

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

The April 14, 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 (*Arrived 8:10 p.m.*), Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all Personnel Items, as well as fiscal items B and C and Policy and Programs item D on the agenda would be considered action items. He announced that two executive sessions were held, April 3rd and April 10th, for personnel and legal issues.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1). Mr. Becker was attending the combined spring band concert at Central Columbia and was not present for the opening of the meeting.
- 2). Ms. Kristen Vitkauskus received the Watershed School Grant in the amount of \$2,461.00, which will be used for the 2008-2009 school year. She intends to use the majority of the funding for field trips for her Ecology and Environmental classes.
- 3). He announced that senior student, Marlena Casey, will be attending the FBLA National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Casey took second in the state, which qualified her for Nationals. She and FBLA Advisor, Mrs. Christina Force, will be attending the competition the week of June 24th through the 30th.
- 4). He thanked all of the teachers that would be approved for retirement for their hard work and dedication to the district.
- 5). Mr. Nunkester reported that Mr. Randy Young reached his 200th coaching win in baseball. He stated that he is a great coach and an outstanding educator. An underage drinking assembly was held last week in the middle school. A BMX show was held as an incentive for their fundraiser. On Friday, Mr. Nunkester will be attending the first ever Heartland Coalition Middle School Principals Professional Learning Committee meeting. He and the Lewisburg Middle School Principal co-founded the committee to get all of the Middle School principals in the Heartland Coalition together to discuss issues.

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He also announced that several students were selected to the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Song Fest: Becky Harder, Anthony Rodriguez, Courtney Slotterback; Alicia Slagel, Alex Cove, Mackenzie Brouse, Kayla Sincavage, Carissa Jones, Danielle Knoeppel, Kiana Shutt, Rachel Freeman, Marisa Rhodes, Nick Tyson, Sean Severson, Tyler Behrent, and Koy McCloskey. Mr. Nunkester reported that he would be bringing some students before the board next month to report on trips and activities.

6). Mr. Clippinger reported on the Social Studies textbooks that would be on display for 30 days and up for board approval in May. He noted that there are economic reasons for going with all Prentice Hall textbooks. The district would receive free teacher materials and pay only two percent shipping.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with the winter sports coaches on March 24th. Curt Stellfox, Boys Basketball, ended the season 17-11. The team went to State playoffs for the third year in a row. His major concern is his budget, which is around \$1,200. Most of it goes toward basketballs. He reported that the gym is an embarrassment. The doors cannot be locked and it is not very clean. He stated that the junior high coaches need more compensation and that the district needs to hold academics to a higher standard.

Cassidy Shults, Wrestling Coach, reported that it was a rebuilding year. There is a strong elementary program and SCA wrestling has a bright future. His budget is around \$2,000. He noted that new mats should be considered, salaries for elementary coaches should be higher and an additional elementary coach would be beneficial.

Joe Shirvinski, Bowling Coach, reported that there were 23 bowlers on the team, but only five can bowl in competition. Students pay for their own practice; approximately \$80 per year per student. The budget is about \$1,500.

JoEllen Gallinot, Girls Basketball Coach, reported that she had 22 girls on the team. She had to practice with the 7th grade boys team. She is planning to participate in eight tournaments this summer. A lot of her team members are in at least three sports. The team needs warm-up gear. She needs a shooting machine, which is available.

Mr. Reh reported that Mr. Becker and Mr. Sharrow would be meeting with all of the head coaches on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. to get everyone on the same page and to discuss some concerns pertaining to out-of-season tournaments.

Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the meeting for personnel reasons.

Mr. Yeager recommended that the district look at making the eligibility requirements more academically acceptable by changing the criterion from passing five courses to failing two courses, because some students have eight courses and could be failing two or three and still be eligible.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on May 3rd. The first item was the architect discussion. One firm is on the agenda to be hired to perform a feasibility study. The Lowe's Grant is proceeding. The locker front faces project will be completed this year. The security system, mowing and grounds maintenance services, waste removal and recycling and the high school hot water heater replacement projects are all out on bid with bids due April 29th. The building roofs have been inspected and there will be some follow-up information presented in order for the board to make a decision. The roofs will be discussed further at the May 1st Facilities Committee meeting. A quote to replace a set of windows above the elementary stairwell came in at \$5,100. They discussed different energy projects, the windows in the elementary, the lights in the auxiliary and main high school gymnasiums, the Priority List and the Capital Reserve budget. Mr. Stellfox requested an analysis of the square footage of the facilities

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for a comparison to determine if it is more than the current custodial staff could handle. Mr. Geffken brought in a print-out of all of the preventive maintenance work orders and it came out to 2,489 hours of work, which is 62.23 weeks of work (based on one man working a 40-hour week) just to do the preventative maintenance determined necessary by the computer program. Mr. Reh announced that Mr. Geffken was not present at the meeting due to an emergency at his home.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the meeting opened with a presentation from Tremco Roofing. They recommend a 40-mil urethane system, which is white in color and adds life to the roof and also reflects heat. The estimates range from \$23,360 for the middle school roof to \$98,000 to do the main high school roof. The total for everything would be \$211,150. The board did not want to make a decision at that time. They want to check the warranties and current ages of the roofs to make an intelligent decision. Tremco prioritized five different areas of the roofs. The administration is in the process of checking references on the product.

They discussed that bus #24 carries as many as 67 students at a time. Although the bus can legally be rostered for 72 students, it is crowded. They are looking into moving students to different buses to alleviate the crowding. The FBLA trip will have approximately a \$2,000 price tag. Proposals for audit services are due April 29th. A Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant application has been submitted. The administration is looking at three different programs for student tracking. It appears that the Power School program will be recommended by the administration. The cost over five years would be \$67,000 for an average of \$14,000 per year. The current program (SASIXp) will no longer be supported. Mr. Reh reported that Power School is web based and would allow teachers to work from home. Mr. Porter noted that there was an article in the newspaper regarding a system that Berwick Area School District has for notifying parents. Mr. Reh stated that he looked into a similar system. Instead of calling the radio and television stations, parents would be called directly for dismissals or emergency situations. It would cost the district approximately \$4,000. Mr. Reh did not have an exact figure but said he would look into it.

Mr. Rodgers anticipated having a \$650,000 Capital Reserve Fund balance going into next year, assuming this is a break-even year. Major recommendations will be made at the next few Facilities/Finance meetings concerning expenditures. The administration will be filtering through the coaches' budget requests and coming back to the board with their recommendations for the athletic budget. The same applies to the big-ticket items. There were some items such as textbooks that the committee felt should not be considered big-ticket items because they are ongoing expenses.

It appears that the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation and the Southern Columbia Area School District would not be a good fit due to several reasons; one being an irrevocable clause. Committee members heard some very positive things regarding Central Columbia's foundation. There would be administrative time and legal expense to set up a foundation, but once it would be set up, it would not require that much administrative time.

CSIU - Mr. Porter reported that the next meeting would be held Wednesday, but he would not be present at the next board meeting to report on it.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Stellfox reported all of the sending districts approved the Vo-Tech budget.

Mr. Porter asked Solicitor Roberts to provide an estimated cost to start a foundation. Solicitor Roberts reported that it would entail filing articles of incorporation, preparing bylaws, unanimous consent in lieu of a meeting for the organizers to appoint the first board of directors, unanimous consent by the directors to appoint the officers of the corporation, and the next step would be to file an IRS form 1023 which is essentially the application for exempt status. The form is fairly lengthy and complicated. He could not provide a cost until he would have a chance to

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analyze it. After a brief discussion, they speculated that it would cost roughly \$11,000 the first year with approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 in annual expenses.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Yocum requested a correction to the March 10th minutes under the Activities Committee report to reflect that Shane Yeager participated in both District and State competition, but did not win the State competition. Mr. Steele also requested a change to page 3 of the March 10th minutes to clarify that the changes to the coaches’ salaries pertained only to the Junior High Girls Soccer Coaches.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Savitski and second by Stellfox, the issuance of a Notice of Intent to Terminate the Lease between the District and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, dated July 1, 2005, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if it was possible that there was space on campus that would serve the same purpose. Mrs. Lombardo reported that all of the facilities are being used and it is very difficult to find a location on campus. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yocum, and second by Steele, to authorize the Architectural Studio firm to complete a feasibility study at a cost of \$5,000. was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that the public should know that the estimate from the other firm came in at \$15,000. The district will not be committed beyond the feasibility study by this motion. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of Cathy Schiccitano as a Support Teacher (for Heather Higgins/Learning Support) effective April 7, 2008, at the contracted rate of \$738.00 (pro-rated).
- B. To accept the resignation for retirement of Ruth Vaughn from the position of 2nd Grade Teacher effective June 10, 2008. Mrs. Vaughn has served the district since August 1974.
- C. To accept the resignation for retirement of MaryAnn Marrara from the position of 6th Grade Teacher effective June 10, 2008. Mrs. Marrara has served the district since September 1978.
- D. To accept the resignation for retirement of Louise Richards from the position of 7th Grade Reading Teacher effective June 10, 2008. Mrs. Richards has served the district since August 1988.

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- E. To accept the resignation for retirement of Darlene Zimmerman from the position of 1st Grade Teacher effective December 23, 2008. Mrs. Zimmerman will have served the district for over 30 years.
- F. To accept the resignation of James McCormick from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective March 25, 2008. Mr. McCormick has been in the position since February 2000.
- G. Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Daylene Bloom (2nd Grade Teacher) beginning on or about August 31st, 2008, for a period of six weeks.
- H. The addition of the following individuals to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- Lisa Fleishauer (Registered Nurse/Aide) - effective March 19, 2008
 - Cynthia Wedde (Cafeteria/Aide) - effective April 15, 2008
 - Michael Williams (Van Driver) - effective April 15, 2008
 - Wanda Colon-Kaminski (Aide) - effective April 15, 2008
- I. Employment of Meghan Taylor as an After-school Tutor effective March 27, 2008, (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$10 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- J. To retain Carl P. Beard, Esquire, to represent the District in negotiations with AFSCME District Council 86, Local 1864.

Prior to voting, Mr. Yeager pointed out that Mrs. Vaughn was in the audience. Mr. Porter questioned the terms for Mr. Beard. Solicitor Roberts replied that his rate is \$140.00 per hour, travel time to and from the school for negotiations will be billed at \$100 per hour instead of his regular rate of \$140.00 and will be capped at 4 hours travel time per event, with no charge for mileage, food or lodging. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. Mr. Nunkester and Mr. Shirvinski commended the teachers who were retiring for the excellent jobs they have done and for their dedication to the district.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, a trip for Christina Force (FBLA Advisor) and Marlena Casey (FBLA member) to attend the National FBLA Competition in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 24 through June 30, 2008, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked for clarification on Policy 434 Sick Leave. Mr. Reh reported that the changes were necessary to have the policy mirror the contract.

President Yeager thanked Mr. Nunkester for taking the initiative to bring the Middle School Principals of the Heartland Coalition together.

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Mr. Becker reported that the concert combined with Central Columbia was an excellent performance. The two bands complimented one another well and it was a great collaboration by Mr. Thomas and the Central Columbia Band Director.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Solicitor Roberts reported that the executive session would be for personnel matters and to discuss the possible lease of real estate.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Yocum and second by Savitski, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary