

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

The February 15, 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 (*Absent*)  
Richard Steele  
David Stellfox

Timothy Vought  
Michael Yeager  
John Yocum

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, James Becker, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; district residents and members of the media.

**AGENDA HEARING PERIOD**

President Yeager announced that Fiscal Item C would be removed from the agenda. President Yeager announced that all remaining items on the agenda, as well as two Personnel addendum items would be action items. District resident, Mr. Frank Berger, referred to Fiscal Item D and asked if there was any provision in the agreement that it would not go into effect until the bond is approved. Mr. Rodgers replied that it is contingent upon the bond. District resident, Blaine Madara, stated that he would like to ask the architect questions before the Board takes action. District resident, Mr. Tom Levan, asked if the grant director position would be opened to the public. President Yeager replied that it would be contingent upon continued grant funding.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) Board members received a copy of the preliminary Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech 2010-2011 budget, which will be acted upon in March.
- 2.) The Board also received a copy of a letter that he had written to Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant. If the grant is approved, the Grant Director position will be advertised.
- 3.) Mr. Reh congratulated middle school students, Anne Bryden, Justin Ernst, Matthew Lupold and Sunny Sen, who won the Math Counts Competition, which was held at Penn State Schuylkill Campus. It was the first time the middle school participated in the competition. The advisor is Jennifer Stine. The team will now compete in the state competition in Harrisburg, which is fully funded by the state.
- 4.) He requested a brief executive session following the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

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Mr. Porter requested a comprehensive comparison of electric rates for the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Rodgers agreed to provide it.

Mr. Porter asked Mr. Rodgers to find out if BusTracks would provide optimized bus routes as part of the base service. Mr. Rodgers agreed to do so. He distributed copies of the proposal for the Board members who are not on the Transportation committee. He stated that he would like to have the Board act on the purchase of the software in March.

Mr. Porter asked if the district would be bringing all special education students back under the building plan, and if so, would students with behavior problems be kept on campus. Mr. Mehalick replied that the intent is to bring all students that are currently in other districts back to Southern. Mr. Reh stated that if a student is placed in Alternative Education, the student would remain in that program, as required by law.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting. Due to recent snow days, two of the professional development days scheduled for February have been postponed to later in the year. The STD/HIV Grant was discussed. The technology network was upgraded on February 12<sup>th</sup>. A virtual local area network was implemented that should avoid past problems experienced with the network. The graduating class of 2014-2015 must start taking the Keystone Exams. For 2010-2011, exams will be taken in Algebra I, Literature and Biology. Starting in Fall 2011, English Composition and Algebra II will be taken. In Fall 2012, Geometry and US History will be taken. In Fall 2016, Chemistry, Physics, Government and World History will be taken. There was some discussion as to whether local tests would supplant the Keystone Exams, but that is still undecided.

Negotiations and Personnel – Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that a negotiations session is scheduled for Thursday and they committee is hopeful that they are close to an agreement. He stated that the committee should consider entering into timed mediation where both parties go to a designated location, such as a hotel, and work out an agreement before leaving.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that he had confirmation that a bill was before both the House and Senate reflecting PSBA's PSERS retirement recommendation, but he is not sure where it currently stands. The state's budget which was announced last Tuesday, includes a 7.28 percent increase in basic education.

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

A. Minutes of January 11 and 18, 2010.

B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$371,202.15 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$9,140.00 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$9,391.77.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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**ITEMS – FISCAL**

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2009-2010 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. An Agreement with Seitz Brothers for Integrated Pest Management Services in the amount of \$2,600 per year.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Vought, to appoint Rhoads and Sinon, LLP for Bond Counsel services in connection with the authorization, sale and issuance of general obligation bonds relating to the proposed building project at a fee of \$17,500, was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Stahley stated that he would be voting “No” because he felt the project should go to referendum. By roll call vote, the motion; 7-Yes, 1-No (Stahley voted No).

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

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

- A. Resignation of Dana Carroll-Lucas from the position of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Project Director effective February 8, 2010. Ms. Carroll-Lucas has been in the position since January 20, 2009.
- B. Motion to accept the resignation of Jonathan Joseph as Head Boys Soccer Coach effective February 1, 2010. Mr. Joseph had been in the position since July 2006.
- C. Employment of Shannon Dickey as Elementary Girls Basketball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year (pending completion of all employment requirements) at a rate of \$7.70 per hour/70 hours maximum.
- D. To change Susan Roberts from part-time Paraprofessional to full-time Paraprofessional effective March 1, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- E. Employment of Laura Gleeson as part-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective February 17, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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**ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stahley, was presented for approval.

- A. Art Club trip to the Museum of Modern Art and a Broadway Show (Phantom of the Opera) in New York City on Saturday, March 6, 2010, with no cost to the district (parents and teachers to chaperone).
- B. FBLA and Tiger News field trip to New York City to tour the NBC studio tour and the Sony Wonder Technology Lab on Friday, May 14, 2010; district expense to include the cost of substitutes (parents and teachers to chaperone).
- C. Homebound Instruction for a Middle School student (#48261) effective February 9, 2010, until further evaluation by a physician; for a maximum of five hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

President Yeager asked if anyone had concerns regarding the Vo-Tech budget. They are taking \$570,000 from their General Fund to balance the budget, which leaves them with a balance of \$652,000 in their General Fund. Mr. Rodgers noted that they have open negotiations so they may have over-projected some costs, not knowing what will result from negotiations.

Mr. Porter stated that he would like to see the district advertise for a Clerk of the Works. Mr. Stellfox noted that a Clerk of the Works is usually only really good in one area and they don't really have a support staff. His concern is the backbone that's going to protect the district.

Mr. Porter agreed that the district needs to be protected, but that is also why they hired the architect. He stated that he really feels the district should advertise for a Clerk of the Works. Mr. Stellfox stated the he wasn't opposed to putting it out there and getting some numbers. Mr. Rodgers stated that it could be advertised as early as Wednesday with the proposals due back before the next Facilities/Finance Committee meeting. After more discussion, the Board directed Mr. Rodgers to advertise for proposals for clerk of the works.

**RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Frank Berger, asked if the new philosophy of education regarding inclusion is mandated by the state. Mr. Mehalick replied that inclusion is not a mandate but it is something the state is looking for districts to do by placing students in the least restrictive environment. Mr. Berger asked who in the district asked the bond company for the "balloon-type" financing because it is kind of unique for a public entity. Mr. Rodgers replied that is not unique at all. He went on to explain that it is not considered a balloon payment but it is called wraparound financing. Most public financing companies that are dealing with bonds use this type of structure in order to level out the debt service from a budgetary standpoint. It was presented to the district approximately one and a half years ago. Mr. Berger stated that the first time he noticed in the minutes that the project would not have to go to referendum was in September. Mr. Rodgers stated that at least a year and a half ago the Board interviewed six

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financing companies/banks. They narrowed it down to two companies that were interviewed in September 2009. Mr. Rodgers noted that those may have been the minutes he was referring to. Mr. Berger asked for confirmation that the Board was aware that they could finance the \$20 million dollar project without going to referendum for over a year and a half. President Yeager stated that they looked at the best way to finance the project with the least impact.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Shoup and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary