

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

The January 19, 2009, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:43 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
Charles Porter
Paul Starr

Rick Steele
David Stellfox
Timothy Vought

Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker and Robert Mehalick, 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.) He welcomed the Boy Scouts that were in attendance.
- 2.) An in-service day was held earlier in the day. Training on Learning Focused Schools continued.
- 3.) Mr. James Geffken, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, will be taking another position with the Berwick Area School District. Mr. Reh thanked him for his service.
- 4.) Mr. Clippinger was not in attendance due to illness.
- 5.) Mr. Becker distributed the Instructional Planning Guide and noted that he would be asking for Board approval at the first meeting in February.
- 6.) Mr. Becker reported that at least 40 students will be going on to state FBLA competition. He noted that there is a budget shortfall of \$1,930. He asked for the Board's support in sending the students to state competition again this year.
- 7.) Mr. Becker reported that by early afternoon on Friday, Mr. Henry's Biology Moodle website had over 100 hits, which serves as evidence that the meaningful assignments given on Act 80 days have been successful.
- 8.) The building principals agreed that the Act 80 days have been successful and they have received positive input regarding the Learning Focused Schools training.
- 9.) The elementary school will be visited by some teachers and administrators from North Schuylkill to observe the Guided Reading program.
- 10.) Mr. Reh thanked the administrators and Mrs. Monick, who was very instrumental in making the Learning Focused Solutions trainings possible. He noted that they all did a fantastic job during the Act 80 days.

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President Yeager thanked Mr. Geffken for all of his accomplishments during his time at Southern Columbia. President Yeager also announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and collective bargaining.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held.

Policy – Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled due to the executive session. The next meeting will be held February 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library.

Negotiations and Personnel – Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the AFSCME Union representatives would meet with the administration on Friday to start the process. They have been given copies of the transportation proposals. Mr. Porter requested an executive session following the meeting for personnel reasons.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes of December 3, 2008 (reorganization meeting) and December 3, 8 and 15, 2008 (special meetings).
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$420,315.65 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$4,826.70.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2008-2009 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. To award the bid for the Sewage Grinder Upgrade to Hammersley Enterprises, Inc., Coopersburg, PA in the amount of \$18,300.00 (**Bid tabulations per Exhibit B**).
- C. Termination of Professional Services Agreement between Southern Columbia Area School District and Facilities Maintenance Systems, Inc. (**per Exhibit C**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To change Dana Carroll-Lucas from Half-time Paraprofessional to 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Project Director effective January 13, 2009, at a salary of \$37,135.00; benefits per the Supervisory Staff Handbook. This position is contingent upon continued grant funding.

- B. Employment of Jayne Toczylousky as 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program Coordinator effective January 13, 2009, at a salary of \$10,000; benefits per the Non-Union Support Staff Handbook. This position is contingent upon continued grant funding.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele mentioned the possibility of getting student involvement in board meetings as well as more student interaction with the Board. Solicitor Roberts stated that in years past there was student participation, but it ended due to lack of interest. After a brief discussion, Mr. Becker stated that he would see if there is any student interest.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Mehalick thanked Mr. Geffken for his participation in the transition to work program for Special Education students. Mr. Rodgers thanked Mr. Geffken for his service. He noted that he was very instrumental in obtaining the Lowe's Grant and other new initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steele and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary