

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

The November 9, 2009, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:44 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 (*Absent*)

Paul Starr
Richard Steele
David Stellfox

Timothy Vought
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; 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; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all Personnel Items, as well as Fiscal Items C and D on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) Mr. Reh presented a plaque to Jim Roth, Head Football Coach, in honor of his 300th win. Mr. Becker also presented him with a citation from Representative Robert Belfonte's office.
- 2.) Mr. Reh presented Mr. Porter a certificate of appreciation from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association in honor of his twelve years of service on the Board.
- 3.) He announced that school will be in session on Veteran's Day. A School Reach announcement was launched at 6:30 to all parents. A Veteran's Day Assembly would be held in the high school. All area veterans are invited to attend.
- 4.) He congratulated Mr. Porter, Mr. Stahley, Mr. Steele, Mr. Vought and Mr. Yeager on being re-elected to the Board. He also congratulated Mrs. Jennifer Shoup on being elected to the Board to represent Region II.
- 5.) Mr. Benner's resignation is on the agenda for approval. He was elected to the Catawissa Town Council and must resign from the Board in order to serve on the Council.
- 6.) He announced that the Reorganization meeting and dinner would be held at Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School on December 2nd beginning at 6:00 p.m. A tour for any interested members will begin at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Porter reminded Board members that were re-elected or elected to bring their certificates of election to the reorganization meeting so they could be sworn in that evening.
- 8.) Mr. Becker reported that Southern Columbia had a very successful academic team that participated in the WVIA Scholastic Scrimmage. Southern placed first in IU 16. They competed against Honesdale but were defeated. The competitions will air on WVIA in January.

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Mr. Porter asked if an anemometer was ever installed to record historical data. Mr. Becker replied negatively, but agreed to talk to Mr. Kelchner about it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled.

Facilities - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that the committee met last Monday. They reviewed the Priority List and the energy audit. The Safety Committee bylaws are being formed. The Pest Management Program was also discussed.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson reported that the building project financing was discussed. It involves paying back reimbursement from the previous project. It appears that there would be almost a \$2.9 million net return to the district if the reimbursement is paid back. That would make the district eligible for greater reimbursement on the next building project. The Department of Education needs to know the district's decision in order to move forward with the PlanCon process. Healthcare plans were discussed. Representatives from the CStrust, Geisinger and Blue Cross gave presentations to the AFSCME group regarding a \$250 deductible plan. He noted that the Board had requested a \$500 deductible option. The State audit is underway and the local audit is complete. Mr. Rodgers expects the audit report sometime in December. The committee discussed the cost of the building project. He will continue his report at the next Board meeting.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled, but the first reading of Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations would be presented later on the agenda for approval. A draft policy pertaining to Gifted Education is also being reviewed by the committee.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting and they discussed the mechanics' daily logs. The vehicle maintenance work order system is up and running. They discussed electronic bus routing systems, trip sheets being signed by coaches and camera systems. There is only one working camera system remaining. They will be getting some quotes for new cameras.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that they had a presentation on the migrant education program in Pennsylvania. State funding to Intermediate Units was cut. The State required all of the school districts to make up the subsidies that were cut, but CSIU doesn't take subsidies from any school district in the area. The IU will send a check to the district for the amount of subsidy not received because it was forwarded directly to the IU from the State. PennCon was also discussed in relation to alternative energy sources. They negotiated salaries for all of the supervisors at the CSIU. They settled on a 2.0 percent raise and a possible 2.0 merit raise. Mr. Porter expressed concern over the fact that the people managing the CStrust are all beneficiaries of insurance from the Trust. President Yeager asked Mr. Rodgers to look into the bylaws of the Trust pertaining to trustees. Mr. Rodgers agreed to do so, but added that it is the responsibility of the local trustees to deliver feedback from the Board to try to initiate change. Mr. Porter requested a copy of the audit report for the CStrust. Mr. Rogers agreed to obtain the report.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Yeager reported that an administrative change would be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Solicitor Roberts announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to consult with counsel pertaining to litigation. An executive session will also be held following the meeting for the same topic.

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ITEMS - TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS - MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS - FISCAL

On a motion by Starr and second by Vought, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to the reimbursement on Project 2398 was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Yocum questioned the lump sum payback and asked if they weren't considering another option. Mr. Reh replied that Brian Bradley from RBC used the lump sum because he built it into the bond issue. Mr. Rodgers stated that it was the recommendation of the administration to pay it off with the bond proceeds rather than from future subsidies. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, to approve an Agreement with the parents of a Special Education student was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of Jennifer Stine 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).
- B. The addition of the following individual(s) to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Lisa Halczak (Elementary) - effective October 9, 2009
 - Loreen Romania (Elementary) - effective November 13, 2009
- C. Employment of Nathan Shirk as Assistant Junior High Wrestling Coach for the 2009-2010 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) with 11 points and a salary of \$1,401.
- D. A correction to the starting salary of Jerry Marks, Head Varsity Wrestling Coach, to \$3,244 for the 2009-2010 school year (*85% of full salary per amendment to Coaches Salary Criteria and Point Value approved June 15, 2009*).
- E. The following Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coaches for the 2009-2010 school year:
 - Christopher Brown
 - Jerid Lindenmuth
- F. Employment of the following Nurses for the 2009-2010 After School Programs effective October 20, 2009 at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
 - Jean Atherton (\$22 per hour)
 - Beth McGinley (contracted rate)
 - Lisa Fleishauer (contracted rate)

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- G. Motion to accept the resignation of Timothy Benner from the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors effective November 9, 2009. Mr. Benner has been on the Board since October 2007.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager noted that twenty-nine high school students and approximately ten 8th grade students were inducted into the National Honor Society at the recent induction. President Yeager asked if the transportation phone number issue had been resolved. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively.

Mr. Porter stated that he heard a complaint from a parent that they had to wait in line for twenty minutes in the morning to drop off their child. Mr. Shirvinski stated that the traffic seems to flow quite well and there has not been a twenty minute backlog at any time. Mr. Becker agreed with Mr. Shirvinski, and added that a short backlog does form on Route 487 coming from Elysburg, but not on campus.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Steele, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary