

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

The January 14, 2008, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:45 p.m. with President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Benner

Charles Porter

Ronald Savitski (*Absent*)

Thomas Slusser (*Absent*)

Paul Starr

Richard Steele

David Stellfox

Michael Yeager

John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; 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

President Yeager announced that the Board Vacancy item, Fiscal Item E, all Personnel items and Policy and Programs Item D on the agenda would be considered action items. Mr. Reh announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

BOARD VACANCY

Three candidates were interviewed for the school board vacancy in Region I. They were Jim Rosenberger, Rick Steele and Tim Vought. Following the interview, the board members ranked each of the candidates, with #1 being the top choice. The rankings were read aloud by the board secretary. The results of the ranking were as follows: Mr. Rosenberger - 13, Mr. Steele - 10 and Mr. Vought - 13. Mr. Rodgers confirmed the rankings. The board members concurred that it was a difficult decision as all of the candidates presented well and seemed well qualified to serve on the board. The board members thanked all of them for offering to serve the district.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Starr, to appoint Richard D. Steele to fill the Region I vacancy on the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective January 14, 2008. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

The board secretary administered the oath of office and Mr. Steele was seated on the board at 8:17 p.m.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Reh thanked Mr. Rosenberger and Mr. Vought for their interest in serving on the school board.

2.) He announced that January is School Board Director Recognition month. He thanked the board members for their many hours of service to the district and distributed PSBA certificates.

3.) He reminded the board that the CSIU School Boardsmanship seminar is scheduled for January 30. All board members were invited to attend.

4.) Mr. Becker introduced four students who scored above 700 on their SAT. Meghan Duell - writing, John Allen Fetterman - verbal, and Davis Blass - mathematics, all scored above 700 and Ralph Beishline scored a perfect 800 in mathematics. These students would be members of the 700 Club and their names would be included on a plaque that will hang near the high school office.

5.) Mr. Becker reported that 36 members of FBLA qualified for state competition. There are six students still waiting to hear results.

6.) The administration would like to establish a Distinguished Alumnus Award. The distinguished alumnus should be someone who has gone on to achieve success in their field of endeavor and/or has had a positive influence on the students and community of Southern Columbia.

7.) Mr. Becker announced that the graduation ceremony will be held Sunday, June 8, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Haas Auditorium, Bloomsburg University.

8.) The Strategic Planning Committee will hold its first meeting Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Clippinger announced that anyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met Thursday. They discussed the Lowe's Grant timeline. Mr. Geffken reported that he is working on a timeline to arrange volunteers from Lowe's. He plans to start the project in the spring. The surplus fencing from Bloomsburg University is still available. Arrangements will be made to pick it up. They have been working with FMS in developing a window energy survey. They decided to check on some grants regarding the windows. Since 1999, the district is down one custodian. They are considering the employment of another full-time custodian effective July 1, 2008. The hot water heater in the high school is beyond repair. Two quotes have been received and they are awaiting a third. Solar technology is being considered to preheat the water. Board members were asked to take the Priority List home and determine their priorities. High school security and grants for solar energy were also discussed. Mr. Stellfox added that the committee also discussed prioritizing, putting dates with projects and trying to get things accomplished at a good pace.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the committee met along with the Facilities Committee. Mr. Rodgers reported on the bulk surplus sale, which brought in a little over \$3,600. The purchase of a small tractor is on the agenda. Valley Ag & Turf provided the lowest quote, but they were also the only dealer that would take a trade. They discussed setting up an advisory committee to enter into a contract with the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. They are not prepared to bring it to the board at this time, but possible in February. Mr. Rodgers presented a budget calendar with the tentative budget being approved in May and the final budget approved in June. They would like to put out a request for proposals from waste removal

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contractors who also recycle. Four alternative energy grants were discussed. Some of the grants range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and are available through the state of Pennsylvania. Electric bills are due to rise significantly. Mr. Yeager noted that the district was also approached by Franklin Township concerning the high cost of the police calls.

CSIU - Mr. Porter reported that the next meeting would be on Wednesday.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that Vo-Tech renegotiated their bond issue and saved \$174,000. Southern Columbia will receive its percentage of the savings on next year's bill from Vo-Tech. The budget will be distributed at their next meeting.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stellfox, the purchase of a John Deere 2520 Tractor from John Deere Company in the amount of \$16,598.75 less trade in of \$7,800 for a total net cost of \$8,798.75 was presented for approval. The trade in items will include the 725 Grasshopper Mower and the 5000 Ferris Mower and all attachments. Pricing figured under COSTARS/State Contract program. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Benner, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. To designate Stephen Kowalchick (Instructional Substitute) as a Volunteer Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball Coach for the 2007-2008 school year.
- B. The addition of the following individuals to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective January 15, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Adam Brua (Special Education/Elementary)
 - Stephen Sinkovich (Citizenship 7-12)
 - Ronald Rorhbach (Bus/Van Driver)
- C. FMLA Leave for Employee #1678MW effective January 30, 2008; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- D. Employment of the following individuals for the After School Tutoring program effective January 9, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
 - Megan Collins (\$10 per hour)
 - Michael Polites (\$10 per hour)
 - Tim Knappenberger (\$10 per hour)
 - Becky Blass, Aide (contracted rate)

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- E. To change Regina Reigle from 3-Hour Cafeteria Worker to Elementary Assistant Head Cook working 7 hours per day effective January 7, 2008; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. Employment of Lauren Day for the position of Half-time French Teacher (.50)/Half-time Learning Support Teacher (.50) effective January 23, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Master's Salary Schedule (\$37,894); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. To acknowledge that Dane Aucker will continue as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher in 3rd grade through the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, Homebound Instruction for a high school student effective January 8, 2008, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter announced that former Superintendent, Dr. Steve Wilcox, was ordered by the Superior Court on September 21, 2007, to pay treble damages to Southern Columbia Area School District in the amount of \$79,192.50. Over \$26,000 was paid under the initial Ethics Commission ruling which means the district should be receiving over \$50,000. Dr. Wilcox has until January 22, 2008, to appeal and take his case to the Supreme Court. Mr. Porter stated that if the board views this as a one time deal, they would be remiss. He noted that the administration is the first line of defense against these types of activities and the board is the second line of defense and they must remain vigilant.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. James Rosenberger, recommended that an instantaneous water heater be considered. Marion Catholic School District installed one recently. The unit heats water on demand instead of heating water continuously. Mr. Geffken noted that he would contact Marion Catholic. He also stated that they are looking into pre-piping the hot water heater with a valve system so they could install a passive solar hot water system on the roof to serve as a pre-heater.

Prior to adjournment, President Yeager reminded board members of the CSIU Boardmanship seminar on January 30th. Mr. Reh encouraged all board members to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Benner and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary

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