

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

The May 18, 2009 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:42 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; Roy Clippinger, Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker and Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Dana Carroll-Lucas, Grant Project Director; 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.) Mrs. Sally Meyer reported on the High School Independent Study program and Rebecca Krieger gave a presentation on her Independent Study project.

2.) Mrs. Brenda Monick gave a video presentation regarding Learning Focused Schools and the trainings that were held during Act 80 days. Mr. Shirvinski reported that the Learning Focused Schools concept has been very beneficial for the science curriculum in conjunction with "Science: It's Elementary."

3.) A special Finance Committee meeting will be held the following day at 5:00 p.m. Dr. Piper will meet with the Board during the meeting to discuss his analysis of the transportation system.

4.) The PSBA Spring Legislative meeting for school directors from Columbia and Montour Counties will be held Wednesday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. at Danville High School. A special Board meeting to discuss the fuel products bids will be held in the District Office at 5:30 p.m. on the same evening.

5.) Mr. Reh stated that the additional cost of surveying for the football field would in fact be \$500 to \$800, which is less than the previously reported amount of \$1,500.

6.) Mr. Steele reported that he had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Council in Harrisburg. Mr. Nunkester, Mr. Mehalick, Miss McCullough and a student were asked to present to the statewide leadership group on some of the inclusion activities for students with severe disabilities at Southern. He stated that the presentation was very well received, and he commended them for their presentation.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that Mr. Clippinger went over the selection of the Language Arts instructional materials. Some of the materials will feature online availability for students and teachers with updates each of the six years. They discussed the Science Alignment workshop. Based on questions on the PSSA 11th grade test and the fact that approximately one-quarter of the questions related to earth and space, it was recommended that an earth and space science course be considered. The results of the senior class survey were discussed.

Negotiations and Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the next session would be held on Thursday, at which time the Board will present its comprehensive proposal to the union.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Yocum and second by Benner, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes of April 13 and 20, 2009.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$469,786.91 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$15,217.26.

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that according to the contract, bus drivers are to obtain their physicals from the district physician which is contracted through Geisinger. Mr. Rodgers stated that Bloomsburg Hospital does offer some other services such as drug and alcohol testing. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Vought and second by Starr, budgetary transfers in the 2008-2009 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked for clarification on the transfers. Mr. Rodgers explained that the Middle School funds were transferred to purchase some guidance supplies and a steel book shelf to be used in a Learning Support classroom. The four transfers in the High School area were primarily to purchase some science kits, as well as two new computers at \$680 each. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Yocum, the Southern Columbia Area School District Tentative Budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year in the amount of \$15,991,452.00 (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Starr, to appoint Highland Associates to perform an Energy Audit in the amount of a fixed fee of \$13,200 (**per Exhibit B-1**) was presented for approval. Prior to voting Mr. Vought expressed concern regarding the necessity of the energy

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audit. After some discussion, on a motion by Starr and second by Steele to table the motion was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yocum and second by Vought, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System (per Exhibit B-2) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stahley and second by Steele, to adopt a Resolution extending Keystone Opportunity Zone term for tax parcel 04000044032H and parcel 04000044032J was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

On a motion by Benner and second by Yocum, an FMLA qualifying leave for employee #MG1815 effective May 8, 2009, on an intermittent bases; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. First reading of revised Policy 504 Employment of Classified Employees (per Exhibit C).
- B. First reading of revised Policy 810 Transportation (per Exhibit D).
- C. First reading of revised Policy 810.3 School Bus Idling (per Exhibit E).
- D. First reading of revised Policy 818 Contracted Services (per Exhibit F).
- E. Participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program for the 2009-2010 school year.
- F. To authorize the Board Secretary to send a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment for the 2009-2010 school year to those non-instructional employees and substitutes employed less than 12 months.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss negotiations and personnel issues.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident and employee, Susan Adam expressed concern over the use of King Coal Tours for future trips due to recent problems. Mr. Becker explained that when they contract with a charter bus service, they are not guaranteed to get a bus from that particular charter line due to

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the practice of charter services contracting with other lines. President Yeager recommended that the district develop their own contract or agreement to ensure better service, and to provide compensation in the event of faulty service.

Mrs. Adam also asked why a bus contractor has been taking drivers to breakfast and discussing salary and benefits if the contracting issue is not a done deal. Solicitor Roberts replied that the district cannot control the actions of a third party. The public was assured that it was definitely not a done deal.

District resident and employee, Derek Stine, questioned if the motion pertaining to the letters of reasonable assurance had been amended since the agenda had been posted on the district website. President Yeager replied that it had been amended to include everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Yocum and second by Vought, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary