

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

The March 16, 2009 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:34 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 (*Absent*)  
Charles Porter  
Eric Stahley

Paul Starr  
Richard Steele  
David Stellfox

Timothy Vought  
Michael Yeager  
John Yocum

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, 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. Solicitor Roberts announced that Fiscal Items F and G would be deleted.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) The day's in-service was successful. Attorney Andrew Faust, spoke on special education law to the entire faculty in the morning and spent the remainder of the day with the special education department. Members of the Bloomsburg School District were also invited to attend and were present.
- 2.) Mr. Reh reminded Board members to notify the Board Secretary if they are planning to attend the CSIU workshop.
- 3.) He announced that he and Mr. Rodgers would be attending a webinar on Thursday regarding the stimulus package.
- 4.) Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the meeting for personnel reasons.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that PSSA scores from district students that attend Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech will now be included with district scores. Their staff will working with students on open-ended questions to help improve their scores, as that seemed to be a problem area for their students. The committee discussed two items with Mr. Joel Thomas. The first item was the fact that some students would like to play in the concert band, but not participate in marching band. At present there are approximately fifty instrument players. They also discussed band uniforms. The current uniforms are ten years old and are in bad shape. New uniforms would cost approximately \$358 per uniform. The Band Boosters would pay for the hats and the plumes. Mr. Thomas is requesting eighty uniforms, which would cost approximately \$28,000 to \$29,000. Mr. Rodgers will begin advertising for bids. Bid specifications are already on hand.

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Vo-Tech - Mike Yeager reported that Vo-Tech would be offering the position of director at Tuesday's meeting.

### TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Stahley, 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 February 9 and 16, 2009, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$651,736.92, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$7,078.50, and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$13,819.06.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2008-20079 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. Motion to approve the 2009-2010 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,818,248; Southern Columbia Area School District's cost is \$505,669 (**per Exhibit B**).
- C. A motion to approve the 2009-2010 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,715,384 (**per Exhibit C**).
- D. A motion to appoint Brewer & Company, LLC to audit the financial records for the local tax collectors for the year ended December 31, 2008, as required by the Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law, at a cost not to exceed \$2,200.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Steele, an Agreement for architectural services with The Architectural Studio (**per Exhibit D**) was presented for approval. Prior to voting Mr. Stahley expressed concern over the open-ended fees and Mr. Porter stated that he would have liked to see them put more of an effort into providing an alternative as to adding onto the elementary versus the high school. By roll call vote the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

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### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The addition of the following individuals to the 2008-2009 Substitute List effective March 17, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
  - Kim Bridy (Music K-12)
  - Liza Madden (Elementary)
- B. To accept the resignation for retirement of Karen L. Sodrick from the position of High School Librarian effective June 8, 2009. Mrs. Sodrick has been with the district since August 1973.
- C. Employment of Kathleen Baas as a Substitute Nurse for the After School Programs effective February 10, 2009, at her contracted rate, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- D. To provide on the job custodial/maintenance training for the following students as part of the Transition Program effective March 11, 2009; at a rate of \$7.15 per hour:
  - Alex Carawan
  - Chrisopher Maddux
- E. Employment of Warren Merkel as Honor Society Advisor effective January 30, 2009 through the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year at a salary of \$461 (pro-rated).
- F. To re-appoint Craig Roadarmel as a member of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Authority effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. An Art Club and P.R.I.D.E. Trip to New York City, NY to visit the Art Museum and see the Broadway show “The Lion King” on Sunday, April 19, 2009. All expenses paid by the students and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- B. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#39704) effective March 17, 2009, until further evaluation by a physician, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week.
- C. An FBLA Trip to New York City, NY on Saturday, April 18, 2009, with no expense to the district.
- D. A 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, May 13, 2009; district expense to include substitute costs only.

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- E. A Gifted Field Trip to New York City, NY, on Saturday, April 25, 2009, to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and attend the Broadway presentation of Shrek the Musical, with no expense to the district.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele thanked Mrs. Sodrick on behalf of the Board, and wished her the best in her retirement.

Mr. Yocum noted that a turf specialist from Penn State was on campus to look at the athletic fields. He will be submitting a report with recommendations for improvements and better maintenance of the fields.

Mr. Porter stated that better communication needs to be established between the coaches and the maintenance/grounds workers. He noted that there have been instances when community members have come in and done things to the fields without the knowledge of the grounds keepers. This type of work should go through the administration and all staff should be aware of the directive.

Mr. Porter noted that March 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for notifying CSIU if the district will participate in the fuel oil bidding process. He noted that it would be in the district's best interest to bid fuel prices on its own. After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the committee would tentatively meet on Monday at 7:30 to further discuss the issue, depending on the information obtained through Mr. Rodgers' research.

Mr. Porter stated that he has concerns regarding applying for the Pre-K Counts grant due to the lack of evidence showing that pre-K programs have been proven to increase student performance after 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mr. Clippinger noted that there have not been any long-term studies done because the pre-K program in schools has not been in existence long enough. Mr. Shirvinski spoke in support of pre-K programs.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Rodgers to include his updated transportation analysis to all Board members in the Friday Letter. Mr. Rodgers stated that it continues to be a working document. Some changes have been made to the previous analysis due to fuel costs and conservative adjustments to state reimbursement projections.

Solicitor Roberts recommended the possibility of the Board taking action at the present meeting to allow the district to meet the CSIU deadline for the fuel bidding process.

### ADDITIONAL FISCAL ITEM

On a motion by Stahley and second by Stellfox, to authorize the Business Manager in conjunction with Charles Porter and Eric Stahley to make a determination as to what if any portion of the fuel needs of the district will be bid through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit.

### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident and employee Mr. Robert Leffler asked about the cost of updating some of the vehicles. He also noted that there would need to be someone available to speak with parents who are unwilling to speak with a contractor.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Steele and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary