

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

The February 16, 2009 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 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
Eric Stahley

Paul Starr (*Absent*)
Richard 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; 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 all items on the agenda would be action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He congratulated Colin Klebon for setting a new school record for points scored in basketball. He scored 2,162 points. The team will go on to compete in district competition.
- 2.) The Personnel Committee will hold first-round interviews for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds position on Thursday.
- 3.) The CSIU is offering a workshop for Board members and superintendents on April 8th.
- 4.) He reminded Board members that they must be cognizant of the potential for additional out-of-district placements and must remain focused on the possibility of a building project.
- 5.) Stevie Beiswanger recited a poem which qualified her for state competition. The cost of the competition is paid through the Pennsylvania Department of the Arts.
- 6.) Tim Benner reported that Adam Leisenring (10th grade) placed 6th in the Scholarship Bowling Tournament. Tyler Weaver is still progressing in bowling competition.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Reh if he had any additional information regarding the Governor's plan for consolidating schools. Mr. Reh replied that he did not have any further information, but in his opinion, the plan could be feasible in some urban areas, but it would be difficult in rural outlying areas. A committee of legislators will be conducting a one-year evaluation and will then make a recommendation regarding the plan.

After a brief discussion regarding the Director of Curriculum, Mr. Reh stated that he would discuss with the Board the position and the possibility of adding Technology responsibilities to the position. The plan is to advertise for the position in March.

Mr. Nunkester announced that an Internet and cellular phone abuse and safety presentation is scheduled for March 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

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Mr. Shirvinski announced that a Pre-K Night dealing with school readiness would be held for parents on February 23rd. Kindergarten registration will take place the week of March 23rd through 27th.

7.) Mr. Reh reported that Dana Lucas informed him that the district received a \$5,000 grant for educating students on HIV and teenage pregnancy.

8.) The Governor is again pushing for a statewide healthcare plan for school districts. Mr. Reh noted that statewide healthcare would be a financial disaster for Southern.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the duties of the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. They also discussed the Priority List for Curriculum. The Ag Mobile Lab is scheduled and teacher training will take place February 27th.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the following policies: 504 Employment of Classified Employees, 810 Transportation, 818 Contractual Services, 800 Records Management, 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings, and 008 Organizational Chart. The updated policies will be distributed to Board members in the near future.

Negotiations and Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the committee set up a schedule for future discussions and they will be interviewing for the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds on Thursday.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

- A. Minutes of February 9 and 16, 2009.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$394,907.69 and Athletic Fund Invoices in the amount of \$18,115.36.

Prior to voting, several invoices were discussed. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2008-2009 budget to ensure proper accounting (per Exhibit A).
- B. To authorize Berkheimer Associates to obtain tax return information from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to cross-check the earned income tax rolls.

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- C. To accept the Single Audit Report from Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 (**per Exhibit B**). The report contains no findings and no Management Letter was received.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To recognize that the resignation of Mary Salvadore from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective February 19, 2009, was for retirement.
- B. To authorize Berkheimer Associates to obtain tax return information from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in order to cross-check the earned income tax rolls.
- C. To accept the Single Audit Report from Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 (**per Exhibit B**). The report contains no findings and no Management Letter was received.
- D. Employment of Christina Scatton as a Tutor for the After School Programs effective February 9, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a salary of \$10.00 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- B. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#40157) effective March 18, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week.
- C. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#26454) effective February 17, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Benner, a 12th Grade Class Trip to great Wolf Lodge, Stroudsburg, PA on Sunday, May 17 through Monday, May 18, 2009; with District expenses to include substitute costs only, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if in the future this type of trip could be scheduled on a weekend. Mr. Becker stated that the cost of the trip would almost double by scheduling it on a weekend. Mr. Porter stated that his concern is that it is not an educational trip and he does not feel taxpayers should fund it. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

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BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager stated that there will be an executive session following the meeting for personnel reasons.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award nominations are due by March 1, 2009.

Mr. Porter stated that Mr. Rodgers would be providing information pertaining to the age of the district's fuel tanks.

President Yeager stated that the county is moving to eliminate the tax collectors. He asked what would happen to the district if that occurs. Mr. Rodgers stated that the district could still retain the services to collect school district taxes if the tax collectors are willing to do so.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Rodgers commended Mrs. Cindy Petro for her work and organization in dealing with the tax collectors and tax issues.

District resident, Thelma Helwig, thanked the Board for taking a different stance than the county in regard to the tax collectors.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Yocum and second by Benner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary