

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

The March 10, 2008, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:55 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 Personnel Items including the addendum items would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1). He reported that the board members have spent fifteen hours in committee meetings from March 3rd through March 8th. He also pointed out that there are two board meetings and additional committee meetings scheduled for March. He also noted that Mr. Porter attends the CSIU board meetings and Mr. Yeager and Mr. Stellfox attend the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational Technical School Joint Operating Committee meetings. He wanted to give everyone an idea of how much time is dedicated by the board members, for with they receive zero compensation.

2). He made a recommendation to revise the 2007-2008 school year calendar to change April 25th from a non-instructional day to a student day and a non-instructional day will be added following the last day of school on June 9th. The revised calendar was on the agenda for approval. Mr. Reh explained the 2008-2009 school year calendar, which was also on the agenda for approval.

3). Mr. Nunkester announced that two middle school students, Lydia Young and Jessica Genovesi, were the winners of the Elks 436 Americanism Writing Contest and will go on to regional competition. Several middle school students placed in the CSIU Computer Fair. First place in Web Page Design went to Matt Lupold and Lauren Kerstetter. First place in Multi-media went to Andrew Jessick and Jessica Genovesi. Those four students will go on to the state competition in Harrisburg on April 23rd along with their teacher, Mrs. Vicky Kozlek, who also deserves a lot of credit. Lindsey Landis took second place in Graphic Arts. Colin Heitzman,

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Jason Boblick and Taryn Crawford took third place in Web Page Design. Matt Moore and Brandon Levan took third place in Logo Design. Third place in Digital Movie was Kristian Klebon, Cody Hayman and Cody Clossen; and third place in Desktop Publishing went to Kayla Constantino, Lori Gilger and Shaylin Martin..

4). Mr. Becker reported that the district would be applying for the PEP Grant. A grant writer will be used for a fee of \$1,500. The grant writer has been successful in getting grant awards in excess of \$600,000 for some area school districts. The funds would be used for physical education equipment and services. The district is getting letters of support from governmental representatives and is getting support from Geisinger's Sports Medicine department, Star Physical Therapy, and Bloomsburg University Health and Exercise Science department. Mr. Becker reported that he had the chance to see the facility that Jersey Shore put together through the grant. They have the facility open to the public in the morning and the evening, and the grant pays for supervision. The facility is also used heavily throughout the day. Mr. Becker commended Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Roth for all of the time and effort that they have put into the grant. President Yeager reported that the minimum award is \$100,000 and the maximum is \$500,000 for one year, but the district can apply for three years.

Mr. Porter asked how all of the additional equipment would be housed. Mr. Becker spoke with Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Conner about a plan for reorganizing the weight room to allow space for more equipment. Part of the auxiliary gym could be used if necessary. Also, a lot of the existing equipment is in need of replacement.

4.) Mr. Shirvinski and Dr. Joneen Lowman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Pre-K summer program. Mr. Shirvinski reported that Dr. Lowman has been working with the district for two years. She is a Speech and Language Pathologist with Bloomsburg University. She and Mr. Shirvinski reported on the data collected supporting the success of the program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the Committee met with the fall coaches on February 25th. Golf Coach, Robert Medon, reported that he had a good season winning four out of eight matches. Shane Yeager went to District competition and won the State competition. There is concern over where the team will play this year since Knoebel's bought Three Ponds Golf Course. The district may have to pay for the use of the course this year.

Cross-Country Coach, Lanny Conner, reported that his team had a 500 season. The team consisted of 16 boys and 11 girls. He is considering a Cross-Country invitational meet and is trying to set a date. He would like the board to consider a junior high Cross-Country program. The current coaches would run the program. They would like to permanently mark the cross-country course around the school property. The team participates in strength training and running in the off season.

Field Hockey Coach, Tricia Hoffman, reported that she had 32 team members this year and it was a building year. Her biggest complaint was the condition of the field and the need for a shelter.

Football Coach, Jim Roth, had a 9-2 season. He talked about the PEP grant. His needs are in the weight room and the locker room floor. Mr. Savitski asked for an estimate for the locker room floor. He noted that it has been a problem for ten years. Mr. Porter stated that the information should be given to the architects.

Girls Soccer Coach, Derek Stine, went from a 2-8 season to an 8-11 season and he was also named Press Enterprise Coach of the Year. The field is his main concern. He is not happy with the Heartland Coalition. The level of competition has declined.

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It was determined that the one thing the coaches had in common was problems with the lower fields including the need for a shelter. President Yeager also stated that the board needed to consider changing the salaries for the Junior High Coaches. The Head and Assistant Coaches have been splitting the head coach salary, but they are performing both duties. The Finance Committee will need to address the golf course situation, the salaries of the Junior High Soccer Coaches and the possibility of adding a Junior High Cross-Country program. The Facilities Committee will need to discuss getting power to the soccer building. President Yeager also moving the scorers' stand from the hockey field to the visitor side of the football field to give the visiting coaches a scoring tower per Heartland Coalition requirements. Mr. Becker stated that the meeting was greatly appreciated by coaches. The committee would like to set a similar date for winter sports coaches.

Derek Stine stated that Hughesville's soccer field is in great shape and he recommended checking with them to see how they maintain it. He also noted that a pavilion is needed at the lower fields. A large amount of students use the lower facilities with no protection.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee interviewed four architectural firms Thursday night. They will be setting up follow-up meetings with two of them. Saturday the committee performed a walk-through of the facilities. June 16th is the start date for the Lowe's Grant auditorium entrance renovation project. Specifications for the security system, high school hot water heater will be drawn up and put out on bid. Solar panels are being considered to save on electricity bills. They talked about foam spray under the roof deck for insulation, requesting proposals and/or bids for lawn mowing services and trash removal and recycling services. They didn't have much time to talk about the Priority List because they were out touring the buildings. President Yeager reported that the walk-through was very eye-opening. The Elementary Center is in dire need. Instruction has changed. It is now differentiated instruction, where the teachers are teaching students at all different levels and in order to do that, space is needed. People are in the halls, the Title I class is in the Library storage room. Some of the paint is from the 1970's. They did discuss that every month that projects are delayed, it costs the district an estimated extra \$100,000. Mr. Steele reported that he had no idea of the lack of facility space. Mr. Reh stated that the need for facilities space is due to the increase in programs, not necessarily an increase in enrollment. Mr. Porter stressed the importance of taking these issues to the architects and have them give the district different ideas to meet its needs and fit within the budget. He stated that there has been discussion about turf. One of the architects reported that turf would cost approximately \$1,000,000.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, and he would report at the next meeting.

CSIU - Mr. Porter reported that the next meeting won't be held until after the next board meeting. At the last CSIU meeting, there was a presentation by Chris Kerwin on the development of the budget and the budget itself. In years past districts were assessed, but since then it has been on a pay as you go basis. Mr. Yocum asked the reason for the big increase in driver education. Mr. Rodgers noted that page 13 listed an actual breakdown of the driver education budget. Mr. Porter stated that the CSIU also provides some management services, such as the district's health care. On grants, the CSIU figures in eight percent administrative costs and in special education, they figure in an administrative cost of seven percent.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that they had a long discussion about the resolution that Central passed concerning graduation requirements. Mr. Steele asked if both sides of the argument have been heard. Mr. Reh replied that the schools that are against it have a high rate of free and reduced lunch and ESL students, and they feel those students will have problems meeting the

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graduation requirements. The superintendents within the CSIU and Heartland Coalition are in support of the Rigor and Relevance foundation being recommended by Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, Dr. Zahorchak. They feel that placing higher demands on the students will be beneficial. Mr. Steele noted that an increased drop-out rate could be the negative side of the issue. Mr. Reh reported that the amount of staff development needs to be increased. There are schools in the United States that have 90 percent free and reduced lunch, 90 percent minorities and 90 percent of their students are achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). It has been determined that the schools proper staff development on effective approaches has led to their success. Mr. Reh said that they could pass a resolution similar to Central Columbia if the board felt it necessary. Mr. Stellfox stated that he didn't feel that it was necessary that the board jump on every bandwagon. Ultimately, the state will determine what the district has to do.

President Yeager stated that there has also been discussion about going to 185 student days because of the amount of instructional time that is being lost for testing. The Heartland Coalition is even considering going to 200 days.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To correct the salary of Sally A. Meyer (Enrichment Teacher) to Step 10 of the Master's +45 Salary Schedule (\$51,063.00) effective March 19, 2008.
- B. Employment of Robert Weinhofer as Assistant Track & Field Coach for the 2007-2008 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements), with 11.0 points and a salary of \$1,725.00.
- C. To change Cindy Stabley from Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Regular Run Driver effective March 12, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- D. Employment of Michael Venna as a Support Teacher for Learning Support (Maria Callahan) effective March 5, 2008 (to replace Stacey Getz) at the contracted rate of \$738 (pro-rated).
- E. The addition of the following individuals to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective March 11, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Erin Mills (Early Childhood)
 - James D'Amico (Elementary K-6)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked about the advertising for student help. Mr. Becker replied that he put the information on the announcements and he also spoke to "C" lunch about it. The initial response was not that good, but Mr. Mehalick has placed some transition students in the positions. Mr. Geffken explained that there is not a lack of interest. It is more a supervision issue as to how many students can be accommodated.

Mr. Porter asked if the board would be presented with bus figures on Thursday night. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively. Mr. Savitski asked for data on the past year's free and reduced lunch. Mr. Reh stated that he would include the data for the last five years in the next Friday Letter packet.

Mr. Clippinger commended Mr. Shirvinski and Dr. Lowman for the important work they are doing. Their work could decrease the amount of students not reading at grade level. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see larger numbers of students included in the study. Mr. Clippinger stated that Dr. Lowman did the same study in the state of Florida and could provide that data. Mr. Shirvinski noted that there is a grant available to fund a pre-K program.

Mr. Yeager asked the status of the driver education student backlog. Mr. Becker replied that it is slowly improving since the IU is involved. Mr. Stellfox stated that he felt it was necessary to mention that the Facilities Committee discussed putting 2nd shift maintenance workers in place.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Geffken thanked the board members for coming on Saturday and walking through the buildings. He stated that it would be beneficial to perform a walk-through on a regular basis.

Mr. Porter asked where the board is going with the idea of putting a pavilion or shelter at the lower fields. Mr. Rodgers replied that it will be placed on the priority list and it will be determined what can be done.

President Yeager thanked the board members for all of the hours they have put into the last week.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Starr, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary