

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

The April 21, 2008, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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	Thomas Slusser ( <i>Absent</i> )	David Stellfox
Charles Porter ( <i>Absent</i> )	Paul Starr	Michael Yeager
Ronald Savitski ( <i>Absent</i> )	Richard Steele	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; Ian McCoog, Brian Davis, district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Yeager announced that all items on the agenda would be action items including a personnel addendum item.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) On Friday, he met with Barry Brobst of the Architectural Studies who will be beginning the feasibility study. Mr. Brobst came to gather information and to review the Plancon information from previous projects. He will be meeting with the principals in two or three weeks and will eventually be meeting with the board for input. The process should take approximately four months.

2.) He also spoke with Alan Behnke concerning the roofs. Mr. Reh's concern was if the work could still be completed by the end of the summer if the board wouldn't make a decision until May. Mr. Behnke assured him that as long as the district had an idea that it would be moving forward with the project and a decision would be made in May, he would tentatively put the district on his schedule.

3.) Mr. Ian McCoog and Mr. Brian Davis gave a report on Classrooms for the Future (CFF) and the online POD course being offered through the summer. Mr. Davis reviewed the equipment and funding received through the first two years of the CFF grant. The high school/middle school building now has 713 personal computers. Southern is not eligible for equipment in the third year, but \$30,000 will be received to contribute to the CFF Coach's salary.

Mr. McCoog reported that thirteen new teachers were added to the CFF roster this year and provided further support to four existing CFF teachers. Fourteen of the seventeen CFF teachers have fully equipped rooms. Teachers are required to take a thirty-hour online course to participate in the CFF program. Twenty-one teachers have taken the course. The support with this grant is what makes it very successful.

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Mr. Michael Johnston's 10<sup>th</sup> grade English class participated in a web conference with students from Upper Marion high school students. It was a great opportunity for the students. They have been invited to Harrisburg to present their project on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Sock, 11<sup>th</sup> grade Math Teacher, distributed PSSA practice tests via the network. The assessment was completely paperless. The students picked up the practice questions, completed them on their laptops, put them back on the network and Mrs. Sock reviewed them.

Mr. Steele asked if there has been any discussion on how the laptops will be replaced. Mr. Davis replied affirmatively. Mr. Reh reported that it would need to be a budget item. Mr. Steele agreed that the district would need to start planning now for their replacement. It was noted that Mr. Johnston's web conference would be the featured headline of the CFF newsletter.

4.) Mr. Shirvinski presented a video pertaining to the transition from preschool to kindergarten. The video was developed in an effort to give the preschool students an idea of what to expect when they come to the "big school." Mrs. Lombardo reported that the video was shown at a national conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. President Yeager questioned the ownership of the video and asked about copyright and legal issues. Mr. Shirvinski said that he would look into the copyright issue.

5.) Mr. Davis reported that he and Mr. McCoog came up with the idea of running an online POD course through Moodle, which is free software. By offering the course through the summer, it allows students to take extra courses through the school year. Students can access the course information anywhere that they have internet access. It may also help students prepare for college. The teachers have been asked to use Moodle at least as their homework hotline for next year. There will be professional development offered to teachers on Moodle. Some teachers are already using Moodle as a companion for their courses. Mr. Davis pointed out that the information is housed on the district server so just anyone can't access it. Mr. Steele asked how many hours have been put into the online course. Mr. McCoog replied that he probably has four to six hours into it so far. Mr. Reh thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. McCoog for the presentation and for their ongoing work.

6.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that on Friday, some 4<sup>th</sup> graders and two 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in the Elementary Song Fest. Ms. Diane Witting, Music Teacher, will be accompanying the students to the event in Benton. The students are Olivia Bodnar, Olivia Green, Iona Jeffs, Bradley Winn, Josh Yoder and Nick Tyson. Mrs. Stone is sending Anthony Rodriguez and Becky Harder, but she will not be able to attend because she is committed to the high school musical.

7.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that in the past, the elementary school held an annual picnic at Knoebel's Amusement Resort at the end of the school year. He would like to bring that tradition back next year for grades K through 4. The H.A.R.T. organization paid for the picnic and the district provided transportation. He would like to put the proposal up for approval in May.

8.) Mr. Becker reported that the high school musical, "Oklahoma" will be held Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. A spaghetti dinner will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

9.) Mr. Reh reported that the Wrestling Boosters had a nice program to honor the wrestling team, including the elementary wrestlers.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the revision of the promotion and retention policy. As of now, 70 percent is a passing grade. The guidelines for promotion and retention are different for elementary, middle school and high school. The

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Needs Assessment listing in the Strategic Plan was also discussed. President Yeager asked if there are any Strategic Plan meetings scheduled. Mr. Clippinger replied that some of the planning is ongoing. Now that some of the Needs Assessment is underway, the planning committee could get back together to set goals. Mr. Mehalick has already been working on the Special Education Plan. Once the goals are set, the other narrative can be completed.

President Yeager stated that the administration needs to be cautious in accepting student teachers. Mr. Clippinger stated that at times, there are student teachers in the district from Wilkes, Susquehanna, Bloomsburg and rarely from Penn State or Bucknell. President Yeager stated that the district needs to be upfront with the universities concerning student teachers. Mr. Reh stated, in his experience as a former student teacher supervisor with Bloomsburg University and Alvernia, if a cooperating teacher would feel that a student teacher is not working up to par, the principal would contact the supervisor from the university. The supervisor then works with the student teacher to make improvements. Mr. Clippinger reported that over the last several years, four student teachers have been removed from the district because of poor performance.

President Yeager reported that the committee discussed designated time for mandated initiatives and how the district can comply with the time requirements. Mr. Reh stated that most schools are going to Act 80 days. President Yeager stated that he is opposed to Act 80 days because they count as school days and the students do not receive instruction. Mr. Reh explained that schools that apply for Act 80 days must still meet the mandatory 990 hours of instruction time and it is possible because of longer school days. Mr. Clippinger stated that it is an important discussion that must take place and the district must have some viable options. Mr. Stellfox stated that he would take the lead from the administrators, because they would be setting up the programs, scheduling the staff and dealing with the issues.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee is currently gathering some sample policies and information pertaining to online courses/distance learning.

CSIU - No report given.

Vo-Tech - Dave Stellfox reported that he is very impressed with the organization. They are saving the sending districts a lot of money by their hard work in seeking grants. A Robotics and Forensic Camp will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>. Two Southern students can attend. The applications need to be submitted by the first week of May. The cost is \$25.00 per student. Southern will receive two \$100 scholarships through the School Counts program. They have applied for the CFF grant in the amount of \$376,000 and have received several other grants. Mr. Stellfox stated that Vo-Tech does a lot for their students. President Yeager stated that they turn away as many students as they accept.

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS**

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

- A. Minutes of March 10 and March 17, 2008.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$523,510.23 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$49,509.18.

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The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Employment of Christopher Brown as a Substitute Van Driver for the 2007-2008 school year effective April 22, 2008.
- B. FMLA Leave for employee #1311KI beginning April 18, 2008; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- C. Employment of Nicholas McConnell (Student Teacher) as an After School Tutor effective April 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.
- D. The addition of Kristi Gillespie (Elementary/ Special Education) to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective April 22, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- E. To accept the resignation of Ronald Savitski from the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective April 21, 2008. Mr. Savitski has been on the board since 2003.

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 revised Policy 429 Substitute Compensation (Per Exhibit B).
- B. First reading of revised Policy 405 Employment of Substitute Professional Employees (Per Exhibit C).
- C. First reading of revised Policy 434 Sick Leave (Per Exhibit D)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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### **BOARD COMMENTS**

President Yeager stated that a lot of great information was presented at the meeting and he thanked everyone for their input. Mr. Stellfox asked if Mr. Clippinger would be scheduling some dates for the Strategic Plan. Mr. Clippinger replied that a lot of the work on the Needs Assessment depends on people responding or providing input. He sent out around 80 surveys and only 34 were returned. He is constantly sending reminders. He reiterated the importance of discussing the issue of time. He noted that how the administration projects the possibility of change in the use of time to the staff is very important. President Yeager asked Mr. Clippinger to present a proposal to the Finance Committee pertaining to professional development at the budget meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Clippinger agreed to do so.

Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see the agenda for the in-service day.

Mr. Nunkester stated that it is very difficult when it comes to planning because there is not enough time, especially when starting new initiatives. A lot of his communication with his staff is done through e-mail. He also noted that even though CFF is for the high school, Mr. Davis and Mr. McCoog are instrumental with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers,

### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Mehalick thanked Mr. Savitski for his service to the district.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Steele, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary