education Association and Mary Ann Yocum.
- C. To adopt a Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Columbia Area Education Association and Christopher P. Brown.
- D. To approve the addition of Katlyn Boiwka to the 2007-2008 Substitute List and to acknowledge that she will serve as Long-term Substitute Secondary Mathematics Teacher beginning November 20, 2007, through the end of the 2007-2008 school year.
- E. To increase the annual salary of the Board Secretary to \$2,300 for the remainder of the term, which ends June 30, 2010.
- F. Employment of Diane Unger as a half-time Instructional Aide (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective November 20, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. Employment of Denise Bebenek as a half-time Instructional Aide (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective November 28, 2007, (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- H. To accept the resignation of Lori A. Brobst from the position of full-time Instructional Aide effective November 30, 2007. Mrs. Brobst has been in the position since October 2002.
- I. To acknowledge Kami Roth as a Volunteer Assistant Girls Basketball Coach for the 2007-2008 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test.)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Savitski and second by Starr the following items were presented for approval:

- A. The second reading and adoption of new Policy 237 Electronic Devices (Per Exhibit B).
- B. The first reading of revised Policy 209 Health Examinations (Per Exhibit C).
- C. The Houghton Mifflin Expeditions Reading Textbook for 5th grade.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Meyer stated that it has been a pleasure to serve on the board. He thanked the board and the administration for the opportunity.

Mr. Porter stated that the board was prepared to vote on the teachers' contract as the Teachers Association ratified the contract earlier in the day, however, the Association's representative, Mrs. Jane Brubaker, wanted to give the contract a final review prior to presenting it to the board. There may be a need for a special meeting.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Nunkester reported that there are 65 senior citizens signed up for the dinner. Mr. Porter asked who was paying for the dinner. Mr. Nunkester replied that the staff was paying for everything, along with anyone who wanted to donate.

Mr. Porter questioned the status of the Driver Education program. Mr. Becker did not have the numbers available but agreed to provide the information at the next meeting.

Mr. Yeager asked how the eligibility requirements for extra-curricular activities were working. Mr. Becker replied that he has been monitoring it.

Mr. Christopher Gengler thanked the board for approving the waiver for Mrs. Yocum.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Savitski, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary