

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

The September 22, 2008, Special Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:12 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

Paul Starr (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought

Charles Porter

Richard Steele

Michael Yeager

Thomas Slusser (*Absent*)

David Stellfox

John Yocum

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; 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 items on the agenda would be action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Barry Brobst and Heather Rizetto-Schmidt of The Architectural Studio gave a presentation regarding revisions to the feasibility study. Mr. Brobst stated that he would be presenting the goals, which are what the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) would be looking for. The goals are to improve the Special Education Programs, to unify the Middle School program, construct a gym, improve community access to the facilities, make improvements at the auditorium for community use, improve traffic circulation, provide security at all administrative entrance points, improve the physical education/cafeteria use simply by decreasing the capacity of the building, improving the administrative and health suites in the elementary, and to keep the project under \$20 million.

Mr. Porter stated that by taking the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders out of the building, the conflicts would not be eliminated. Mr. Reh stated that there would be fewer physical education classes and lunch periods and with proper scheduling, the conflicts could be eliminated. Mr. Shirvinski agreed that he could work with scheduling to eliminate the problem.

Mr. Brobst reported that to achieve the goals, the number of spaces needed are eight classrooms to include one science lab, one art room, four special education classrooms, one computer room, and a faculty work area. An addition to the cafeteria to accommodate the additional students, a 1,000 seat gymnasium with team rooms, additional music and auditorium storage and improvements to the middle school administration and guidance office would also be needed to meet the goals. Some renovations at the high school would include a secured lobby and administration office, a special education room, enlarging two science labs and improvements at the auditorium and gymnasium lobby. A secured vestibule and improvements to the elementary office and health areas would also be required to achieve the goals.

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Ms. Rizetto-Schmidt reported that she and Mr. Brobst met with the Principals, Special Education Director and Superintendent to determine ways to be more flexible and share space. They came up with the current scheme. She reviewed the drawings and pointed out the additions and renovations which were changed from the previous plans. Mr. Porter asked if there would be adequate serving capacity to serve the additional students in the cafeteria. Mr. Becker replied that a double grade lunch goes through the cafeteria with fifteen minutes to spare. There would be less than 100 additional students per lunch period, so it should be adequate with some restructuring of the lunch schedule. Mr. Brobst noted that the square footage would not be a problem. Possibly some additional equipment would be needed for an additional ala carte line.

Mr. Porter stated that at one point the gym was placed near the other gym and now it has been moved back to the auditorium. He asked for the cost ramifications of the different locations. Ms. Rizetto-Schmidt stated that there are no cost ramifications for moving the gym from one location to another. What it is doing is solving a problem. By building the gym near the auditorium, the lobby would serve both the gym and the auditorium instead of building a lobby for just a gymnasium. The toilet facilities that would be required for the gymnasium would also serve the auditorium.

Several options for parent drop-offs and traffic flow were discussed. Mr. Porter asked about an additional road entrance. Mr. Brobst stated that it would probably be difficult to get approved through PennDOT.

Mr. Brobst stated that if the board approves the goals, they will be melded into the feasibility study and a final feasibility study would be presented to the Board for approval. If approved, the next step would be hiring an architect and beginning the PlanCon process. He briefly explained the PlanCon process. PlanCon A is documentation paperwork that goes to PDE showing enrollment projection, classroom needs, plans to meet the needs and some cost estimates. PlanCon B is drawings that show floor plans, traffic patterns, site drawings, etc. The Board has an opportunity to revise and approve the plans and then forward them to PDE. PlanCon C is site approval, which would not be needed in this case. PlanCon D would be refined room layouts, mechanical systems, etc. PlanCon E would be the Act 34 hearing to allow for public input. PlanCon F is the final documents getting ready for bid. PlanCon G is almost identical to D, but the construction costs are the final costs. Once G is approved, construction is underway. Mr. Stellfox asked Mr. Brobst if he foresees any issue with what is asking to be done. Mr. Brobst replied negatively and stated that it is what PDE would be looking for. He noted that the feasibility study does not need to be sent to PDE and the study is only good for two years. Mr. Steele asked when the feasibility study would be considered final. Mr. Brobst said that it would be final once it receives Board approval. Mr. Stellfox stated that he would like to see a general schedule or timeframe for the entire project.

Mr. Porter noted that the costs had been delineated for each area. He asked if they would be providing that delineation after the changes have been made. Mr. Brobst replied negatively. He stated that they were told to come up with a project that could be done for \$20 million. He also noted that those prices in the study were for stand-alone projects. Mr. Porter asked if the final study was going to be in the same format as the draft. Mr. Brobst replied that the study will come back to the Board as a booklet with the goals melded into it. Mr. Stellfox stated that it would not be difficult to come up with a square foot price. Mr. Brobst pointed out that the district could look at doing an alternate project if costs would go down. Mr. Stellfox asked what figure was being used for inflation. Mr. Brobst replied that he used ten percent.

Mr. Yocum asked if there were any timelines for the maintenance issues. Mr. Stellfox stated that there were some timelines included in the study. Mr. Brobst added that he could

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actually have engineers come in if it becomes a critical issue. Mr. Porter noted that if the boilers are at the end of their useful life, those costs are not addressed in the feasibility study. Mr. Stellfox noted that the study is based on the age of the boilers. They didn't actually inspect them. Mr. Brobst stated that it is not unusual for a boiler to last well beyond what a study shows. He noted that PDE wants the study to be projected for ten years out and they want the buildings to be good for twenty years.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, to accept the Goals and Programs as presented (**per Exhibit A**) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that he would have to vote No because there could be a \$3 million savings by placing the gymnasium at an alternate location. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

President Yeager stated that the Board would discuss the final Feasibility Study on October 13<sup>th</sup> and vote on it at the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Brobst stated that by approving the study, it would not lock the district into building at any specific location.

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The following Junior Class Advisors for the 2008-2009 school year at the contracted rate of \$691 (shared):
  - Tricia Hoffman
  - Dani Schwalm
  - Jen Stine
  - Kristen Vitkauskus
- B. To change Timothy Foust from Head Junior High Boys Basketball Coach to Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball Coach with 13.5 points and a salary of \$1,686.
- C. Employment of David Yost as Head Junior High Boys Basketball Coach with 15 points and a salary of \$2,186.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. Band and Chorus Trip to Williamsburg, VA, on May 1, 2 and 3, 2009 (Friday through Sunday); district expense to include substitute costs.
- B. Homebound Instruction for an Elementary student (#71671) effective September 22, 2008, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five hours per week. Homebound Instruction to include Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech services.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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**BOARD COMMENTS**

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary