

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

The September 14, 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; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Brenda Monick, Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker and Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Dana Carroll-Lucas, Grants Project Director; and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all Fiscal and all Personnel Items would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He reported that the Governor does not feel there is enough educational funding in the proposed State budget. Mr. Porter asked how much of the stimulus funds were included in the District's budget. Mr. Rodgers replied that there were two state proposals available when the budget was being developed. One had the stimulus monies in the basic state subsidies and the other plan had them outside the basic subsidies. The District took a conservative approach and did not use either of those proposals. A three percent increase over the previous year was used.

2.) The band uniforms were scheduled to be shipped within 120 days of the purchase order. Mr. Rodgers noted that the contract states that "the undersigned agrees to ship the entire order within 90 to 120 calendar days after approval of the sample and receipt of necessary details and all measurements." The purchase order was sent timely to the vendor on May 15th; however there is a gray area as to when the final measurements were received by the vendor. He did have confirmation that the uniforms would be shipped on the 17th.

3.) Mr. Reh reported that the District met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all areas. He commended the administration, staff and students for this achievement.

4.) The architect for the proposed building project is coming on Friday at 9:00 a.m. to meet with administrators and teachers on room layout and technology infrastructure that is being proposed in the project. Board members were invited to attend.

5.) Concerning the site visit held on September 2nd, the new construction is reimbursable. Barry Brobst is planning to attend the October 5th Facilities/Finance Committee meeting to

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explain the Plan Con A and B approvals and to discuss the payback and how reimbursement would be available to the district.

6.) The Policy Committee met earlier in the evening with Booster Organizations regarding Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations. The committee will be revising the language in the policy before presenting it to the Board for a first reading.

7.) Mr. Reh referred to a PSBA article about the benefit of four-day weeks which mentioned Southern Columbia's four-day week schedule in January and February 2009.

8.) Mr. Nunkester reported that S.M.A.R.T., the parent-teacher organization, would like to donate a Middle School sign. He asked for approval of the donation. He also asked for approval to hold the Senior Citizen Dinner again this year.

9.) Mrs. Monick reported that she would have more information regarding AYP at the next Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee meeting.

10.) Ms. Carroll-Lucas distributed a handout regarding grant-funded programs and reported on some of the upcoming programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the meeting met prior to the meeting. They reviewed coaches evaluation forms from Shikellamy, Central Columbia and Bloomsburg Area school districts. The forms are basically the same as Southern's, but the format is a little different. The District has fifteen head coaches and over fifty coaches total including assistant coaches. Mr. Vought reported that Mr. Sharrow asked that if any Board member receives a call concerning a coach, the individual should be directed to use the proper chain of command and address the problem with the coach initially. Mr. Steele asked if there is a coach's handbook. Mr. Becker stated that there is an athletic handbook, but it is for students. He also noted that all District coaches must follow the P.I.A.A. Code of Ethics. He added that he and Mr. Sharrow have been working on developing a district code of ethics for coaches.

Facilities - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that all of the work scheduled over the summer has been completed. There are some electrical issues at the bus garage. The energy audit was completed and a presentation will be given October 5th. Dave Strunk, engineer, will be here on October 5th at 6:00 p.m. to discuss mechanical specifications. The committee discussed the Priority List and preventative maintenance. Mr. Stellfox asked if the preventative maintenance is being recorded. Mr. George replied affirmatively. Mr. Porter asked about the preventative maintenance program that was provided by FMS and was kept here as part of the termination agreement. Mr. George stated that from what he has seen of the program, the district does not have the manpower or the budget to strictly follow the program. Mr. Stellfox stated that the point is that every piece of equipment on campus that takes normal maintenance needs to be known, and it needs to be written down. Mr. Stahley noted that the documentation would be helpful at budget time to anticipate capital expenditures as they may arise. Mrs. Monick stated that she has been looking for a technology "help desk" that also has a maintenance component. She will check to see if there is a preventative maintenance component.

Finance - Mr. Rodgers reported that the committee met September 2nd. An update on the 48-passenger bus bid was given. Building project financing and a proposed timeline was discussed. It appears that the proposed project could be done with the millage impact being less than a mill for the next three years. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was asked that RBC Dain Rauscher, Inc. be put on the agenda for approval as underwriter for the proposed issuance of the general obligation bonds. A healthcare analysis is being put together for the upcoming negotiations session. All of the area business managers met with CS Trust and made it clear that

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they need more options. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Reh met with Anthony DaRe, healthcare consultant, who has assisted Central Columbia with their healthcare. He was very informative and presented several savings options. Mr. Rodgers and Mr. Reh also met with a Geisinger representative to see if it makes sense to deal with a vendor directly instead of through the Trust. One of the major issues in dealing with the Trust is that if the District would leave the Trust, there would be a buyout amount to cover open claims at the time of termination. The buyout amount could be approximately \$1 million. Mr. Porter asked if there is an open enrollment season with the Trust. Mr. Rodgers replied that GHP and Keystone renew January 1st and the High Mark plan renews July 1st.

The committee received a quick update on the State budget. The District's cash flow is still okay due to real estate tax revenue. The committee entered into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Policy and Programs - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with Booster and parent organization presidents and head coaches, prior to the regular meeting, to discuss the Relations with Booster Organizations policy. The second reading and adoption of revised Policy 008 Organizational Chart and revised Policy 903 Public Participation in Board Meetings are included on the agenda for approval.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled.

CSIU - Mike Yeager stated that he had an opportunity to meet with Dr. Witten recently. He gave a brief background of the CSIU and its operations.

Vo-Tech – Mr. Stahley reported that the next meeting would be held the following evening. Dr. Rushton, Director, will be present at the next District Board meeting to give an update on academic achievement at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School.

ITEMS - TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS - MINUTES/INVOICES

The Board entered into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to consult with counsel regarding potential litigation and to discuss personnel matters. They reconvened the regular meeting at 9:06 p.m. with all members present except for Mr. Benner.

ITEMS - FISCAL

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

- A. To ratify the bid award for (1) 2008 Bluebird Vision 48-passenger School Bus to Brightbill Body Works, Inc., in the amount of \$60,700 (Bid tabulation per Exhibit A).
- B. To adopt a Resolution to name RBC Dain Rauscher, Inc., d/b/a RBC Capital Markets, as underwriter for the proposed issuance of its General Obligation Bonds (per Exhibit B).
- C. *(Item C was pulled from the block vote.)*

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D. To accept the donation of a Middle School sign from S.M.A.R.T.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yocum and second by Vought, a Sports Medicine Service Agreement between the District and Geisinger Medical Center (per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, President Yeager noted that the contract states that Katie Fisher would be hired for the initial year of the three-year contract. Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see something added to the contract stating that she would remain employed contingent upon favorable performance evaluations.

After a brief discussion, on a motion by Steele and second by Starr to table the prior motion was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-Abstentions (**Porter and Stellfox abstained**).

ITEMS - PERSONNEL

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

- A. To ratify a Memorandum of Agreement between the Southern Columbia Education Association and the District (**per Exhibit D**).
- B. *(Item B was removed from the agenda.)*
- C. To accept the resignation of Linda Schoch from the position of High School Secretary effective August 21, 2009. Mrs. Schoch has been with the district since August 1997.
- D. To accept the resignation of Christine Richard from the position of Full-time Paraprofessional effective September 15, 2009. Mrs. Richard has been with the district since November 2003.
- E. Employment of Lanny Conner as a Game Manager for the 2009-2010 school year at a rate of \$50 per game (80 games maximum for all Game Managers combined).
- F. To change Timothy Foust from Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball Coach to Head Junior High Boys Basketball Coach (7th Grade) with 17.75 points and a salary of \$2,638.
- G. Employment of Ryan Keefer as Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball Coach (9th Grade) for the 2009-2010 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) with 10 points and a salary of \$1,274.
- H. To change Tracy Sudol from Substitute Paraprofessional to Part-time Paraprofessional (working 4.5 hours per day) effective August 27, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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- I. To designate the following as Volunteer Assistant Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test):
- Anthony Rodriguez (Boys Basketball)
 - Brett Myers (Boys Basketball)
- J. The addition of the following individual(s) to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective August 27, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- Elizabeth Corcoran (Citizenship)
 - Penny Fetterman (Elementary)
 - Cheryl Morrison (Elementary)
 - Jeanette Samsel (Elementary)
 - Deborah Lauer (Bus/Van Driver)
 - Laurie Wilson (Transportation Aide)
 - Paula Wittenrich (Transportation Aide)
- K. To appoint Ted Yeager to serve as a Representative on the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Authority for a three-year term; July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.
- L. Employment of Nicole Heim for the position of High School Secretary effective September 15, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- M. To accept the resignation of Cassidy Shults from the position of Head Wrestling Coach effective September 9, 2009. Mr. Shults has been in the position since October 2007.
- N. To change Kevin Yoder from a Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach to Assistant Softball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year effective September 15, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements) with 11.5 points and a salary of \$1,876.
- O. A correction to the date of hire of Edward Gleeson as a Regular Run Bus Driver to June 9, 2009

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Porter referred to Policy 008 Organizational Chart and questioned the possibility of having the Transportation Coordinator supervise the mechanics. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would be open to discussing it further, but he doesn't feel a change is necessary at this time. Some procedures are currently being implemented to improve the department.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked if there would be any savings if the tax increase would be implemented in one year instead of over three years. Mr. Rodgers stated that the District would need to apply for exceptions or go to referendum. He noted that he would have the underwriter provide an analysis

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to compare the financing costs of phasing in over three years or doing it all at once. Mr. Steele also asked if he could determine the additional cost of delaying the project.

Mr. Starr asked if any buses would be scrapped. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Mehalick thanked Mrs. Richard for her years of service to the District and noted that she did a great job.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary