

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

The February 9, 2009, 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, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Timothy Benner  
Charles Porter

Paul Starr  
Richard Steele (*Absent*)  
David Stellfox (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought  
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 and Robert Mehalick, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Yeager announced that the Board held executive sessions at the last Facilities/Finance Committee meeting on Thursday and prior to the current meeting to discuss personnel. An additional executive session would be held following the meeting for the same purpose. He also announced that Fiscal Item D, all Personnel items, all Policy and Programs Items and the board vacancy item would be action items.

**BOARD VACANCY**

Mr. Reh introduced Eric Stahley, candidate for the Region II Board vacancy, and reminded Board members that Mr. Stahley had served as Chairperson of the Act 1 Tax Study Commission. Mr. Stahley stated that as a member of the community he felt that he should get involved in order to better the community and the district.

On a motion by Yocum and second by Porter to appoint Eric C. Stahley to fill the Region II vacancy on the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective February 9, 2009, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. Mr. Stahley was seated on the Board at 7:44 p.m.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) Mr. Reh thanked Mr. Stahley for offering his time and welcomed him to the Board.
- 2.) He noted that Mr. Clippinger would be retiring at the end of June. Mr. Reh stated that the growth the district has made curriculum-wise under his leadership is evident in the testing results. He thanked him for his service and wished him the best in his retirement.
- 3.) A School Reach announcement would be sent to parents reminding them of the make-up days and the next Act 80 day.

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4.) Mr. Becker announced that Stevie Beiswanger participated in a regional poetry contest and qualified for state competition at the Governor's mansion. Will Krieger qualified for State Jazz Choir. Mr. Shirvinski reported that Tyler Weaver placed 8<sup>th</sup> out of the top 18 in the district in bowling. He will go on to compete in the Eastern Pennsylvania Championship in the singles event. He finished the season with a 205 average. Mr. Becker announced that Paul Gregorowicz would be added to the 700 Club. President Yeager suggested that Mr. Becker ask Stevie Beiswanger if she would be willing to read her poetry for the Board. Mr. Nunkester announced that Matt Lupold, Lauren Kerstetter and Sunny Sen took second place in webpage design at the CSIU Computer Fair.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. They discussed portable bathroom facilities and the possibility of permanent bathroom facilities for the lower fields and the condition and preparation of the fields for spring sports. The baseball dugouts need painting and a new roof. Parents have volunteered to do the work. Mr. Benner stated that stone is needed inside the dugouts. A warning track is still needed on the baseball field. The softball equipment is being stored in the concession stand. They discussed alternate storage options. There is a big interest in junior high baseball and softball. There are eleven teams in the Heartland Conference. It will be discussed further at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Facilities & Services – Tim Vought reported that the committee discussed the energy audit, the Priority Projects List, sewage grinder and domestic hot water tank, locker room floor options and purchasing materials to have the fields ready for spring sports.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that they discussed the Memorandum of Agreement pertaining to retirees' severance pay and a Resolution pertaining to tax collector compensation. The resolution reflects no change in compensation. The local audit was discussed. Last year's budget surplus was in excess of \$116,000. Mr. Rodgers noted that the audit did not report any findings and no management letter was received. A Federal Programs audit will take place this year. Mr. Rodgers will be talking to the bond company about refinancing the district's debt. Projected costs for 2009-2010 for the district owning its own buses would be a little over \$500,000. The projected cost to contract out for transportation services would be \$303,824. Mr. Rodgers will do some more calculations regarding state reimbursement. Mr. Rodgers presented the budget calendar. Employees with district cell phones will have the opportunity to review their bills. Mr. Rodgers will be contacting various banks to see how a bank loan would compare to taking out a bond. The committee asked that the Board be provided with a five-year history of salaries under the Act 93 Agreement. At the next Finance meeting they will have projections for future tax revenue. President Yeager noted that a Curriculum Priority List would be helpful for future planning.

Mr. Porter reported that Mr. Reh and Mr. Becker would be getting together to talk about staffing for PSSA prep and tutoring courses.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the Superintendent, Business Manager and members of the committee met with union representatives, who presented a broad proposal. They asked them to firm up a proposal document and give it to Mr. Beard by February 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be the basis for discussion at the next meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

CSIU - Mr. Porter stated that he didn't attend the last meeting and he had nothing to report beyond the CSIU Board Report already distributed to Board members.

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

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**ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS**

**ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES**

**ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Vought and second by Porter, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to Tax Collector compensation (per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. Prior to the vote Mr. Rodgers stated that there is a very good working relationship with the Tax Collectors. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

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

- A. To acknowledge and ratify acceptance of the resignation of Matthew S. Harvey from the position of Secondary Social Studies Teacher effective January 29, 2009. Mr. Harvey has been with the district since August 2005.
- B. To acknowledge that Jerid Lindenmuth will serve as a Long-term Substitute Secondary Social Studies Teacher beginning January 29, 2009, through the end of the 2008-2009 school year; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- C. FMLA qualifying leave on an intermittent basis for employee #1325EJ effective January 13, 2009; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- D. FMLA qualifying leave for employee #1081DB effective on or about February 10, 2009; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- E. Employment of the following individuals as Tutors for the After School Programs effective February 3, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
  - David Yost (\$21 per hour)
  - Kevin Flynn (\$10 per hour)
- F. The addition of the following individuals to the 2008-2009 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
  - John Hoover (Van Driver) - effective January 15, 2009
  - Greg J. Davis (English 7-12) - effective February 10, 2009
  - Ashley Long (Elementary) - effective February 10, 2009
  - Cindy Stabley (Aide/Clerical) - effective February 10, 2009
- G. To accept the resignation of Mary Salvadore from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective February 19, 2009. Ms. Salvadore has been with the district since September 1999.

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- H. To accept the resignation for retirement of Roy K. Clippinger from the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment effective June 30, 2009. Mr. Clippinger has been with the district since August 1985.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

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

- A. The 2009-2010 School Year Calendar (per Exhibit D).
- B. The 9-12 Course Offerings for the 2009-2010 school year (per Exhibit E).
- C. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#53846) effective February 10, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week.

Prior to voting, there was a discussion regarding the absence of a common in-service day throughout the Intermediate Unit. President Yeager asked Mr. Reh to inform the CSIU that the Board would like to return to a common in-service day. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

In regard to the Senior Class trip to Great Wolf Lodge, Mr. Porter stated that he does not feel that the taxpayers owe the seniors a vacation trip. Mr. Vought stated that he would like to know the cost of the trip before making a decision. Mr. Rodgers agreed to provide the figures prior to the next Board meeting.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

President Yeager stated that at one time, the elementary school had math and reading scores that were very high, but when the students moved to the high school building their scores came down. Those scores are now higher and he stated that it has to do with all the work Mr. Clippinger has done. Mr. Clippinger attributed the success to the entire administration and to the stringent hiring process. They have put together a very strong faculty.

President Yeager reported that the Governor's School will no longer be funded. He urged everyone to talk to their legislators and request that the Governor's School be put back into the State budget. He also noted that six board members' terms will be expiring this year.

Mr. Porter welcomed members of Boy Scout Troop #247.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Michael Nodich, asked when the Board would be discussing the Director of Buildings and Grounds position. Mr. Yeager stated that they would begin discussing the position in an executive session following the Board meeting. Mr. Reh stated that they plan to conduct first-round interviews on or around February 19<sup>th</sup>.

District resident, Tom Levan, asked about the possibility of Industrial Arts students performing some of the smaller building projects as class projects. Mr. Rodgers stated that due to liability issues, those types of student projects are no longer allowed.

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The Board Secretary announced that all Statements of Financial Interest Forms have been distributed. According to the district's corrective action plan, all forms are due back to the district by February 28, 2009.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary