

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

The September 8, 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 (*Absent*)  
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 Fiscal Items and Personnel Items, as well as the first Policy and Programs Item on the agenda would be considered action items. President Yeager announced that an executive session was held during the last Facilities/Finance Committee meeting to consult with counsel concerning possible litigation.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Dr. Larry Smith, Mrs. Kristen Vitkauskus, Mrs. Sally Meyer and students, Dorothy Meyer and Sarah Yeager, addressed the Board concerning the County Animal Response Team (CART). Dr. Smith, Columbia/Montour County Coordinator for CART, explained that the organization is a group of volunteers that would help with the evacuation of animals in the event of a disaster. He noted that they have several shelter sites in Berwick and Bloomsburg and they are currently working on developing a site in Danville, but they have no sites in the southern part of Columbia County. Dorothy Meyer (11<sup>th</sup> grade) stated that she has been involved in CART for the past three years. She noted that the school would only be a site for small animals. Sarah Yeager (10<sup>th</sup> grade) reported that she volunteered to be the student coordinator to encourage other students and faculty to get involved. She noted that a practice day would be held to prepare for a disaster. Dr. Smith stated that the students would be assigned to a trained CART member and the students would only be assigned to responsibilities that they could handle safely. Mrs. Meyer stated that the number one reason she got involved with CART was because many people will not evacuate because they do not want to leave their pets behind. Dr. Smith noted that all counties will be required to have a plan for pets included in their emergency plan or they risk losing PEMA funds.

Mr. Stellfox stated that he thought it was a great idea, but in the event of a flood, it could be difficult to get to the school. Dr. Smith stated that there are different types of disasters or

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2008

Page 2

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emergency situations that could occur. Mr. Reh stated that it was determined that the bus garage would be an ideal site to house the animals in the event of an emergency. The Board agreed that it was a great idea and asked what the next step would be. Dr. Smith stated that if the Board gave approval, a memorandum of understanding would be developed between CART and the District. Dr. Smith was given approval to move forward.

2.) Mr. Reh noted that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Locust Township Police Department and the District was on the agenda for approval.

3.) The Request for Proposals for transportation services will not be presented until the next meeting, because Mr. Rodgers is awaiting review of the RFP by the Labor Counsel.

4.) Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the regular meeting for personnel matters and possible litigation.

5.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that the first annual Grandparents Day would be held in grades K-4 on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled. President Yeager asked why the committee had not met with the Boys Soccer Coach to date. Mr. Becker stated that the last time they were scheduled to meet, Mr. Joseph had an incident during practice and came to the meeting late. It was agreed that they would meet with him this year.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on the past Thursday. They discussed the gym floor restoration project. Half of the project has been completed and the entire project should be complete by the end of the week. The hockey practice field project should begin Wednesday. Mr. Stellfox recommended that while the bulldozer is on campus, they should request that the road to the lower fields be repaired. The football stadium press box is scheduled to start September 9<sup>th</sup>. The lower field shelter project should begin at the end of September or the beginning of October. The Lowe's project is going back to the original plan to update the auditorium entrance and should begin on Wednesday. The committee discussed the Priority List and they also met with representatives from Tremco and CSIU regarding the bidding process and the roofing project contract.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that Brian Bradley from RBC Capital Markets met with the committee regarding financing. He gave them three scenarios for financing: 1) a bond if construction costs were \$16 million, 2) a bond if construction costs were \$20 million, and 3) a bond for a \$28 million project. He also presented a work-up based on special education exclusions. A bond in the amount of \$19,245 million would be issued for a \$16 million project, which includes refinancing the current bond. Mr. Porter noted that Mr. Rodgers would be giving a report at a future date to include all of the operating costs, the effect on the fund balance and the effect on the millage. Mr. Rodgers reported that the \$16 million project, including refinancing the current debt would require a 0.68 mill increase phased in over three years; 0.68 each year for three years. That would be allowable under the Act 1 index. A \$20 million building project would require a 1.01 mill increase each year for three years to support just the building project. A \$28 million project would require a 1.88 mill increase each year for three years to support the project. Mr. Porter asked for an explanation of the cumulative millage impact. Mr. Rodgers reported that the debt service allocated to the existing bond payments is budgeted at \$700,000. That equates to 3.89 mills. If the district would go ahead with the building project, that 3.89 mills would increase to 7.57 mills. At the end of the 2012-13 school year, the debt service would increase from \$700,000 to \$1.3 million. Mr. Porter stated that it was important to note that they would maintain that debt service for 30 years. A \$20 million, it would be bank qualified.

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2008**  
**Page 3**

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The committee also discussed housing the buses. An insurance representative recommended that all district buses be housed on district property. There have been some drivers that were housing the buses at their homes. Mr. Rodgers reported that at Thursday's committee meeting he presented the opinion from the insurance broker regarding housing the buses. He left that meeting under the assumption that drivers would no longer be allowed to house the buses at their places of residence overnight. He thought that one of the main questions that came up Thursday night was to look into the four runs where drivers were taking the buses to their residences during the day, between runs. He ran that scenario by Mr. Kubeka and asked him for his opinion on that issue. He noted that it was an acceptable practice from an underwriting standpoint. The Board still wanted clarification on the impact on the insurance rates. Mr. Stellfox requested that the insurance representative come to an upcoming meeting to put the issue to rest. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would have him come to the October Facilities/Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Porter stated that the district has not yet heard anything on the Energy Harvest Grant. Mr. Rodgers reported that he expects to hear something in late October or early November.

CSIU - Mr. Porter reported that they have not met since his last report.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that they passed their Act 93 Agreement for the Principal, Dean of Students and the Special Education Director.

**ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS**

**ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

**ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Vought, Change Order #001 in the amount of \$4,552.28 relating to the Tremco Roofing Project (per Exhibit A) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

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

- A. The following individuals as Volunteer Assistant Football Coaches for the 2008-2009 school year (pending receipt of a negative Tuberculin test and favorable clearances):
  - Daniel Cowl
  - John Marks
  - Curtis Stellfox
  
- B. To acknowledge that Travis Williams will serve as a Long-term Substitute Middle School Technology Teacher beginning on or about October 23, 2008, and ending on or about March 27, 2009.
  
- C. The following staff for the After School Programs for the 2008-2009 school year effective September 9, 2008, at a rate of \$21.00 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
  - Margaret Barbarito
  - Casie Geiswite

*(List continued on page 4)*

## Board Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2008

Page 4

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- Tricia Hoffman
  - Maria Sock
  - Joel Thomas
  - Linda Robinson
- D. Employment of the following individuals as Security Personnel for the 2008-2009 school year (pending receipt of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$30.00 per event:
- Steve Kerwin
  - Jodyann Kerwin
- E. The addition of Sandra Rarig (French) to the 2008-2009 Instructional Substitute List effective August 25, 2008

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Locust Township Police Department was presented for approval. Mr. Porter asked if the district has reduced the amount of calls being made to the Police Department. Mr. Reh stated that they are limiting any calls to police except those required by law. Solicitor Roberts stated that the Memorandum does not address when the police are called and when they are not called. It sets forth the procedures that apply when they are called, and it is required by the Safe Schools Act. Mr. Reh stated that the State Auditor will require that this Memorandum of Understanding be in place. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager stated that newspaper articles have indicated that the Board has not been open about the building project. He noted that all of the meetings are advertised and the project has been discussed openly at public meetings. The public is encouraged to attend.

Mr. Porter asked if the Ag in the Classroom program was going to take place and if teachers were being sent for training. Mr. Clippinger stated that it was scheduled for spring and the training would take place on campus in February during one of the Act 80 days.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary