

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

The August 10, 2009, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 8:40 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 (*Absent*)
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; 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 Fiscal Item B and all Personnel Items on the agenda would be considered action items. Fiscal Item C was removed from the agenda for further discussion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Solicitor Roberts requested to address Fiscal Item A due to the presence of Attorney Schlesinger. Solicitor Roberts gave a brief explanation of the Quitclaim Deed. The item was opened for public comment. Hearing none, President Yeager called for a motion.

On a motion by Steele and second by Vought, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to a real estate matter (per Exhibit A) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The deed was signed and sealed.

2.) Mr. Reh announced that prior to the meeting at 5:00 p.m., the District held a very successful orientation program for new students and parents. He commended the administrators and Guidance Counselors for organizing the program.

High School Guidance Counselors, Jenna Sellers and Tom Donlan; Middle School Guidance Counselor, Susan Robinson; and Elementary Guidance Counselor, Leslie Bieber; gave presentations on their daily activities and the services and programs they offer throughout the year.

3.) Mr. Shirvinski gave an update on elementary enrollment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that he, Mr. Stahley and Mr. Becker met briefly and Mr. Becker informed them that he was pretty sure the Basketball positions would be filled. President Yeager asked about a code of conduct for coaches and evaluation forms. Mr.

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Becker stated that he and Mr. Sharrow needed to sit down and discuss both items. Mr. Steele stated that it would be good practice for the High School Principal to see the evaluations for the Head Coaches. He noted that it would also be a way to evaluate the Athletic Director. Mr. Becker stated that he is aware of issues that come across Mr. Sharrow's desk. Mr. Porter recommended contacting PSBA for sample evaluation forms. President Yeager noted that P.I.A.A. might also have sample evaluation forms. Mr. Steele recommended contacting other districts for sample forms.

Facilities & Services - Michael Yeager reported that they discussed the electrical issues at the transportation garage. An inspector is scheduled to come in the following week. Tim George recommended that the plasma cutter be used in a different location to alleviate some of the problems. They did start the process of replacing the breakers and conduit. The committee also discussed the energy audit. They hope to have a report by September. Mr. George reported that the fields were sprayed on Friday. The high school water tank recoating is complete and the elementary hot water heater replacement is complete. Nearly all of the twenty-one items scheduled for the summer have been completed. Mr. George stated that there are a few items left to complete. He credited his staff and the summer help for getting the work done. The locker room floor has had a base coat of paint. President Yeager asked about the other hockey field. Mr. George stated that he is looking to swap some dirt with a local contractor. The stadium is closed and locked at night.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported the committee met August 3rd. They began the meeting with a Transportation Committee update. They received bus bids. They will need to add a 48-passenger bus to replace a worn out bus. They discussed fuel oil purchase. The Joint Purchasing Council (JPC) will allow the district to join them in the bidding process. The differential is lower through the JPC than if the district had gone with its own bids. They discussed health care. Next week the business manager will give a presentation on the district's current health care. Locust Township has asked for a donation toward a \$5,000 purchase for K-9 patrol. They discussed it and decided against it because the State Police can be used for that service if needed.

The building project financing was discussed. Due to the change in the law, \$30 million could be borrowed instead of the original \$20 million. The financing process can be held off for awhile to see what option is best. RBC Capital Markets and Janney Montgomery Scott seem to be the two viable candidates. They discussed bond counsel and asked for past fees. They also discussed whether to go with a construction manager or a clerk of the works, and the timetable for the bond. Mr. Porter announced that they held an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel. Mr. Reh noted that a special Board meeting would need to be held on September 19th to award the bid for the 48-passenger bus. Several times were discussed. They agreed to check with Mr. Stellfox.

Mr. Porter expressed his reservations regarding the purchase of the 15' bat-wing mower. He stated that it was oversized for the tractor. Mr. George stated that it was almost identical to the previous mower and it was less expensive than a 14' mower. Mr. Porter noted that they don't want a bigger tractor on the game fields. Mr. Porter noted that the district has a 35 horsepower tractor and a 100 horsepower tractor is recommended to run the mower.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. The following policies will be presented for first readings at the next meeting: 008 Organizational Chart, 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings, 915 Relations with Booster Organizations. He noted that Policy 915 may not be entirely ready for a first reading. They plan to identify the presidents of all of the Booster organizations and send copies of the policy to them

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and solicit their input. Mr. Porter stated that he did not see anything pertaining to audits in the policy. He noted that it is a very good business practice for an organization that is raising money in the name of the district to be required to provide an accounting of their books. Solicitor Roberts stated that anything can be required, but the issue is enforcement. Mr. Steele stated that an annual audit requirement will be added to the policy. It was agreed that parent organizations should also be included in the process.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that they met with the Transportation Coordinator and the mechanics and got a briefing on the status of the fleet. He asked Mrs. Pheasant how money could be saved. Mrs. Pheasant worked on a plan to double up runs in Elysburg and Catawissa, which could possibly save \$8,000. The committee met again this evening and went over the routes again.

CSIU - No report was given.

Vo-Tech - No meeting was held in July.

President Yeager asked about Mr. Reh's meeting with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Mr. Reh reported that he, Barry Brobst and Heather Schmidt met with Jim Vogel, a consultant with PDE. They will be conducting a site visit in September. Mr. Vogel did state that the plan is sound due to the fact the district is looking to bring back the Emotional Support and Life Skills students. He also noted that it is a sound plan to bring the Middle School under one roof. They will need to check the existing structure of the high school that will not be affected by the new construction to ensure that it meets PDE's standards.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Porter asked about several invoices. He stated that he would come in and review the invoices.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, to award the bid for two (2) 2004 Bluebird International 72-passenger School Buses to Brightbill Body Works, Inc. in the amount of \$81,800; \$40,900 each (**Bid tabulation per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Job description for the position of Paraprofessional for 5th Grade Reading (per Exhibit E).
- B. Employment of the following individuals as Security Personnel for the 2009-2010 school year at a rate of \$30.00 per event:
 - Phyllis Baylor
 - Robert Beyers
 - Dean Delsite

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- Dion Eppinette
- Thomas E. Gotshall
- Jodyann Kirwin
- Stephen Kirwin
- Linda L. Mayernick
- Stephen Price
- Ralph Shoup

- C. To correct the hourly rate of Jacquelyn Burke (Summer Tutor) from \$10 per hour to \$21 per hour in June/\$22 per hour in July effective June 15, 2009, 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 Yocum and second by Starr, to adopt the following Language Arts materials for the 2009-2010 school year for 5th grade ELA (English, Reading, Writing, & 5th Grade Resource Room) was presented for approval:

- “StoryTown/Excursions” Series, 5th grade Edition for PA, from Houghton-Mifflin-Harcourt Publisher, Copyright 2009

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager asked Solicitor Roberts to update the Board regarding a contract with charter bus services. Solicitor Roberts reported that he contacted two carriers and they said they would not be interested in any type of penalty language because there are things they cannot control. Another carrier faxed him some sample language, but it only limited their liability to the contract price. Penalty language would reduce the probability of getting carriers to service the district.

Mr. Steele stated that it seems that over the past several weeks there have been problems with Power School. He asked if the issues are being addressed and if Power School is providing support. Mrs. Monick stated that there are new rollover procedures that are very different from the previous system. She noted that Mrs. Schetroma has been in contact with Power School to ensure that she is doing everything properly. Mrs. Monick was not aware of the problems with transportation. She noted that the transportation information was not updated throughout the year and the rosters were not developed.

Mr. Reh announced that an executive session would be held following the regular meeting for personnel and to consult with counsel regarding due process litigation.

Mr. Porter asked about the DeMans invoice for \$5,929. He asked if the district was getting quotes on athletic equipment that exceeds \$4,000. Mr. Becker stated that he would check with Mr. Sharrow. He also noted that the invoice from DeMans was not all for one individual item being purchased. Solicitor Roberts stated that if items that are normally purchased as a package exceed \$4,000, then it should be bid.

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident and mechanic, Derek Stine, noted that the district seems to be using charter buses too often. Mr. Stine recommended that the Booster Presidents be invited to the next Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Steele stated that they intended to invite them. President Yeager recommended that the head coaches also be invited.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary