

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

The February 8, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:40 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 (*Absent*)
David Stellfox (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick (*Arrived 8:00 p.m.*), Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds (*Arrived 7:50 p.m.*); district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all Personnel Items with the exception of Item L, and Policy and Programs item B on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He presented a check to representatives of American Red Cross in the amount of \$1,675.02 as a result of a district-wide collection for the Haiti victim's disaster fund, which was coordinated by the National Honor Society.
- 2.) He explained the 2010-2011 calendar, which was included on the agenda as a discussion item. After a brief discussion, President Yeager recommended that the Board take action on the calendar at the present meeting. With the Board's consent, he opened the item for discussion from the public.
- 3.) Mr. Reh announced that the district had a very successful Act 80 day on the past Friday and another Act 80 day is scheduled for the upcoming Friday, weather permitting. Mrs. Monick reported that seven different workshops pertaining to Learning Focused Solutions, as well as twelve different technology workshops were offered throughout the day. A mandatory Guided Reading session for grades K-4 will be held on the upcoming Act 80 day. Also, over a dozen teachers will participate in First Aid/CPR certification training.
- 4.) He requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- 5.) Mr. Shirvinski presented the Board members with pictures that were drawn by students in honor of School Director recognition month in January.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with the fall coaches on the previous Tuesday. They met with Kevin Jones, Head Girls Track and Field Coach and Cross Country Coach, and Lanny Conner, Head Boys Track and Field Coach. Mr. Jones commended the maintenance staff for doing a good job maintaining the Cross Country course. Both coaches reported no problems this past season.

Jim Roth, Head Football Coach, reported an issue regarding the locker room floor paint. They discussed the Booster organization and the possibility of restrooms and a new concession stand at the stadium. They also discussed the road, practice field and the sewage lines for the proposed new restrooms.

Head Boys Soccer Coach, Jonathan Joseph, reported a great season. The team set a state record by having only four goals scored against them in one season.

Girls Field Hockey Coach, Tricia Hoffman, reported that the field has room for improvement. They will be looking to purchase new uniforms for next year. The Boosters are looking into a new scoreboard. They also discussed insurance coverage for youth camps.

Head Girls Soccer Coach, Derek Stine, reported that the team moved from Division III to Division II this year. They discussed a scoreboard, the condition of the bleachers and the access road. They also discussed displaying the trophies, and the coaches' salary schedule.

Mr. Porter asked why the Football Boosters are looking to move the concession stand. Mr. Starr replied that Mr. Roth has been working with the Boosters to possibly add more restrooms. Mr. George reported that they are looking at several different options, but he is awaiting additional information from the Booster organization. Mr. Rodgers reported that he asked Mr. Roth, as well as Booster members, to come to the March Facilities meeting to discuss the Boosters' ideas regarding the project. Mr. Porter asked about the paint used on the locker room floor. Mr. George stated that the paint is not holding up against the players' cleats. There was a brief discussion regarding the access road and scoreboards.

Facilities & Services - Mike Yeager reported that the committee held four interviews with prospective construction managements firms; Quandel, Turner, Reynolds and Apollo. Mr. Vought did some research on Quandel, and heard very good things about them. Due to limited time, the committee briefly discussed the stadium restrooms/concession stand and Integrated Pest Management. Mr. Porter recommended that specs be put together regarding a tractor, so that an advertisement could be placed. Mr. Rodgers reported that there are four buses that are no longer road worthy. The scrap price of the buses might exceed what would be received on the open market, which would possibly provide a few thousand dollars to put toward the purchase of a tractor.

Finance – Eric Stahley, Chairperson, reported that they had a very short meeting following the Facilities Committee meeting. Mr. Rodgers reported that he is working on the budget for the upcoming year and he is awaiting information from the department heads. They discussed posting of the Act 34 Hearing information on the district website to make it more accessible for the public. Mr. Rodgers reported that the Act 34 Hearing booklet has been posted to the website; however the calculation on the impact of the tax increase on the average homeowner has not yet been posted. The committee also discussed the tax collector vacancies and the appointment of new tax collectors. Mr. Rodgers reported that there will be some startup costs associated with the new Tax Collection Committee that has been formed in Columbia County in which the district had to participate to comply with certain legislation which had been passed. Mr. Rodgers also reported that the committee discussed making a recommendation to appoint bond counsel.

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Policy – Eric Stahley reported that the committee discussed Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations. The committee will be recommending that item #10 of the policy be deleted as it is already addressed in Policy 707. Mr. Porter asked if the internal controls issue had been addressed. Mr. Reh replied affirmatively and stated that Solicitor Roberts feels that it has been addressed.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that they met with a representative from BusTracks. The software seems to be very beneficial for the cost, and would resolve several of the district's transportation issues and would expedite state reporting. Mr. Rodgers stated that as long as the individuals are trained and use the software properly so that he can rely on the data, state reporting would be much more efficient. He noted that the current reporting process is quite time consuming. Parent communication, rosters and the state reimbursement reporting are some of the highlights of the software that would be beneficial. The plan for the upcoming road construction was discussed.

Vo-Tech - Mr. Stahley reported that the JOC met January 19th. Two students present from the travel curriculum. Negotiations with the support staff continues. The Business Manager reported that there is an average three percent proposed increase in the districts' shares of the 2010-2011 budget. A copy of the preliminary budget will be distributed to Board members. He reported on some professional development activities. They had a student reach 1,000 points in basketball and have another student that is only twenty points away from achieving that goal. An open house was held on February 7th.

CSIU – Mike Yeager had nothing to report beyond the CSIU Board Report that was distributed with the Friday Letter.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

There was a discussion regarding the motion to approve Quandel Group, Inc.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Resignation of Colleen Brent from the position of part-time Paraprofessional effective November 16, 2009. Ms. Brent had been in the position since September 2009.
- B. FMLA qualifying leave for employee #1946IM effective on or about May 17, 2010; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- C. FMLA qualifying leave on an intermittent basis for employee #1069SB effective on or about February 8, 2010; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- D. Employment of Alex Carawan as a Student Custodial Worker for the 2009-2010 school year as part of his Transition Program effective February 9, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$7.25 per hour (minimum wage).

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- E. To change Brandon Traugh from Substitute Paraprofessional to part-time Paraprofessional (working 2.5 days per week) effective February 9, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. To adopt a Resolution appointing Paula Clark to collect Catawissa Township school real estate taxes (per Exhibit B).
- G. To adopt a Resolution appointing Linda Bilinski to collect Franklin Township school real estate taxes (per Exhibit C).
- H. The addition of the following individuals to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- Sam Hunsinger (Van Driver) - effective January 19, 2010
 - Laura Gleeson (Van/Bus Driver) - effective February 9, 2010
 - Sonya Kepner (Elementary) - effective February 9, 2010
 - Dominique Poaches (Elementary) - effective February 9, 2010
- I. Employment of the following individuals as Tutors for the After School Acceleration and Preview Program (ASAP) effective January 26, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at a rate of \$10 per hour:
- Derek DiRenzo
 - Nicole Grier
- J. Employment of the following individuals as Tutors for the After School Programs effective January 19, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at the rates listed, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant:
- Christine Pellegrino (\$10/hour)
 - Zachary Stone (\$22/hour)
 - Greg Davis (\$22/hour)
 - Dean Grenfell (\$10/hour)
 - Laura Creek (\$10/hour)
 - Andrew Osipower (\$10/hour)
- K. To reassign Dawn Kehs from the position of part-time Paraprofessional working three (3) days of the six (6) day cycle to part-time Paraprofessional working 2.5 days per week, effective January 19, 2010.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. 2010-2011 School Year Calendar (per Exhibit D).

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- B. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#98608) effective February 9, 2010, for a maximum of five hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that there have been some complaints of backlogs in the morning traffic pattern. He asked the administration to monitor it more closely.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Frank Berger, asked about the lack of space in the elementary. Mr. Shirvinski stated that teaching concepts have changed and additional programs have been added due to state mandates. President Yeager explained that the addition to the middle and high school building would free up space in the elementary building.

Mr. Berger asked about the timing of the decision to phase in the tax increase and avoid referendum. Mr. Rodgers stated that Mr. Bradley from RBC Capital Markets had proposed the phase-in model back in September 2008. Mr. Berger asked if there would be additional tax increases over the next three years in addition to the building project. Mr. Rodgers reported that if no programs are cut, it is possible that there could be an additional tax increase to cover increased PSERS costs or increased operating costs, however the administration and Board are constantly looking for ways to save costs, and a tax increase would be a last resort.

Mr. Berger asked why the Board wouldn't delay the project until the current bond is paid off. President Yeager stated that for every month that the project is delayed, the cost escalates at approximately \$100,000 per month. Mr. Berger stated he feels the project should have gone to referendum.

District resident, Blaine Madara, asked the cost of the transportation software. Mr. Rodgers replied that it would probably be in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000 including training. Mr. Madara asked what would be provided under the cost of the Construction Consultant. President Yeager replied that they will be doing value engineering and working with the architect in the pre-construction phase and they will also serve as clerk of the works for sixteen months. Mr. Madara stated that he feels the cost is astronomical for what they would provide. He stated that a clerk of the works would suffice, and the district could cut costs in that area.

There were several questions asked regarding millage, which were answered by Mr. Rodgers.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Shoup, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary