

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

The November 16, 2009, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 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**

Charles Porter

Eric Stahley

Paul Starr (*Absent*)

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; 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 announced that Mr. Starr, Mr. Becker and Mr. George were not present due to illness.
- 2.) The Reorganization meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the High School Library with a dinner held in the cafeteria. A special meeting for general purposes will be held the same evening.
- 3.) It was determined that at this time a Facilities/Finance Committee meeting would not be needed for the month of December.
- 4.) The newly and re-elected members were reminded that they must present their certificates of election prior to being sworn in at the Reorganization meeting.
- 5.) Monday and Tuesday of the following week are Act 80 days scheduled for parent/teacher conferences. Wednesday is a professional development day set aside for training for the entire faculty on Extended Thinking Skills, which is part of Learning Focused Solutions. Mrs. Monick invited Board members to attend the training.
- 6.) Mr. Nunkester reported that Craig Long would address the Board at the December 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting regarding the second Law Day for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. May 13<sup>th</sup> is the target date. The Senior Citizens' Dinner will be held December 15<sup>th</sup> and 122 people have signed up so far. Reservations will be cut-off at 150. The Twelve-Twenty-Four concert will be held December 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale in the school offices
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Page 2

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### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting. They discussed the wireless network and the After School Acceleration and Previewing (ASAP) program for third through sixth graders. It will take place over the next five months each Tuesday and Thursday after school for one and one-half hours. The staff is in the process of determining which students should participate. Contacts with parents will be made during conferences. The committee also discussed PSSA test scores for 2008. Mr. Porter asked if Power School, the State's record system and Performance Tracker overlap. Mrs. Monick replied that each of the systems offers different reports and provides different information. She noted that she needs to acquire more training on Performance Tracker in order to make a decision on whether to continue with the program. Mr. Mehalick noted that eMetric and PVAAS only take data from state assessments. Performance Tracker includes data from local assessments, which makes it a valuable resource. A new assessment piece of Power School is available and will be researched further. Mr. Nunkester stated that Performance Tracker is used extensively in the Middle School. A whiteboard demonstration would be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that three questions need to be answered pertaining to the proposed building project: 1) What is the actual effect on the taxpayer of the millage increase? 2) What is the overall cost to the taxpayer? 3) What is the outlook for five years?

Mr. Rodgers reported that the average Columbia County taxpayer that resides in a house with a fair market value of \$150,000 would see an increase of \$35 in years one, two and three for a net impact of \$105. In Northumberland County, the same scenario would result in an increase of \$42 each year with a net impact of \$126 over the three-year period. The cumulative impact of the building project, taking into account the millage that is currently reserved to support the existing debt service (due to expire in 2015), for Columbia County would be 6.56 mills and 10.08 mills in Northumberland County. That translates to \$266 to a taxpayer in Columbia County living in a \$150,000 home. The impact to a taxpayer in Northumberland County living in a \$150,000 home would be \$328. The five-year projection is based on an assumption that the PSERS rate would increase to twenty percent and also includes a projection for the possibility of an increase to thirty percent. The net impact to the District if PSERS rates go to twenty percent relates to 3.5 mills in Columbia County and 5.38 mills in Northumberland County. The net tax impact to the average homeowner living in a fair market value home of \$150,000 in Columbia County would be \$142 and \$175 in Northumberland County. Taking that same approach for a worst case scenario; if PSERS rates would spike to thirty percent, it would break down to 6.12 mills in Columbia County and 9.41 in Northumberland County. That would result in a real estate tax of \$248 for the average taxpayer residing in a \$150,000 home in Columbia County and \$306 for the average taxpayer residing in a \$150,000 home in Northumberland County. Mr. Rodgers emphasized that this is a projection and these figures could change.

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Negotiations and Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the next session is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

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Vo-Tech – Eric Stahley, JOC Representative, reported that there were no findings on the annual audit. A polling place for the general election was changed from the Community Hall in South Centre Township to the Vo-Tech Café. There was a break-in at the school. Two panes of glass were broken and an unsuccessful cash register attempted break-in occurred. Administration is still working on PSSA scores. They participated in career days at Southern Columbia and Penn Tech. There are currently four adult education classes running with seventeen adult education classes listed with Career Link. They participated in the job fair at the Columbia Mall. Mr. Larry Breech and Ms. Hailey Breech were present with a petition of eighty-eight signatures against the name change. There was some discussion over the purchase of a tractor and attachments from the State contract.

**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 Vought and second by Yocum, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Minutes of October 12 and 19, 2009.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$323,895.08, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$30,040.00 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$13,840.39.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**ITEMS – FISCAL**

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2009-2010 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. Paying December 2009 bills with terms equal to or less than “Net 45 days.”

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**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

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

- A. Motion to approve the following individuals as Tutors for the After School Acceleration and Previewing Program (ASAP) effective December 8, 2009:
  - Barbara Hornberger
  - Sarah Knouse

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**Board Meeting Minutes**  
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On a motion by Vought and second by Steele, the addition of the following individuals to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective November 17, 2009 (pending completion of all employment requirements) was presented for approval:

- Nicholas Fisher (Paraprofessional)
- Sherry Humphrey (Registered Nurse)
- Steven Krehel (Bus/Van Driver)
- Annette Hunsinger (Bus/Van Driver)
- Valerie Christman (Bus/Van Driver)
- Jody Roup (Bus/Van Driver)

By roll call vote the motion carried; 6-Yes, 0-No 1-Abstainsion (Stahley abstained).

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On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, the first reading of new Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations was presented for approval. Mr. Porter stated that he is still not sure that internal controls are included in the policy. After some discussion, Mr. Porter made a motion to table the motion, with a second by Stellfox. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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District resident, William Shultz, asked when the next Policy Committee meeting would be held. He noted that he needed to discuss some policy issues that deal with a student and some personnel matters. Solicitor Roberts stated that since there were personnel implications, the matter should be discussed in executive session following the meeting.

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**800 SOUTHERN DRIVE**  
**CATAWISSA, PA 17820**

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The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Yeager welcomed everyone, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

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Charles Porter

Eric Stahley

Paul Starr (*Absent*)

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; district residents and members of the media.

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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 announced that Mr. Starr, Mr. Becker and Mr. George were not present due to illness.
- 2.) The Reorganization meeting has been rescheduled to Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be held in the High School Library with a dinner held in the cafeteria. A special meeting for general purposes will be held the same evening.
- 3.) It was determined that at this time a Facilities/Finance Committee meeting would not be needed for the month of December.
- 4.) The newly and re-elected members were reminded that they must present their certificates of election prior to being sworn in at the Reorganization meeting.
- 5.) Monday and Tuesday of the following week are Act 80 days scheduled for parent/teacher conferences. Wednesday is a professional development day set aside for training for the entire faculty on Extended Thinking Skills, which is part of Learning Focused Solutions. Mrs. Monick invited Board members to attend the training.
- 6.) Mr. Nunkester reported that Craig Long would address the Board at the December 7<sup>th</sup> special meeting regarding the second Law Day for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. May 13<sup>th</sup> is the target date. The Senior Citizens' Dinner will be held December 15<sup>th</sup> and 122 people have signed up so far. Reservations will be cut-off at 150. The Twelve-Twenty-Four concert will be held December 18<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale in the school offices
- 7.) It was determined that all committee meetings for the month of December would be cancelled and advertised accordingly.



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Finance - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that three questions need to be answered pertaining to the proposed building project: 1) What is the actual effect on the taxpayer of the millage increase? 2) What is the overall cost to the taxpayer? 3) What is the outlook for five years?

Mr. Rodgers reported that the average Columbia County taxpayer that resides in a house with a fair market value of \$150,000 would see an increase of \$35 in years one, two and three for a net impact of \$105. In Northumberland County, the same scenario would result in an increase of \$42 each year with a net impact of \$126 over the three-year period. The cumulative impact of the building project, taking into account the millage that is currently reserved to support the existing debt service (due to expire in 2015), for Columbia County would be 6.56 mills and 10.08 mills in Northumberland County. That translates to \$266 to a taxpayer in Columbia County living in a \$150,000 home. The impact to a taxpayer in Northumberland County living in a \$150,000 home would be \$328. The five-year projection is based on an assumption that the PSERS rate would increase to twenty percent and also includes a projection for the possibility of an increase to thirty percent. The net impact to the District if PSERS rates go to twenty percent relates to 3.5 mills in Columbia County and 5.38 mills in Northumberland County. The net tax impact to the average homeowner living in a fair market value home of \$150,000 in Columbia County would be \$142 and \$175 in Northumberland County. Taking that same approach for a worst case scenario; if PSERS rates would spike to thirty percent, it would break down to 6.12 mills in Columbia County and 9.41 in Northumberland County. That would result in a real estate tax of \$248 for the average taxpayer residing in a \$150,000 home in Columbia County and \$306 for the average taxpayer residing in a \$150,000 home in Northumberland County. Mr. Rodgers emphasized that this is a projection and these figures could change.

Healthcare was also discussed. Blue Cross and GHP are in the process of offering quotes. The PA Farm Bureau would not provide a quote until January. President Yeager asked if the Board would have the opportunity to make a decision on which plan to offer in negotiations. Mr. Porter stated that it would be a Board decision. Mr. Porter asked about the possibility of requesting that the \$500 deductible plan be added to the agenda for the CStrust meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to make the request. Mr. Rodgers agreed to do so.

Negotiations and Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the next session is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 16, 2009**  
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Vo-Tech – Eric Stahley, JOC Representative, reported that there were no findings on the annual audit. A polling place for the general election was changed from the Community Hall in South Centre Township to the Vo-Tech Café. There was a break-in at the school. Two panes of glass were broken and an unsuccessful cash register attempted break-in occurred. Administration is still working on PSSA scores. They participated in career days at Southern Columbia and Penn Tech. There are currently four adult education classes running with seventeen adult education classes listed with Career Link. They participated in the job fair at the Columbia Mall. Mr. Larry Breech and Ms. Hailey Breech were present with a petition of eighty-eight signatures against the name change. There was some discussion over the purchase of a tractor and attachments from the State contract.

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

- A. Minutes of October 12 and 19, 2009.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$323,895.08, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$30,040.00 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$13,840.39.

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

- A. Motion to approve the following individuals as Tutors for the After School Acceleration and Previewing Program (ASAP) effective December 8, 2009:
  - Barbara Hornberger
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*(List continued on page 4)*

**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 16, 2009**  
**Page 4**

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- Jessica Visnosky
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