

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

The October 13, 2008, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:37 p.m. with President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Yeager welcomed everyone and announced that an executive session would be held following the regular meeting. It was followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Benner (*Absent*)

Charles Porter

Thomas Slusser (*Absent*)

Paul Starr

Richard Steele

David Stellfox

Timothy Vought

Michael Yeager

John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; 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 Personnel Items, as well as Policy and Programs Item C on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He announced that the Request for Proposals for transportation services ad had been placed and proposals would be publicly opened on November 5th.

2.) There is a discussion item on the agenda pertaining to the Common Cents Initiative. He noted that last year the district voted to participate, but due to the fact that there was not a majority of districts in the intermediate unit voting to participate, the intermediate unit was not included in the process. In speaking with other superintendents, there is not a strong desire among the districts to participate. The general consensus is that the savings would not be worth the administrative time and effort.

3.) He thanked Jean Atherton for updating the Health Services Manual.

4.) The shelter on the lower fields has been constructed, the field hockey practice field has been seeded and a much needed handicapped accessible ramp has been installed in front of the District Office.

5.) The district had a very productive in-service earlier in the day. The administrators were involved in Learning Focused Solutions workshop. Mr. Mehalick stated that the program is very beneficial. This is the fifth training and it is all beginning to come together. Mr. Becker stated that it was a clarity day for them. Mr. Shirvinski stated that he worked with Learning Focused Solutions in another district and it was very beneficial.

6.) Mr. Reh announced that Mr. Rodgers got married Friday night and he would be back to work on Wednesday.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled. It was decided that Mr. Becker should schedule two separate meetings to meet with the fall sports coaches.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager, Chairperson, reported that the gym floor has been finished, the hockey practice field was finished, the lower shelter has been constructed and the Lowe's project will begin November 10th. The committee discussed the Priority List. They added exterior doors, cameras and monitors for security purposes to the List. Mr. Stellfox stated that there is still some work to be done on the shelter. Mr. Geffken agreed. Mr. Stellfox was also concerned with the condition of the hockey practice field and the number of rocks still on the field. It was noted that some work was also done to the road to the lower fields.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that John Kubeika from the Insurance Shop attended the meeting and gave those present a handout which delineated the district's insurance cost for buses. The district would see approximately a \$7,000 increase if buses are not kept on campus over night. The committee asked Mr. Kubeika some general questions about the district's insurance. The Board requested the coverage limits and deductibles on the buildings. The Board felt they should know a little more about the insurance coverage and the premium the district is paying for the coverage. They discussed the sale of used and scrap items, which has been advertised. The local tax collector audit was completed and there were no findings. They discussed the additional cost of the building project in addition to construction costs. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Geffken came up with a figure of \$196,000 per year in operating costs for the new facility. The figure is based on square footage. Mr. Geffken has determined that one additional maintenance worker and two additional custodians would be needed. Mr. Porter stated that what he would like to see at the next Facilities meeting is a projection of what the district will look like in the next few years based on current contracts. Some districts are putting off building projects because of the current financial situation. The scenario has changed since the Board received the bond report. Mr. Reh stated that Mr. Rodgers did contact the bond company. The initial response was that since the proposed building project would possibly happen over a year from now, it would be hard to forecast. Mr. Porter noted that the district is currently paying a little over four percent for pension funds and that by 2013; the contribution rates could go up to sixteen percent. He noted the Board needs to get a better handle on that issue. He would like to see a projection based on health care and PSERS rates. He spoke with Tim Elwine, PSBA Governmental Liaison, regarding what is going to happen with PSERS. He responded that PSBA has a proposal on the legislative platform, but doesn't know if it will go anywhere. Mr. Porter suggested that the Board make a proposal between February and May regarding possible changes to the PSERS system. He stated that what's on the board now is a proposal for a defined contribution rate and defined benefit rate. This could have a big effect on the building project.

The RFP has been advertised for transportation services. The committee discussed a letter received from a substitute bus driver. The Board will be discussing substitute rates.

CSIU - Mr. Porter attended a meeting last Wednesday evening. Mr. Kerwin made an announcement regarding House bills pertaining to statewide health care. The bills have been rejected. Mr. Banks stated that there is a proposal regarding conflict resolution involved with Special Education. The proposal would put the burden of proof on the school district. They heard a report on the common in-service day. The common in-service was cancelled this year because of lack of participation. Mr. Porter asked what happened. Mr. Clippinger stated that the administrators and seven teachers from the district attended the Max Thompson training. Funding has been put into Learning Focused Solutions. Mr. Becker noted that some districts decided to have school in lieu of the in-service day. Mr. Clippinger noted that there were several small

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groups such as counselors, the psychologist, school nurse and Family and Consumer Science teachers that were out attending common in-service activities. Mr. Clippinger noted that it will take the district three years to implement Learning Focused Solutions.

Mr. Porter reported that they discussed two grants; American History in Pennsylvania and Link to Liberty. The contact is Kathy Hummel and there is a spring deadline for applications. They also discussed administrative compensation. They will receive a 3.7 percent raise and there will be a pool of money for Dr. Witten to spread across his administrators based on evaluations. He stated that CSIU is very good at promoting their services.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that a meeting would be held next Tuesday.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

Mr. Porter stated that he would like to firm down the financial outlook of the district for the next few years before moving forward with the feasibility study due to the bond market and the current financial situation. Mr. Reh stated that the motion would just approve the feasibility study; not a building project. President Yeager stated that the Board needs to consider adding some items from the feasibility study to the Priority List.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. James McGinley as a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2008-2009 school year.
- B. To accept the resignation of Donna Slagle from the position of Elementary Secretary effective October 17, 2008. Mrs. Slagle has been in the position since September 2007.
- C. Catherine Scicchitano as Support Teacher for Heather Higgins for 142 days of the 2008-2009 school year at the contracted rate of \$766 (pro-rated). Ms. Scicchitano served as Ms. Higgins Support Teacher for 45 days of the 2007-2008 school year.
- D. The addition of the following individuals to the 2008-2009 Substitute List effective October 1, 2008 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Brent Fisher (Music K-12)
 - John W. Martin, III (Business, Computer and Information Technology K-12)
 - Michaelle Miller (Transportation Aide)
 - Elizabeth Mocariski (Citizenship 7-12)
 - Diane Searfoss (Transportation Aide)
 - Justin Schultz (Custodian)
 - Kati Walters (Transportation Aide)

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- E. Employment of the following staff for the After School Programs for the 2008-2009 school year effective October 1, 2008, at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
- Letha Stone (\$21/hour)
 - Kristen Vitkauskas (\$21/hour)
 - Randy Young (\$21/hour)
 - Marla Kremser (contracted rate)
- F. To change Amy Brokus from Half-time Instructional Aide to Elementary Secretary effective October 14, 2008. Salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. To deny Grievance #86-1864-11137-NS.
- H. To retain Carl P. Beard, Jr., Esquire, to represent the District in conjunction with Grievance #86-1864-11137-NS.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Steele and second by Yocum, Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#72231) beginning October 6, 2008, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five hours per week, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Becker congratulated Shane Yeager for defending his District IV championship title.

Mr. Nunkester reported that Senior Citizens' Dinner would be held December 16th. The preliminary planning meeting would be held October 1st.

Mr. Shirvinski reported that over 600 grandparents attended Grandparents Day. The event was a big success.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary