

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

The June 9, 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 Vice President Charles Porter in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Vice President Porter welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Benner (*Absent*)
Charles Porter
Thomas Slusser

Paul Starr
Richard Steele
David Stellfox

Timothy Vought
Michael Yeager (*Absent*)
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, James Becker, Robert Mehalick and Barbara Lombardo, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

Vice President Porter announced that all Personnel items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1). He commended Mr. Becker for the excellent graduation program. He also thanked Mr. Porter for introducing the Class of 1958. He announced that the Valedictorian was Megan Blusius and the Salutatorian was Lindsey Carl. The Distinguished Alumnus was Dick Knoebel.

3). He welcomed the new teachers to the district.

4). He announced that several school districts are considering four-day weeks due to the rising heating and fuel costs. One possible way Southern Columbia could address the issue and still abide by all of the state mandates and the current Collective Bargaining Agreement would be by implementing Act 80 days into the school calendar. A high school must have 990 hours of instruction per year and an elementary school must have 900 hours of instruction per year. Currently the high school exceeds the state mandate by 102 hours, and the elementary exceeds the mandate by 104 hours, which does permit for additional Act 80 days for staff development purposes. Various areas of staff development could be addressed through Act 80 days. There are two days before the winter recess that could be used as non-instructional days. During the months of January and February, when heating costs are highest, three additional staff development days would be implemented in both January and February. By implementing those days, the district could reduce heating, electrical and fuel costs and possibly save over \$60,000. He noted that the administration would be looking at making the curriculum more rigorous and relevant and also will consider reducing the amount of field trips. Vice President Porter stated that it would be fair to say that the Finance/Facilities Committee members that were present at the last meeting agreed that the administration had informal authorization to move forward with the proposal. Mr. Steele noted that it is important to look at the down side of losing instructional time, as well as the

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impact it will have on families for daycare needs. Mr. Reh noted that paraprofessionals are now required to receive twenty hours of mandatory staff development. During the school year, that staff development would need to be provided during the school day. By scheduling the additional Act 80 days, the staff development could be provided during those days. Mr. Stellfox asked if the additional staff development would benefit the students and they would learn more quickly. It was agreed that it would be the intent. Vice President Porter noted that a lot of the "fluff" days would be eliminated. He also noted that some of the conferences for which the teachers go off campus would now take place in-house. Mr. Clippinger noted that teachers are sent off campus because there are certain professionals or expertise that the district does not have available in-house. There are certain times where the district does not have the funding to unilaterally bring those trainers just to Southern Columbia, so the IU brings the trainers to Montandon and fourteen or fifteen other school districts participate, which costs the district a fraction of the overall cost. The district takes advantage of a menu of services provided by CSIU. The cost is \$2.00 per student, which is budgeted, and the only additional cost for participation in those services would be for travel. Mr. Clippinger wanted to make it clear that all professional development expenses would not be eliminated just because they are asking for additional Act 80 days, but it will certainly help through less spending on substitutes. Quality instruction would increase because the #1 team of teachers will actually be in the classroom with the students a higher percentage of time. Mr. Porter asked Mr. Reh when he anticipated coming to the Board with the final proposal. Mr. Reh replied that he would have to bring it to the Board for approval at the July 21st meeting. Mr. Porter asked the administration to have some concrete figures for the upcoming budget meeting.

Vice President Porter announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting for personnel reasons and a brief executive session would be held following the meeting for personnel reasons. Mr. Shirvinski thanked Mr. Paul Knoeppel, his custodial staff and the high school student workers for their help in moving classrooms.

5). Mrs. Lombardo reported on the various programs that will be provided during the summer of 2008 through proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled.

Facilities & Services/Finance - Charlie Porter reported that the architect will be meeting with the administration and then with the Board. Special needs space was discussed and Mr. Mehalick reported on the Life Skills program. The Lowe's Grant project should be starting very soon. The security system project, hot water heater and roof projects are all awaiting PDE approval. The elementary stairwell windows have been replaced. A gentleman from Green Tech Energy Services will be coming to provide some information for the Energy Harvest Grant application. The bids for sealing the parking lots are due June 19th. Mrs. Holleran discussed raising menu prices due to increased food costs. Two proposals for physician services were discussed. Mr. Rodgers recommended that Personnel Item "K" be changed to a discussion item and be acted upon at the next meeting because he is awaiting a revised amendment to the agreement. A new student tracking system is being purchased. The fuel bids have been re-advertised. The district was audited by the IRS. Two items that need to be addressed are 1099 forms for independent contractors and personal use of cell phones. The committee received proposals for a junior high softball team and a junior high baseball team. Due to the increase in the athletic budget and the opportunity for that age group of students to participate in those sports

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throughout the community, the programs will not be added. The next Finance Committee meeting will be held June 12th.

Mr. Porter asked for actual figures for the upcoming budget meeting, and the percentage of expenditures out of the current budget. Mr. Slusser pointed out that the committee decided that it was not the district's responsibility to maintain the baseball field for extra-curricular groups throughout the summer.

CSIU - Mr. Porter reported that the CSIU approved a two-year agreement with First National Bank. They discussed putting requests for proposals out for banking services. He reported that the Joint Purchasing Council did over \$33 million of roofing business and it was all with Tremco. They did receive three bids but Tremco was the only one that met the specifications. The length of the contract with Tremco is three years.

Vo-Tech - No report.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee is currently working on two policies concerning Promotion and Retention and Distance Learning/Virtual/Online and Dual Enrollment Courses. The committee will meet prior to the board meeting on June 23rd.

Mr. Porter stated that at some past Facilities/Finance Committee meetings, the members discussed the possibility of hiring a lawn mowing service or hiring an additional maintenance worker. It was decided to put \$50,000 aside and make the decision at a later time. At the last meeting, a recommendation of the administration was to hire a 2nd shift maintenance worker with electrical certification or experience.

It has come to board members attention that some coaches have been requesting transportation to go to summer camps and clinics. They discussed whether it was appropriate for the district to pay for transportation for out-of-season sports, especially when the board and administration are talking about cutting back on transportation expenses. Mr. Porter stated that the rationale was that a policy had been passed by the board because of a tragedy that occurred. It was a better way to control student behavior and where the students go. After further discussion, it was determined that such a policy had never been passed. Vice President Porter asked if the administration needed a board directive on approving transportation for out-of-season athletic events. Mr. Reh replied that they would need a board directive and deferred to Mr. Becker. He stated that it wasn't a policy, but more of a procedure and a board directive. The board and administration didn't like the idea of students driving long distances on their own. Solicitor Roberts stated that if there is ambiguity or lack of clarity, board action would be a good idea. Mr. Porter noted that in the past, the coaches had more freedom in using vans, but now they have to hire a bus driver if a trip requires more than one van.

Mr. Stellfox stated that he feels the students belong to the school district all year long, and especially if they are doing something school related. Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see some type of administrative directive to allow some flexibility. Mr. Rodgers will look into the matter and report back to the board at the Finance Committee meeting.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Rodgers reported that the check that was removed from the list of invoices last month was written to the wrong vendor. It should have been payable to Central Columbia School District and was voided and reissued.

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Mr. Porter questioned check #17460 and why it was issued to the Class of 2010. Mr. Rodgers replied that the class paid for the entire charter bus and the district reimbursed the class for the cost of regular bus transportation.

Mr. Porter also questioned a check payable to GWN Marketing for \$39,000. Mr. Rodgers replied that it relates to three individuals that received severance packages. The check for all of the retirees was sent directly to GWN Marketing and the retirees could draw the money from that account with tax advantages for the employees as well as the district. Mr. Rodgers explained several other invoices that Mr. Slusser had asked about earlier in the day.

ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation for retirement of Marion Krum from the position of 4th Grade Teacher effective at the end of the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year (on or about January 21, 2008). Mrs. Krum has been with the district since September 1975.
- B. Employment of Becca Harlor for the position of Elementary Teacher (assigned to 1st Grade) effective August 20, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Master's Salary Schedule (\$41,781); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- C. Employment of Bethany Varano for the position of Elementary Teacher (assigned to 2nd Grade) effective August 20, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$37,135); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- D. Motion to approve employment of Erin N. Snyder for the position of Elementary Teacher (assigned to 3rd Grade) effective August 20, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 3 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$38176); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- E. Employment of Megan Yuskoski for the position of Elementary Teacher (assigned to 1st Grade) effective January 5, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$37,135); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. Medical Leave for Employee #1371MK for the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year.
- G. To acknowledge that Dane Aucker will serve as a Long Term Substitute Instructor for the first semester of the 2008-2009 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements).

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- H. Employment of Dane S. Aucker for the position of Elementary Teacher (assigned to 4th Grade) effective the beginning of the 2nd semester of the 2008-2009 school year (on or about January 21, 2009 - pending completion of all employment requirements) at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$37,135); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- I. Employment of the following Student Clerical Workers effective June 10, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the state minimum wage; 35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks:
- Brianne Zinns (Elementary Office)
 - Jonathan Young (High School Office)
 - Meghan Duell (High School Office)
 - Amanda Yuschock (Middle School Office - shared)
 - Brittany Evans (Middle School Office - shared)
- J. Employment of the following Student Maintenance/Custodial Summer Workers effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the state minimum wage; 35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks:
- Justin Schoch - effective May 27, 2008
 - Jeremy Oshman - effective May 29, 2008
 - Jeffrey Bates - effective June 9, 2008
 - Victoria Hairston - effective June 9, 2008
 - Justin Belz - effective June 9, 2008
- K. *(Discussion only.)*
- L. To designate Dr. David J. Leshock (Bloomsburg) as Consultant to the Dental Hygiene program for the 2007-2008 school year to include a \$50 consultant fee.
- M. Employment of personnel (per Exhibit E) for the Southern Columbia Summer Programs (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- N. Employment of Paula Gardner (School Psychologist) as Extended School Year Supervisor for the 2008 program at the rate of \$20 per hour, effective June 23 through July 31, 2008.
- O. The addition of Doreen Stine (Van/Bus Driver) to the 2007-2008 Substitute List effective June 10, 2008, (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- P. Employment of Gary Steinruck for the position of 2nd Shift Custodian effective June 17, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Q. Childbearing/Childrearing Leave for Employee #1825BM for the entire 2008-2009 school year.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele publicly recognized the spring sports teams and individuals that did so well in playoffs and state competition.

On behalf of the Board, Vice President Porter commended the students and staff on the quality of the speeches and the quality of the graduation program.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Slusser and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary