

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

The January 12, 2009, 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. He announced that the Board held an executive session during the Facilities/Finance Committee meeting on January 8, 2009, to discuss collective bargaining and personnel, and an executive session was held prior to the current meeting to discuss personnel.

BOARD MEMBERS

Timothy Benner

Paul Starr

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; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker and Robert Mehalick, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that Fiscal Item B, Personnel Items A through H and Policy and Programs Items A and B on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Reh announced that January is School Directors Recognition Month and he thanked the Board members for the time and service they dedicate to the district.

2.) He noted that a revision to the 2008-2009 calendar would allow for additional snow days by using February 13 and 27 as make-up days if needed.

3.) Favorable comments have been received from staff regarding the Learning Focused Solutions training on Act 80 days.

4.) Teachers have been instructed to give meaningful assignments for the Act 80 days. He noted that there has been high traffic on the Moodle website on Act 80 days.

5.) Mr. Reh read a thank you note from Mrs. Phyllis Boyer regarding the Senior Citizens Dinner. The fundraiser concert was an overwhelming success. The concert will be held again next year. A brief film of the Senior Citizens Dinners was shown to the Board.

6.) Mr. Reh announced that an executive session would be held following the meeting to discuss personnel.

7.) The graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Haas Auditorium.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled.

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Facilities & Services – Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that the following items were discussed: Lowe's Grant, energy audit, locker room floor possibilities and the Priority List. The bids for the sewage grinder are due January 15th. Mr. Stellfox noted that it is important to check the roofs at this time of year. They discussed supplying permanent electricity to the shelter on the lower fields. A request for proposals will be developed for field maintenance excluding mowing and lining. Some bracing and floor work still needs to be done at the lower shelter. Mr. Roth and Mr. Conner were present at the committee meeting to discuss the condition and use of the track. The district will be gathering some information on all-weather tracks. There was a water issue at the elementary which has been corrected. A facilities walk-through schedule has been developed for the maintenance department. Mr. Stellfox emphasized the importance of making sure all the boilers are up and running.

Mr. Geffken reported on different options for the locker room floor. A comparison of the different options would be included in the Friday Letter. The project would ultimately need to go out on bid.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the committee discussed the resolution which is on the agenda. The district does not intend to raise taxes above the allowable index. The district does not intend to renew the FMS contract. A letter will be sent to inform FMS. The proposals for transportation services were discussed. Mr. Rodgers will be providing updated figures. The budget process will begin in the near future. Mr. Rodgers will be providing projections for revenue and expenditures at the next Finance Committee meeting. The district's fee to Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech increased by \$19,000 due to enrollment.

Following the IRS audit, it was determined that employees need to pay taxes on the personal use of district cell phones. The committee unanimously agreed that employees should have the opportunity to go back and review bills to determine which calls were personal, in lieu of paying taxes on the entire bill. The district will be exploring the possibility of changing to a different cellular phone service vendor due to reception issues. Blackberries have been requested for principals.

CSIU - Mr. Porter had nothing additional to report beyond the CSIU Board Report that was distributed to Board members.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that the new budget is exactly the same as last year's budget. They will be advertising again in April for a Director. They are still in negotiations for the support staff.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter asked that the December 3rd Reorganization meeting minutes be changed to reflect that he declined the nomination for Board President. Mr. Steele requested that the December 8th minutes be changed to reflect that he was absent.

Mr. Rodgers noted that invoice #18799 in the amount of \$297.70 would be removed from the list prior to voting due to an input error.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, to adopt a Resolution pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The addition of Jessica Noel (Art) to the 2008-2009 Instructional Substitute List effective January 13, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements and to acknowledge that she will serve as a Long-term Substitute Elementary Art Teacher beginning on or about February 26, 2009, through the end of the 2008-2009 school year.
- B. To change Christina Hess from a Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Regular Run Bus Driver effective January 13, 2009; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- C. William J. Miner as a Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach for the 2008-2009 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).
- D. FMLA qualifying leave on an intermittent basis for employee #1027MB effective January 8, 2009; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- E. Revised Job Description for the position of Secretary to the Director of Special Education and Student Services (per Exhibit C).
- F. To adjust the salary of Christine Hastings, Secretary to the Director of Special Education and Students Services to \$23,067 effective January 5, 2009. The increase will be paid through ACCESS funds.
- G. To accept the resignation of Thomas Slusser from the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective January 12, 2009. Mr. Slusser was first appointed to the Board on February 13, 2006.
- H. A Memorandum of Agreement with the Southern Columbia Education Association **(per Exhibit D)**.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. Homebound Instruction for an elementary student (#51841) beginning January 9, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of 5 hours per week.

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- B. The revised 2008-2009 School Year Calendar to include additional make-up days **(per Exhibit E)**.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

After a brief discussion it was determined that the Policy Committee meeting scheduled for January 19th would be cancelled. The next meeting will be held February 16th at 7:00 p.m. Beginning in March, the Policy Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. prior to the first Board meeting of the month.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Benner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary