

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

The January 21, 2008, 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 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

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 all items on the agenda would be action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He thanked the Press Enterprise for publishing two nice color photographs; one of students who are members of the 700 Club and another of the FBLA group.
- 2.) He announced that there was a motion on the agenda to hire Mrs. Sally Meyer as the Gifted Teacher to replace Mrs. Penny Fetterman. He thanked Mrs. Fetterman for over 35 years of service to the district. He noted that one of the administration's main concerns was finding a qualified replacement. They had 18 applicants. They interviewed the top nine applicants and without question Mrs. Sally Meyer was the top candidate. The interview team, which consisted of administrators, teachers and a parent, made a unanimous decision to hire her.
- 3.) The Strategic Planning Committee had its first meeting on Thursday. He discussed the mission statement which will remain unchanged. The strategic plan requires a vision statement, which is a one-sentence, eye-catching phrase that would encompass the vision of the district. The committee decided upon, "Preparing each student for the future everyway everyday." He reported that the first meeting was very productive and he thanked Mr. Clippinger for all of the work he put into the preparation. Because of the weather, there wasn't participation from parents. Mr. Clippinger noted that the board members each received a yellow form that listed the different areas of the strategic planning process. He asked them to sign up for any area in which they would like to become involved.
- 4.) Mr. Reh reported that they would like to look into using a grant writer for some of the time-consuming grant applications. Mr. Rodgers noted that they would be looking into several energy grants. The application for the Energy Harvest Grant from DEP is not yet available. This is a competitive grant and would be very time-consuming. In order to be successful, they would like to seek the expertise of a grant-writer. Mr. Rodgers received information from Robert J.

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2008**  
**Page 2**

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Miller & Associates, Inc. of New York. They offer a Friday report, which provides school districts with weekly up-to-date information on available grants. Mr. Rodgers distributed packets to the board and asked for their consideration. Mr. Porter stated that there are thousands of grant writers online. He also noted that some grants discourage grant writers. Mr. Porter said that he does not want to discourage the use of a grant writer, but there is more to it than having one solicitation. Mr. Rodgers stated that it was not the intent. The intent was to get the topic out to the board members to consider, and then research as many grant writers as necessary. Mr. Porter noted that there is another company which deals with solar technology, helps with grants and would help develop a plan. He noted that at some point the board might have to make a decision as whether to go with new technology, such as solar or wind, or to go with energy savings, such as replacement windows.

5.) Mr. Reh reported that the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School budget would need to be approved by a majority of the board members of the sending districts by March. He invited Mr. Mike Sokoloski to attend the February 7<sup>th</sup> Facilities/Finance Committee meeting to give an explanation of the budget process.

Mr. Yeager asked the board members to come up with a set of goals upon which the board could evaluate itself.

Mr. Reh announced that on Friday, he would be meeting with Eric DeWald along with Solicitor Roberts and Dan Rodgers.

Mr. Reh agreed to include a copy of his goals with the next Friday Letter.

Mr. Porter asked about the liquid fuels tax refund. Mr. Rodgers stated that the district would qualify for the liquid fuels tax rebate; however it does not pay tax on the fuels purchased.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the board meeting. Mr. Mehalick spoke about the special education assessment review of November 2006. All issues have been corrected. Mr. Clippinger went over some of the aspects of the Strategic Plan.

Policy - Ron Savitski, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled.

Negotiations and Personnel – No report.

CSIU - Charlie Porter was unable to attend the last meeting, but he did report that CSIU received a grant to increase the connectivity of the districts to the IU. Some parts of the grant are available to upgrade current systems. Mr. Rodgers reported that he is aware of the grant. Mr. Davis and Mrs. Monick attended a meeting at CSIU and came back with some good information. It would increase the bandwidth and could upgrade the district's phone system. The IU is currently evaluating our phone bills. Based upon preliminary conversations, there could be significant savings in the phone service. The grant would pay most of the district's out-of-pocket costs in year one. It appears that by year four or five, it would break even, but they will continue to evaluate it.

Mr. Porter stated that the board orientation seminar would be held at CSIU. Mr. Reh and several board members would be attending.

Mr. Yeager asked if Mr. Rodgers would be giving a budget preparation presentation prior to the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Rodgers confirmed that he would give the presentation at 6:00 p.m. on February 7<sup>th</sup> and would also present to the public at one of the February board meetings.

Vo-Tech - Dave Stellfox reported that he attended the last meeting. They tried to explain the budget, but it is very difficult to follow. He received a preliminary copy of the Vo-Tech

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2008**  
**Page 3**

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budget. Mr. Yeager reported that the PSSA attribution would not take effect until spring 2009. Mr. Curry is developing a resolution for all sending districts to approve. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Savitski to request PSBA to include the issue on their legislative platform.

**TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

**MINUTES AND INVOICES**

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

- A. Minutes of November 12 and 19, 2007, November 29, 2007 (special meeting), December 3, 2007 (reorganization meeting) and December 3, 2007 (special meeting).
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$1,014,286.66 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$2,400.00.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Savitski, budgetary transfers in the 2007-2008 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

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

- A. Employment of Sally Meyer for the position of K-12 Enrichment Teacher effective upon release from the Berwick Area School District (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 10 of the Master's +30 Salary Schedule (\$50,320); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- B. To accept the resignation of Stacy Getz from the position of Learning Support Teacher effective on or before March 14, 2008. Mrs. Getz has been with the district since August 2003.
- C. To designate Robert Kerris as a Volunteer Assistant Track & Field Coach for the 2007-2008 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).
- D. To designate Jack Rarig as a Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2007-2008 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 21, 2008**  
**Page 4**

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- E. The addition of Scott N. Bailey, Jr. (Elementary) to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective January 22, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- F. FMLA Leave on an intermittent basis for Employee #1027MB effective January 22, 2008; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- G. *(Motion tabled.)*
- H. Employment of the following student teachers as After School Tutors effective January 22, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$10 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
  - Amy Apgar
  - Gregory Cechak
  - Olivia Cename
  - James D'Amico
  - Jennifer Delbo
  - Sarah Foster
  - Jessica Frazier
  - Daniel Harkness
  - Jenna Hudak
  - Christine Petraglia
- I. A Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME to increase the starting salary for custodians from \$7.15 per hour to \$7.51 per hour.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

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

- A. The second reading and adoption of revised Policy 209 Health Examinations (**Per Exhibit B**).
- B. The first reading of new Policy 105 Curriculum Development and Evaluation (**Per Exhibit C**).
- C. The establishment of a Distinguished Alumnus Award.
- D. The 9-12 Course Offerings for the 2008-2009 school year (**per Exhibit D**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 21, 2008**

**Page 5**

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**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Reh announced that anyone who would like to nominate an individual for the Distinguished Alumnus award should submit a letter of nomination explaining why they feel the individual should be a nominee. The letter should be submitted to the Board Secretary.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary