

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

The January 18, 2010, 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

Charles Porter
Jennifer Shoup
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; Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick (*Arrived 7:42 p.m.*), Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; 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.) The district received State recognition for academic achievement for meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). All three schools within the district have achieved AYP since 2004.
- 2.) He requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel.
- 3.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that the elementary building is participating in a fundraiser called "Pennies for Patients," which benefits Leukemia and Lymphoma research.
- 4.) Earlier in the day, the district held a very successful in-service day dedicated to Learning Focused Solutions and the Standard Aligned System.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the regular meeting. In the near future all of the professional staff will be offered options to preselect training sessions to meet their individual professional development needs. Mrs. Monick held a training earlier in the day and went through a curriculum auditing procedure. Most of the core content standards are being taught at the appropriate grade level (75 to 80 percent). A few exceptions exist in some areas of science and social studies; one in particular in World Cultures. Language Arts curriculum is the most difficult to align because it is taught on a continuum. The teachers were very eager in completing the audit. About 80 percent were already returned. Mrs. Monick developed a website on Curriculum.

Negotiations and Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that a negotiations session is scheduled for Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. The AFSCME Union will be presenting their offer back to the district. He asked Mr. Rodgers to check with the Farm Bureau to see if they would have the information prior to the negotiations session on Wednesday.

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PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that a lot of the work at PSBA has to do with the pending and projected increases in contributions to pension funds. The current system is a defined benefit system and they want to move to a defined contribution system. PSBA is recommending a hybrid system, which would affect teachers hired after a certain date. They reported that they have support in both the House and Senate to introduce the legislation. Most recently, they had information concerning the Earned Income Tax consolidation. A resource guide is available at www.nepa.com, keyword: best practices. There is a Board President training camp being offered. A Legislative Advocacy Conference will be held April 25th and 26th in Harrisburg. The Keystone Exams regulation was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on January 9th. The effective date is in question.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Starr 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 Vought, the following items were presented for approval:

- A. Minutes of December 7, 2009 (Reorganization meeting) and December 7, 2009 (Special meeting).
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$404,707.87 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$18,284.18.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, budgetary transfers in the 2009-2010 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Vought, a Resolution pursuant to Section 311 of Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 (per Exhibit B) was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To designate Tyler Behrent as a Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).

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- B. To change Karen Thomas from Substitute Paraprofessional to part-time Paraprofessional, working 3-days per 6-day cycle (currently assigned to Emotional Support classroom) effective January 19, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- C. Employment of Allison Chamberis as a part-time Paraprofessional, working 4.5 hours per day, (currently assigned to Life Skills classroom) effective January 19, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- D. Employment of Dawn Kehs as a part-time Paraprofessional, working 3-days per 6-day cycle (currently assigned to Emotional Support classroom) effective January 19, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- E. Employment of the following Teachers as Tutors for the After School Acceleration and Preview program (ASAP) effective December 15, 2009, at a rate of \$22/hour:
- Rebecca Maley
 - Diane Musser
 - Susan Stone
 - Cheyenne Wilson
- F. To change David McAnaney from Regular Run Driver to Administrative Assistant for Safety and Security effective January 19, 2010; at a rate of \$10.50 per hour; benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. The addition of the following individuals to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective January 19, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- David McAnaney (Bus/Van Driver)
 - Brandon Traugh (Paraprofessional)
- H. To accept the resignation of Kam Roth from the position of full-time Paraprofessional (assigned to 5th Grade Reading) effective January 15, 2010. Ms. Roth has been in the position since April 2009.
- I. Employment of Jerid Lindenmuth as a Tutor for the After School Programs effective January 19, 2010, at a rate of \$22 per hour, 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 Stellfox, the 2010-2011 Course Selection Booklet (per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager distributed copies of an article regarding the future of libraries, which appeared in the National School Boards Association management.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Mehalick thanked Ms. Roth for her service to the district.

District resident, Mr. Florey Guarno, stated that the Board has decided to raise the taxes over three years to avoid referendum. President Yeager replied that it seems easier to implement the tax increase over three years instead of all at once. Mr. Guarno asked if enrollment has increased or decreased over the past several years. President Yeager replied that it has stayed about the same. Mr. Guarno asked if new teachers have been hired. President Yeager replied affirmatively and noted that it has to do with the number of programs being offered. Mr. Guarno asked if the public would be made aware of the improvements that are planned. President Yeager replied that all of that information would be presented at the Act 34 Hearing on March 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Shirvinski pointed out that back in 2000-2001; there were 494 elementary students in grades K-4. Current elementary enrollment is 568. With 5th and 6th grade in the same building, the total enrollment in the elementary building is 818. President Yeager stated that additional rooms were taken when all-day kindergarten was implemented.

District resident, Shirley Breech, asked from where the inflation index is derived. Mr. Rodgers replied that the index is dictated by the State. Mrs. Breech asked if turf for the football field is included in the building project. President Yeager replied negatively. Mr. Porter stated that there was some discussion that if the bids come in lower, that item could come back. Mr. Stellfox stated that there are alternates involved with the building project, but turf is not one of them.

Mr. Guarno stated that if the bids come in under budget, instead of giving the taxpayers a break and not raising taxes, the board will still raise the taxes and do other projects. Mr. Stellfox explained that the alternates do not have to be taken or they can be taken. If the bids come in \$2 million less, it would be his opinion that there could be a tax adjustment in the 2nd or 3rd year. If there is something that is a dire need such as the air handlers, it could be rolled into the project and the district would receive reimbursement. President Yeager stated that he believes the district needs to get as much done to the building as possible under the project. He noted that once work is done on a building and the district gets reimbursed, it cannot get reimbursed for work on that building for another 20 years. The district has spent between \$3 million and \$4 million on work that was not reimbursed. He stated that if the bids come in lower than expected, alternates should be considered.

Mr. Levan asked if the completed project would provide jobs for support workers. Mr. Stellfox replied that he could not say for sure depending on how efficiently Mr. George can utilize his staff, but it is a possibility due to the increased building area. Mr. Levan asked if it would be possible to take the public on a tour of the building to explain the additions and alterations. Solicitor Roberts explained that it would be difficult during the Act 34 Hearing because of the amount of people involved. In addition, the stenographer would have to go along.

Mrs. Brenda Creasy asked what the minimum and maximum projected cost of the project would be. Mr. Stellfox replied that the construction cost cannot be higher than \$18.9 million. The total cost of the project with financing is approximately \$33 million over 30 years.

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Mr. Ed Francen asked what number of students would be too many for the number of classrooms. Mr. Stellfox stated that it is not the number of students as much as it is the number of programs. A program could have five students, and that would take one classroom. Regardless of the number of students in a classroom, classrooms are needed based on the number of programs. President Yeager stated that only a certain number of special needs students are allowed in a classroom. Mr. Stellfox added that the programs are driven by the State and Federal government. Mrs. Shoup stated that the number of programs is going to continue to increase based on State mandates.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Vought and second by Shoup, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary