

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

The August 17, 2009 Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:33 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*)

Paul Starr (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought (*Absent*)

Charles Porter (*Arrived 7:35 p.m.*)

Richard Steele

Michael Yeager

Eric Stahley

David Stellfox

John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Brenda Monick, 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 items on the agenda would be action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He reminded Board members that the site visit by PDE was scheduled for September 2nd.

2.) Mr. Becker distributed a report on Advanced Placement courses and testing to Board members. Mr. Stellfox asked why forty percent of the students do not take the test. Mr. Becker replied that there is a cost to the test. Some students feel they are not prepared or feel they won't pass the difficult test. It is a cumulative end-of-year test. Students need to achieve a four out of five to earn a college credit. All students are not accepted into the courses. Biology AP will not be offered this coming year. Mr. Porter asked if it was possible to get more feedback pertaining to the scores to use as an evaluation tool or a measure of accountability. Mr. Stellfox noted that it is difficult to determine from the numbers if anyone received credits. President Yeager recommended developing an award for a 5 Club, similar to the 700 Club.

3.) Per the Board's request, Mr. Rodgers and Mrs. Kreisher developed and presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the district's health care benefits. They explained the various employment contracts, the health benefits and dental and vision plans within the CSIU Trust, premium shares, waivers, and deductibles for in network and out of network providers. Mr. Stellfox stated that he would like to see a breakdown of the number of employees under each plan. Mr. Porter asked if the Trust is looking at ways to lower their premiums. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively and stated that he wouldn't be surprised if the Trust adds additional plans in the future. Board members asked for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Porter asked if the district could do some pricing on its own. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively, but noted that there is a cost to leave the Trust, and the experience of a small group could have a large impact on premiums, compared to the experience of all of the districts participating in the Trust.

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4.) Mr. Nunkester distributed Middle School Handbooks to show Board members the finished product.

5.) Kindergarten registration and the HART Back to School Bar-B-Q would be held later in the week. He also reported that therapy dogs would be used in the elementary this year as part of a reading program to encourage students to read and improve their reading skills.

6.) Mr. Reh reported that the administration had done a great job preparing for the start of the school year. Three in-service days would be held the following week. The district will be a pilot for an inclusion program. Southern will be the first district in the state to have a district-wide needs assessment pertaining to inclusion practices.

7.) He reiterated that the site visit by PDE would take place on September 2nd at 1:30 p.m. and Board members are invited to attend.

President Yeager asked the status of the bus mailers. Mr. Rodgers replied that Mrs. Schetroma and Mrs. Pheasant have been working on them and they are currently being printed. They should go out in the mail the following day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. The middle school technology lab was updated with 25 new N-Computing Devices. Prism Works updated the 7th and 8th grade network. The following new purchases were made for the 2009-2010 school year: two mobile lab carts with 30 Netbooks each for 7th and 8th grade, 96 new flat screen computers to update K-6 rooms and labs, 7 new interactive whiteboards for grades 4 through 6, and 9 new projectors with surround sound systems. A comprehensive online survey of all teaching staff will be conducted via Google to assess curricular resources, technology and professional development needs. Reading and Language Arts teachers in grades 5 through 12 will take part in new textbook training on August 25th. Teachers in grades K-4 will be learning how to implement the use of the new Saxon Spelling and Phonics resources. The CIT Office will be coordinating the formation of a committee to meet and discuss future needs for professional development and ways in which staff can meet the needs for Act 48. As part of the Act 48 Committee, a group of teachers will meet regularly to address professional development using a peer-coaching training model. All of the new English/Language Arts textbooks and supplemental resources arrived two weeks ago and have been distributed to all 6th through 12th grade classrooms.

Negotiations and Personnel – Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that a negotiations session was held August 10th and the next session is scheduled for August 19th. Health care continues to be an issue, which prompted this evening's presentation. The Board has been updated.

PSBA Liaison – The major discussion item is the Keystone Exams, which needs to be approved by the House and Senate and then go through the regulatory committee process. The second topic of discussion is that the State budget is still not passed. The impact on school districts is significant. President Yeager asked if Southern Columbia was in a position to deal with no State budget. Mr. Rodgers replied that fortunately substantial tax revenue will be received within the next two months. The district also has a healthy approved Fund balance above what the State recommends. The district could rely on the Fund balance and replenish it when the budget is passed.

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TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes of July 1 (*special meeting*), July 6 (*special meeting*) and July 20, 2009
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$501,727.67, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$37,477.17 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$9,391.42.

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter questioned several invoices. He stated that the Board needs to know that the mower purchased is oversized for the district's tractor. He noted that a bigger tractor could reduce mowing time with the right sized mower. Mr. George stated that the mower is identical to the current mower. The smaller mower was more expensive. Mr. Rodgers recommended that they evaluate their equipment over the fall and winter and possibly use some equipment for a trade towards the purchase of a new tractor.

Mr. Porter made a motion to separate out check #20009 to The Bloomsburg Hospital. Mr. Rodgers stated that he directed Mrs. Pheasant to notify the drivers that they must use Geisinger for all future physicals. At that time she posted a sign in the bus garage outside the driver's mailbox. Mr. Rodgers' plan is to re-notify all of the drivers and have an orientation meeting with all of the drivers on this issue, as well as other issues. The drivers will actually sign off to confirm that they have been notified that if they do not use the school appointed physician for their physical, they will be personally responsible for the cost of the physical. Due to the fact that there is only a sign outside their mailboxes and they have not been individually notified, he would recommend paying this invoice. Mr. Porter withdrew his motion. Mr. Stahley stated that he will no longer vote for any future bills from The Bloomsburg Hospital for physicals. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. An Agreement with The Learning Lamp to provide ESL services for the 2009-2010 school year for four hours per day for up to 180 days at a maximum cost of \$21,257.28 and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District.
- B. To adopt a Resolution pertaining to the purchase of a 48-passenger School Bus (per Exhibit A-1).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Activities Advisors, Department Lead Teachers, Building Lead Teachers, Support Teachers and Tech Lead Teachers for the 2009-2010 school year **(per Exhibit A)**.
- B. Athletic/Activities Volunteers (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test) for the 2009-2010 school year **(per Exhibit B)**.
- C. Band and Choral positions for the 2009-2010 school year **(per Exhibit C)**.
- D. The 2009-2010 Substitute List [pending completion of all employment requirements] **(per Exhibit D)**.
- E. A correction to the date of hire of Susette Wertman as a Regular Run Bus Driver to June 9, 2009.
- F. Employment of Kimberly Chaundy as Head Junior High Girls Basketball Coach (pending completion of all employment requirements) for the 2009-2010 school year, with 11 points and a salary of \$1,635.
- G. Employment of David Townsend as Assistant Junior High Girls Basketball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year, with 11 points and a salary of \$1,401.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. First reading of revised Policy 008 Organizational Chart **(per Exhibit E)**.
- B. First reading of revised Policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings **(per Exhibit F)**.
- C. List of Frequently Used Assessments **(Per Exhibit G)**.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager stated that the band uniforms would not be delivered until September 17th. Mr. Stellfox stated that there was a guaranteed delivery date. Mr. Rodgers agreed to check the bid specs.

Mr. Steele asked about the gym locker room floor. Mr. George explained that they used the paint they had as a sample to wear test it and see how it holds up.

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President Yeager noted that the previous week he noticed that the windows in the weight room had been open while the air conditioning was on. Mr. George said that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Porter requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss salaries and negotiations. He also announced that an executive session was held at the last Finance meeting to discuss personnel issues.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary