

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

The May 11, 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 (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, James Becker and Robert Mehalick, Administrators; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that Fiscal Items B through E, all Personnel Items and Policy and Programs Items A, B and G would be action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Jim King addressed the Board regarding property in the Keystone Opportunity Zone. Three parcels of land in the Reed Industrial Park are free of local property taxes through December 31, 2013. He asked the district to vote to extend the tax-free period through December 31, 2020. Northumberland County and Ralpho Township would also need to approve the extension. It was agreed that the Board would vote on the issue at the May 18th meeting.

2.) Mr. Reh stated that an adjustment has been made to the Middle School Handbook to reflect that the grade point averages will be based on all courses that meet a full marking period including Band, Chorus and Unified Arts. Mr. Porter asked why the Junior Honor Society qualifications were not included in the handbook. Mr. Reh stated that the specific details of the qualifications would be too voluminous to include in the handbook.

3.) The Board is invited to attend the Spring Legislative Meeting of school districts in Columbia and Montour Counties at the Danville High School Library on Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30 p.m. Some of the topics of discussion will be high school graduation, state and federal funding issues and unfunded and under funded mandates.

4.) Mr. Reh reported that Mrs. Kim Delbo made a public service announcement regarding prevention of the Swine Flu over the School Reach message system.

5.) Mr. Nunkester was not in attendance as he was participating in the medieval play, which was being presented at the Pondeuce Banquet Hall.

6.) The Enrichment students in the high school will be making oral and visual presentations throughout the following day.

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7.) Mr. Reh reported after two months of online broadcast, the Tiger News website has been visited by thousands with 100-200 visits per day. It has logged visits from twenty-five states as well as Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain and Russia. Mr. Reh thanked the Board for the investment in the Tiger News studio.

8.) There will be a presentation to the Board regarding Learning Focused Solutions at the next meeting to summarize what the district has accomplished this year through the Act 80 Days' trainings.

9.) Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the regular meeting for personnel matters and pending litigation. He also requested an executive session to consult with counsel regarding possible litigation, prior to discussing the Fiscal Items. It was agreed that the executive session would begin following the committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met at 6:00 p.m. prior to the Board meeting. The committee met with several parents regarding the Girls Basketball program. Interviews for the Boys Basketball Head Coach position would be determined and announced at the next meeting.

Facilities - Tim Vought reported that the committee discussed recoating the high school water tanks. They will be getting two more quotes. The second issue was the field turf management plan. Bids were opened May 8th and the bid award is on the agenda. Two bids were received for an energy audit; one for \$15,000 from Fortier Engineering and one for \$13,200 from Highland. The Priority Projects List and a smaller water sprinkling system for the baseball and softball fields were also discussed. Mr. Frank Bebenek from Thermal Controls donated his time and came with his thermal imaging equipment to identify heat loss issues. Mr. Vought publicly thanked him for the service he provided. The district will need to solicit bids for the hot water system in the elementary building for a more cost effective system.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the committee met twice since his last report. They discussed the band uniforms bid package, the fuel oil bid packages and updates to the athletic and Capital Reserve budgets. The maintenance staff would like to do some upgrades to the bathroom facilities in house. On May 19th, the committee will hear some proposals from finance companies concerning the proposed building project. Mr. Rodgers will give details regarding the surveying question at the next Finance meeting. Mr. Reh stated that surveying of the football field was included in the proposal for future consideration of an all-weather track. The Board would have the option to accept or reject an add-on project when bids are received. The architect estimated that the surveying costs for the football field would be about ten percent of the total surveying cost that needs to be done for the building project. The architect's estimate for the total surveying job would be approximately \$15,000.

Mr. Porter reported that the administration addressed the committee regarding some staffing issues regarding an ESL Teacher, a full-time social worker and a Life Skills teacher. The administration has been asked to put a plan on paper for the Board to consider. The Finance Committee agreed that the Board should be voting on a Resolution during the current month in regards to making a defined contribution to PSERS versus a defined benefit plan. Solicitor Roberts stated that there is a resolution that several other districts have passed. He will provide Mr. Rodgers with a copy.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee was scheduled to meet, but due to the length of the Activities Committee meeting, they were unable to meet. Four policy updates are on the agenda for approval of the first readings.

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CSIU - No report was given. Mr. Porter asked if any other Board member would consider taking over his seat on the CSIU Board.

Vo-Tech - No report was given.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:26 p.m. and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:49 p.m. The same members were present following the executive session as indicated by the previous roll call.

ITEMS - TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS - MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter questioned an invoice from the Bloomsburg Hospital and noted that the district contracts with Geisinger for driver physicals. Mr. Rodgers replied that Bloomsburg Hospital provides drug and alcohol testing for drivers as well as physicals. He noted that all drivers are encouraged to go to Geisinger for physicals, but he recommended that language be included in the contract through negotiations to specify that drivers must go to the contracted provider for a physical or assume the cost of the physical.

Mr. Porter also questioned an invoice regarding a 9th grade class trip and asked if the district was reimbursed by the class. Mr. Rodgers stated that the class would be invoiced for the amount above the cost of regular transportation.

ITEMS - FISCAL

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

- B. To award the base bid for Field Maintenance to Andre & Son, Inc., Montrose, PA, in the amount of \$15,595.50 **(Bid tabulation per Exhibit B)**.
- C. To award the bid for Band Uniforms to DeMoulin Bros. and Co., Greenville, IL, in the amount of \$27,944.80 **(Bid tabulation per Exhibit C)**.
- D. To reject all Fuel Product Bids pertaining to 87 Octane, Diesel Ultra Low and Diesel Low **(Bid tabulation per Exhibit D)**.
- E. To accept the Technology Education Supplies bids **(per Exhibit E)**.
- F. To appoint Dr. David Piper, Independent Transportation Consultant, at a rate of \$50 per hour, not to exceed \$1,500. Services will include a review of the transportation department operations and to provide a report to the Board of Directors accordingly.

Prior to voting, there was discussion regarding maintenance to the baseball field. It was agreed that Fiscal Item B would be amended.

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On a motion by Starr and second by Benner, Fiscal Item B was amended to read as follows:

- B. To award the alternate bid for Field Maintenance to Andre & Son, Inc., Montrose, PA, in the amount of \$16,845.50 (**Bid tabulation per Exhibit B**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

With a motion and a second on the table for Fiscal Items B (as amended) C, D, E and F, the motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - PERSONNEL

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

- A. Motion to re-appoint Richard J. Roberts, Jr. as School Solicitor for the period July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, with a retainer of \$3,200.00 plus \$100.00 per hour for additional work.
- B. To appoint John Yocum from Region III (Cleveland, Franklin, Locust and Roaring Creek Townships) as Board Treasurer for the term July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, at an annual salary of \$240.
- C. To acknowledge tenure for the following employees effective the end of the 2008-2009 school year:
- Casie Baker
 - Stephen DeLong
 - Sherry Jones
 - Ryan Mensch
 - Warren Merkel
 - Amy Phillips
 - Catherine Scicchitano
 - Jenna Sellers
- D. Brent Kelchner as Assistant Ski Club Advisor for the 2008-2009 school year at an annual salary of \$250.
- E. The addition of the following individual to the 2008-2009 Substitute List effective May 12, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- Matthew Payne (Elementary K-6, Social Studies 7-9, Special Education)
- F. Motion to approve to change David McAnanney from Substitute Bus/Van Driver to Regular Run Driver effective May 12, 2009, salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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- G. Employment of the following student workers effective May 12, 2009 (pending receipt of all employment requirements), at minimum wage:
- Meghan Duell (High School Office)
 - Katherine Lazarski (High School Office)
 - Kayla Hoffman (Middle School Office)
 - Amanda Youschock (Middle School Office)
 - Brianne Zins (Elementary Office)
- H. To accept the resignation of Erin Snyder from the position of Assistant Girls Basketball Coach effective April 30, 2009.
- I. To acknowledge that the following Summer Programs will run from Monday, June 29, 2009, to Thursday, July 30, 2009 (*These programs were previously Board approved with a termination date of July 16, 2009*):
- 2009 Summer Kindergarten Readiness Program - Ready, Set, Grow
 - 2009 Summer Fun-da-Mentals Program - Pirates Searching for the Treasures Within
 - 2009 Summer Dynamics Program - ESY

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Porter and second by Vought, the following items were presented for approval.

- A. Homebound Instruction for a High School Student (#20659) effective April 24, 2009, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week, until further evaluation by a physician.
- B. Homebound Instruction for a High School Student (#81476) effective May 12, 2009, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week, until further evaluation by a physician.
- G. The 2009-2010 Middle School Student Handbook (**per Exhibit J**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Dave Drumheller, expressed concern regarding the proposed building project and the cost of surveying for the project.

President Yeager announced that the executive session would begin immediately following adjournment.

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Starr and second by Benner, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary