

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

The March 15, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:46 p.m. with President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. President Yeager apologized for starting the meeting late and announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss contract and personnel.

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, 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. District resident, Richard Gotshall, asked for clarification on Personnel Item C. Solicitor Roberts explained that AFSCME has been representing the classified employees for some time and that it was not a change. District resident, Blaine Madara, questioned the Capital Reserve Fund invoice from The Architectural Studio, since they reported at the Act 34 Hearing that they were only 70 percent complete on the design development phase. He asked what level of completion was indicated on the invoice. Mr. Porter explained that as of February 1st, the Design Development for which the district is being billed is 97 percent complete. As of March 3rd the Design Development was 99 percent complete and the construction documents were 2 percent complete.

District resident, Florey Guarno, asked for clarification on several motions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He introduced the students who placed first in the Math Counts competition; Ann Bryden, Justin Ernst, Matt Lupold and Sunny Sen. Math Teacher, Jennifer Snyder, gave an overview of the national competition and noted that it is the first year that Southern Columbia participated. The students will attend the state competition in Harrisburg. President Yeager presented each of the students with a certificate on behalf of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Shoup thanked Ms. Stine for the extra work she put forth in preparing the students for the competition.

2.) A School Reach announcement was launched over the weekend informing parents that students would be picked up five minutes earlier than usual. Letters will also be mailed to parents.

3.) Mr. Reh reported that he attended a superintendents meeting at Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech. It will be the recommendation of Dr. Rushton that the Joint Operating Council (JOC) will

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approve and put into policy at their next meeting an eight percent cap on the fund balance. Funds in excess of the cap, unreserved or undesignated, would be returned to the sending districts. The superintendents from Bloomsburg, Central Columbia, Benton, Millville, Southern Columbia, Berwick and Danville were all in agreement with the recommendation. All of the districts were of the understanding that they would approve the budget if this recommendation was put into place by the JOC. The JOC wouldn't meet until the following night. It was the consensus of the Board to table approval of the Vo-Tech budget until after the Vo-Tech meeting.

4.) Mr. Reh reported that he received all favorable recommendations for Pathline from five different school districts.

5.) Mr. Reh responded to questions received from district resident, Frank Berger. His question was, "What requires a middle school to be under one roof?" Mr. Reh replied that there is no requirement or specific PDE mandate. The second part of the question was, "Is there a cost associated with that decision?" Mr. Reh replied that just to determine a cost to move the 5th and 6th grade students to the Middle School is a complicated calculation. He presented Mr. Berger with a lengthy written response from the architect. Mr. Berger stated that based on his calculations, the educational space of the building project would cost approximately \$7,504,304 and the gymnasium would cost approximately \$5,874,440. Mrs. Shoup asked why he was separating the gymnasium from the educational space since physical education is a requirement. Mr. Berger stated that as a taxpayer he would support labs, educational classrooms, special needs space, but he would not support a gymnasium. Mr. Berger also asked for a projection to extend through years six and seven. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would provide the actual projection at the next Finance Committee meeting; however he did provide the following figures regarding the tax implication on the average taxpayer. In the three percent phase-in of PSERS analysis, there is a proposed tax increase of \$24 in year one for an average homeowner in Columbia County and \$31 in Northumberland County. The additional tax figures would be the same in year two. In the third year, it would cost an additional \$43 in Columbia County, and an additional \$56 in Northumberland County. In year four, the average homeowner in Columbia County would pay an additional \$56 and the average homeowner in Northumberland County would pay an additional \$73. Year five would require an additional \$74 from the average homeowner in Columbia County and an additional \$95 from the average homeowner in Northumberland County.

If the PSERS rate spikes immediately to thirty percent, the increase for the average homeowner in the first three years would be the same as reported in the three percent phase-in analysis. In year four, the average homeowner in Columbia County would pay an additional \$206 and the average homeowner in Northumberland County would pay an additional \$276. Year five would require an additional \$200 from the average homeowner in Columbia County and an additional \$253 from the average homeowner in Northumberland County. He noted that he would make the projection available on the district website.

6.) Mr. Reh requested an executive session following the meeting to discuss personnel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the Board meeting. During the first part of the meeting, Mrs. Monick offered some clarification on the HIV/STD Grant. Currently, all of the materials that were purchased through the grant have not yet been distributed. Mr. Yocum gave details of the education provided in this area. The second part of the meeting was a demonstration on the Promethean Whiteboard. He reported that there has been a real change in student learning since the implementation of Whiteboards.

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Negotiations and Personnel – Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that they have been negotiating the AFSCME contract for about two years. Mr. Porter stated that the healthcare would remain the same under the new contract. Mr. Rodgers explained the changes in the proposed agreement. He noted that the overall increase is approximately 3.08 percent. District resident and employee, Derek Stine, voiced his negative opinion over the layover rate for bus drivers.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele confirmed that the Legislative meeting is April 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Area High School.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Vought 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 Yocum and second by Starr, the minutes of February 8 and 15, 2010, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$582,821.05 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$16,343.92 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$11,049.51 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter moved to amend the motion to eliminate two Capital Reserve Fund invoices from The Architectural Studio. He would like to make sure the administration has seen the Design Development documents before the bill is paid. He also expressed concern over the parking lot layout. Mr. Reh stated that the district would need to apply for a variance for the parking lot. The motion was seconded by Stahley. The motion carried by roll call vote; 5-Yes, 4-No (Steele, Stellfox, Vought and Yeager voted No).

The motion as amended carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Starr, 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 Stellfox and second by Shoup, the 2010-2011 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,199,265; Southern Columbia Area School District's cost is \$531,100 (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Stahley moved to table the motion and Vought seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stellfox, the 2010-2011 Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,859,593 (**per Exhibit C**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

On a motion by Vought and second by Shoup, to authorize Pathline Project Management to provide Value Engineering of Electrical and Mechanical Systems and Clerk of the Works at a cost

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of \$161,500 was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No, 1-Abstain (Stahley and Porter voted No, Stellfox abstained).

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, to authorize the purchase of BusTracks student tracking and bus routing software system at a base cost of \$5,500, and two (2) optional GPS monitors at \$125 each, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, to appoint Brewer & Company, LLC to audit the financial records for the local tax collectors for the year ended December 31, 2009, as required by the Pennsylvania Local Tax Collection Law, at a cost not to exceed \$2,265. was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The addition of the following individual to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Carin Marks (Paraprofessional)
 - Dawn Kehs (Paraprofessional)
 - Laura Gleeson (Paraprofessional)
- B. To appoint Michael Yeager to serve as a representative on the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for a three year term beginning July 1, 2010, and continuing through June 30, 2013.
- C. *(Item C was pulled from the block vote.)*
- D. To accept the resignation of Laura Hayman from the position of part-time Paraprofessional (working 4.5 hours per day) effective March 26, 2010. Ms. Hayman has been in the position since August 2009.
- E. To change Deborah Lauer from Substitute Driver to Regular Run Driver effective March 16, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. To change Jody Raup from Substitute Driver to Regular Run Driver effective March 16, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. To designate Robert Silver as a Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year (pending receipt of favorable clearances and a negative Tuberculin test).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Yocum, to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Southern Columbia Area School District and Council 86 American

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Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO and Local 1864 effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2012, was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 3-No, 1-Abstain (Vought, Yeager and Stahley voted No, Shoup abstained).

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Steele and second by Stahley, the first reading of Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Stellfox, a Senior Class Trip to Great Wolf Lodge, Scotrun, PA, on Sunday, May 16, and Monday, May 17, 2010, was presented for approval. District expense to include the cost of four (4) substitutes; teachers to chaperone. Prior to voting Mr. Stahley stated that he does not approve of the trip because he fails to see any educational value. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele commended Mrs. Shirvinski and members of H.A.R.T. for Family Fun Night recently held in the elementary building.

Mr. Becker announced that the musical would be held Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. A spaghetti dinner would be held Saturday prior to the show.

Mr. Porter asked why they are designing something that they know won't work just so they can get a variance. Mr. Stellfox replied that it is the state law that they have to have so many curbs.

President Yeager stated that he took exception to Mr. Berger's comment regarding the gymnasium. He added that by law the district is required to provide physical education and he cited the state standards, which outline all of the things that physical education students are required to know by the time they graduate. He added that it would be impossible to have one gym and have 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades meet those standards. The new gym would have three teaching stations. Southern Columbia is not meeting state standards now because the district does not offer enough programs because there isn't enough space. Mr. Porter asked if there would be additional staff required since there will be three teaching stations. President Yeager stated that he feels there is enough staff; they would just need to be scheduled in the right places.

Mr. Nunkester stated that the district is losing a wonderful guidance counselor in the retirement of Susan Robinson.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Tom Levan, asked if the district received the 21st Century Grant. Mrs. Monick stated that they have not yet heard. He asked if the Family Center would cease to exist if the grant is not received. Mrs. Monick replied that it would be likely. She noted that other programs would possibly be eliminated also.

District resident, Richard Gotshall, expressed concern over the provisions which were provided in the AFSCME contract, due to the economic status of the majority of the public.

District resident, Frank Berger, asked for some clarification on line item figures. Mr. Rodgers responded. Mr. Berger asked how the eight classrooms in the elementary would be used. Mr. Reh stated that the three classrooms on the lower level that are not handicapped accessible could possibly be used by the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology. There is also

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the possibility of using the three classrooms for a transition work foundations special education program. Mr. Shirvinski stated that the teachers who are currently in rooms not meant for classroom space would be utilizing the nine remaining rooms. Mr. Berger asked if a pre-K program is planned. Mr. Reh replied that it has been discussed as a possibility but it is not in the current plan. Mr. Berger asked if the special education numbers per grade could be provided. Mr. Reh replied that Mr. Mehalick could provide those numbers. Mr. Gotshall asked how many Southern Columbia students are attending Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech. President Yeager replied that the district has approximately 44 students currently attending Vo-Tech.

District resident, Shirley Breech, asked if the Vo-Tech was still planning a building project. Mr. Reh stated that the superintendents have not discussed it. He doesn't foresee it happening in the near future.

District resident, Florey Guarno, asked the size of the closets that are being used for classroom space. Mr. Shirvinski replied that the room being used for the Wilson Reading Program is actually an office. Mr. George stated that it measures eight feet by ten feet. Mr. Shirvinski noted that there are six students and one teacher in the room at most times. Mr. Shirvinski welcomed Mr. Guarno to come and take a tour of the facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary