

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

The March 9, 2009, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:40 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
Richard Steele
David Stellfox

Timothy Vought (*Absent*)
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; 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 Personnel Items and Policy and Programs Item B on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He thanked Kristen Baver and the Press Enterprise for the fine article they ran on the students in the 700 Club.

2.) He referred to the recent Press Enterprise article regarding administrative salaries and clarified that the district only has seven administrators; not eight as indicated in the article. He also noted that the district does not contribute to his health benefits, which is an approximate \$13,000 savings.

3.) The district is short several bus drivers; therefore, double runs would need to be implemented for several runs. The students would be getting home 20-25 minutes later than usual. The administration did get authorization from the labor union that the district can make arrangements to ensure there are a sufficient number of bus drivers to accommodate the regular runs and alleviate the need for double runs. Those arrangements are being worked out and parents will be notified that the double runs are not necessary.

4.) He reported that the Governor's proposal for consolidating schools aims to consolidate payroll offices and other administrative functions; not the number of classrooms or school buildings.

5.) The Pennsylvania Department of Education is pushing for graduation competency assessments. The test formerly known as the Graduation Competency Assessments has been renamed the Keystone Exams. The first class held to the new standards would be the class of 2015. School districts can continue to administer their own tests, but those tests would need to be validated.

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6.) Mr. Mehalick reported that a Federal Programs audit took place on February 25th. The district is 100 percent compliant.

7.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that elementary students raised \$2,063.92 for Leukemia and Lymphoma prevention through the Pennies for Patients Campaign.

8.) Ms. Carroll-Lucas reported that the tutoring programs are underway. Pre-K night was recently held and the grant is involved with the Gifted Theatre Arts Program. The district was awarded a \$5,500 grant for HIV, STD and pregnancy prevention. She recently applied to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for an \$11,500 grant that would be used for underage drinking prevention and dangerous drinking awareness. The deadline for the PEP grant was March 6th and there was not enough time to comply with the requirements. A letter of intent was submitted for the Pre-K Counts grant. Possibilities for a location for a pre-K program are being explored. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to know the district's responsibility for continuation of the program and have some more details and figures before applying for the grant. Mr. Reh agreed that the district could not commit to the program without having the figures.

9.) Mr. Nunkester welcomed Bo Kiessling from 9th grade who was in attendance as part of a requirement for a Boy Scouts badge.

10.) Mr. Nunkester reported that several students placed in a recent writing contest sponsored by the Bloomsburg Elks.

11.) Mr. Becker reported that PSSA Math and Reading assessments begin next week. He also noted that the Student Council presented a check to the Shamokin Hospital in excess of \$400.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed a junior high baseball/softball program. Mr. Sharrow will provide figures for the cost of the program as well as the number of students interested. The Softball Boosters are willing to donate a storage shed for the softball field. Mr. Sharrow was also directed to determine the amount of interest in a junior high track and field program.

Facilities & Services – Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that a Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds is being recommended for approval. One quote was received for an energy audit. They are awaiting a quote from NRG to determine which direction to proceed. They discussed the Priority List and the domestic water tanks and the roof of the sewage treatment structure. It was determined that classroom doors in the middle school and a few in the high school should have glass panels for safety and security reasons. Electrical supply to the soccer concession stand is needed. The fire suppression system in the cafeteria and the generator repairs will be complete by March 31, 2009. A large topic of discussion was the condition of the fields for spring play, and the board was guaranteed that they would be ready for spring sports. A warning track on the baseball field was also discussed. Quotes are being obtained. The Baseball Boosters will perform some work on the dugouts. The district will provide some materials.

Mr. Steele asked about contracting out for field maintenance. Mr. Stellfox stated that he would still like to have that possibility considered. A turf management consultant would be coming to make recommendations.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the committee discussed the local tax collector audit, the Federal Programs audit and the committee received an update on the fiscal budget including big ticket item priorities. A mobile laptop cart and the possibility of leasing versus owning were discussed. Building project financing was discussed. Mr. Rodgers checked with some local banks. M&T Bank would not offer a long term obligation note. If the district went with M&T Bank, it would be 1.5 mills of annual debt service. If the district would choose

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the bond route, the millage increase for the debt service would be reduced to .93 per year for three years, from the previous figure of 1.11 mills, because of the change in interest rates. First Columbia Bank would not fix their rate for more than ten years.

The committee discussed updated projections for transportation services for the 2009-2010 school year. Preliminary figures indicate that the district would save over \$210,000 by contracting transportation services opposed to owning its own buses. Mr. Rodgers noted that he will provide a more accurate figure after more information is received from PDE regarding reimbursement. Representatives from the Softball and Baseball programs were present at the committee meeting. They requested that the district implement junior high programs. Mr. Rodgers provided a three-year projection for the budget, but will provide a five-year projection. New band uniforms have been requested. Mrs. Elsie Bittner, Band Booster member, reported that the band is on a ten-year rotation for uniforms and they are due to be replaced. She noted that the cost of the uniforms would be between \$400 and \$500 and approximately eighty uniforms are needed. The issue will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

The administration is anticipating five new Life Skills students for next school year. A new teacher and paraprofessional would be needed to keep those students in district, but the cost would be less than the tuition to send them out of district.

Future Facilities/Finance Committee meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month beginning in April.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the committee met twice with the AFSCME unit regarding negotiations. A proposal was received from AFSCME. He requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss the Board's response to the proposal. The committee also has a proposal on the Act 93 Agreement, which will also be discussed in executive session if time allows.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that committee is working on revising the following policies: 504 Employment of Classified Employees, 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings, 008 Organizational Chart, 810 Transportation, 818 Contracted Services, and 800 Records Management.

CSIU - No report was given.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that interviews for a Director will begin March 12th.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, to accept the donation of a storage shed from the Softball Boosters contingent upon approval of the structure and location by the district Administration was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Benner and second by Starr to accept the donation of a scoreboard from First Columbia Bank was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation of Deborah Lauer from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective March 5, 2009, and to add her to the 2008-2009 Substitute List as a Bus/Van Driver effective March 5, 2009.
- B. To accept the resignation of Elizabeth Richie from the position of Transportation Aide effective February 27, 2009. Ms. Richie had been with the district since November 2001.
- C. Rob Anderson as a Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2008-2009 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).
- E. The addition of the following individuals to the 2008-2009 Substitute List effective March 10, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Edward Gleeson (Bus/Van Driver)
 - Thomas Leffler (Bus/Van Driver)
 - David McAnaney (Bus/Van Driver)
- F. Employment of the following individuals for the After School Programs effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements) at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
 - Lindsay Naunczek - Tutor (\$10 per hour) - February 17, 2009
 - Lauren Day - Tutor (\$21 per hour) - effective March 5, 2009
 - Laura Leschinsky - Student Helper (\$7.15/hr.) - effective February 23, 2009
 - Julie Radziewicz - Student Helper - (\$7.15/hr.) effective February 23, 2009

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, employment Timothy George as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds effective March 10, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a starting salary of \$45,000 with an increase to \$48,000 effective July 1, 2009, pending a favorable evaluation to be conducted June 30, 2009; benefits per the Supervisory Staff Handbook, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-Abstain (Benner Abstained).

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stellfox, Homebound Instruction for a middle school student (#28207) effective March 9, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager asked Mr. Clippinger to provide a Curriculum Priority List at the next Curriculum Committee meeting. He also thanked the Board members for all of the hours they have been putting in to recent meetings and interviews.

Mr. Steele announced that he would be attending the Region 6 PSBA Cabinet meeting on March 24th.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary