

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

The February 18, 2008, 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 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 (*Absent*)
Charles Porter
Ronald Savitski (*Absent*)

Thomas Slusser
Paul Starr (*Absent*)
Richard Steele

David Stellfox
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; 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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He announced that March 6th would be a Facilities Committee meeting only. It was decided that the Facilities Committee would also hold a special meeting for the purpose of a walk-through of the facilities on Saturday, March 8th from 10:00 a.m. through noon.

2.) There will be a special Finance Committee meeting on March 13th. Presentations by architects concerning a possible building project will take place at the meeting.

3.) Pennsylvania has new legislation which affects principals and superintendents concerning Act 48. The Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership legislation requires superintendents, principals and executive directors of intermediate units to complete 180 hours of Act 48 by taking courses that are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership Programs. The new legislation took effect January 1, 2008.

4.) He referred to the copy of the letter from Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education. Dr. Zahorchak strongly endorses the new high school graduation requirements. The new requirements provide that school districts will make local choices about how students earn high school diplomas. Students graduating in 2014 will have four options: 1) to pass a new Graduation Competency Assessment (GCA) following the core subject courses of Math, English, Science and Social Studies, 2) to pass the PSSA test by being proficient or advanced in those areas, 3) to pass an advanced placement or an international baccalaureate test, or 4) to pass a local assessment that independent evaluators certify is equivalent to the state graduation competency assessment.

5.) Mr. Reh would be sending letters to Dr. Zahorchak, Secretary of Education; Dr. Shula Nedley, Director of the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability; and Senator Rhoades, Chairman of the Department of Education; regarding the district's opposition to the attribution of PSSA scores to home districts.

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Mr. Porter asked if the board should be asking the State Board of Education to consider standardizing textbooks throughout the state for major areas of curriculum, so that it might reduce cost and assist in the standardization of the curriculum. Mr. Reh stated that he would bring it up at the next Heartland Coalition meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that Mr. Cliff Miller and Mr. Rick Shuman from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau met with the committee to discuss Ag in the Classroom and the Mobile Ag Science Lab. The lab consists of twelve stations. Each station can accommodate two to three children. The lab would be on campus one week or longer. The cost is approximately \$2,300 per week, which includes an in-service. It is geared for grades 2 through 7. Mr. Clippinger will be looking into how it would fit into the district's Science program and will make some type of decision. Mr. Clippinger distributed a Strategic Planning Survey to all board members, which must be returned by February 29th. There was a suggestion made that the survey be put on the website, so that any district resident could participate in the survey. Mr. Yeager asked the newspaper reporters to report that the survey would be available on the district web site for resident participation.

Policy - Rick Steele reported that the committee would be making recommendations to change the Substitute Compensation policy to reduce the term of a long-term substitute from 90 to 45 days. Mr. Reh reported that the change is being recommended so that the policy coincides with information pertaining to long-term substitutes contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Another issue that will be discussed at future meetings is a policy pertaining to online and Distance Learning courses.

Negotiations and Personnel – Thomas Slusser, Chairperson, reported that an executive session was held.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes of January 14, 2008 and January 21, 2008 (as revised).
- B. General Fund Invoices in the amount of \$944,455.18 (check #16835 void) and Capital Reserve Fund Invoices in the amount of \$8,795.75

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2007-2008 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).

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- B. To authorize Berkheimer Associates to obtain tax return information from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to cross-check the earned income tax rolls

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Slusser, employment of Wendy Shirvinski as 3-hour Elementary Cafeteria Worker effective February 19, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see the anti-nepotism policy reviewed by the Policy Committee. He would like to see the policy expanded. He noted that it goes toward the board's credibility when they start hiring spouses of administrators, however, he did hear that she was the most qualified applicant for the position. Mr. Reh noted that she was recommended by Mrs. Holleran. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. Second reading and adoption of new Policy 105 Curriculum Development and Evaluation (Per Exhibit B).
- B. 8th Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C. on May 9, 2008, with no expense to the district; teachers and parents to chaperone.
- C. To authorize participation in the 2008 CSIU Summer Arts Program at a district cost of \$1,500
- D. Homebound Instruction for an elementary student beginning February 19, 2008, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of 6 hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss a contract issue.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary