

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

The April 19, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:36 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 7:38 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 Digital Video Team, consisting of Jared Levan, Brandon Talisesky and Shane Yeager, presented their video that qualified for the National FBLA competition in Nashville, Tennessee.
- 2.) A recommendation is being made to change the Transportation Services Committee meeting to the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library beginning in May.
- 3.) Mr. Rodgers reported the results of bids received earlier in the day on a 4-wheel drive tractor, pull-behind boom sprayer and fuel bids. He noted that the bids are good for thirty days. President Yeager asked if there is money in the budget for the tractor. Mr. Rodgers replied negatively. Mr. George stated that the sprayer is a bigger issue at this time. He noted that the tractor can probably be used another two or three years as long as it is maintained as it has been in the past. Only one bid was received for a sprayer, which came in at \$7,907. It was agreed that Mr. George would contact some dealers to get additional quotes. It was the consensus of the Board that Fiscal Items C and D would not be acted upon at the present meeting.

Fuel bids were also received. Mr. Rodgers made the recommendation that due to the fact that no fixed pricing bids came in for diesel or 87 octane, the Board should reject the bids and continue to purchase those items from the Joint Purchasing Council. He noted that Jack Rich will allow the district to purchase its unused allotment of heating fuel at the \$1.94 price. Mr. Rodgers stated that the district wouldn't lock into the fixed price until April 27<sup>th</sup>, based on the NYMEX for that date and a weighted average of the futures of October 2010 and January 2011 plus \$0.18 per gallon.

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Mr. Rodgers distributed information regarding energy pricing. After some discussion, he asked the Board to authorize him to ratify a 2-year contract with PPL Energy Plus.

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the regular meeting. They discussed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant and what would happen next year when the funding has been exhausted. Classroom Diagnostic Tools (online tests based on content covered by the Keystone Exams and PSSAs) will be offered in grades 6 through 12 and will be available for use throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Members of the K-12 Technology Team met on April 5<sup>th</sup> to begin planning updates and discuss pertinent topics such as upgrading technology competencies, business and technology course evaluation process, aligning to standards, keyboarding requirements and assessments, a business and technology curriculum collaboration with CSIU, and the integration of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in all courses at all grade levels. A meeting with Board members and high school department chairs will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Mr. Porter asked if there is time during professional development days to get CPR and AED training for teachers and all staff. Mr. Reh stated that Mrs. Atherton is the only certified trainer and she can only train a limited amount of individuals per session. Mrs. Monick stated that training sessions are offered throughout the year.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that a request was made to see if the teachers would be interested in entering into timed mediation. A verbal negative response was received, but a written response was requested. Mr. Gengler indicated that the teachers' association was not yet prepared to begin negotiations. Mr. Porter indicated that they need to start the process soon.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that the PSBA Region 6 meeting was held Wednesday at Selinsgrove. Region 6 has been broken down into four areas to make it a more manageable group. Southern Columbia is in Area 2.

### TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

- A. Minutes of March 8 and 15, 2010.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$488,038.97, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$62,453.93 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$14,735.28.

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

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**ITEMS – FISCAL**

On a motion by Vought 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. To accept the Performance Audit Report of the Auditor General for the years ended June 30, 2007 and June 30, 2008 (**per Exhibit B**).
- C. *(Discussion item only.)*
- D. *(Discussion item only.)*
- E. To authorize the Business Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of #2 heating oil based on the April 27, 2010, NYMEX and an average of the October 2010 and January 2011 futures plus \$0.18 cents per gallon; provided the district cannot obtain a better price through the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Joint Purchasing Council.
- F. *(Discussion item only.)*
- G. A trip to Nashville, Tennessee for three members of the FBLA Digital Video Team and one advisor to attend the FBLA National Competition at a cost of \$6,476.00.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Porter, to authorize the Business Manager to contract with the entity providing the lowest proposal for the purchase of electricity for a 2-year term was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 0-No, 1-Abstainion (**Stahley abstained**).

**ITEMS – PERSONNEL**

On a motion by Starr 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 April 20, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
  - Beth Jones (Paraprofessional)
- B. Employment of Marissa Petrone (Teacher) as an After School Tutor effective April 13, 2010, at a rate of \$22 per hour, which will come from proceeds of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant.

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- C. To accept the resignation of Christina Hess from the position of Regular Run Bus Driver effective April 16, 2010, and to add her to the 2009-2010 Substitute List as a substitute bus/van driver effective April 16, 2010.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. The second reading and adoption of Policy 915 Relations with Booster Organizations (per Exhibit C).
- B. The 2010-2011 Middle School Student Handbook (per Exhibit D).
- C. A Guaranteed Admission Agreement with Bloomsburg University and authorization for the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District **(per Exhibit E)**.
- D. The first reading of new Policy 114 Gifted Education (per Exhibit F).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Porter and second by Stellfox to table the motion regarding the Band and Chorus Trip to Orlando, Florida, on Sunday, April 17 through Saturday, April 23, 2011, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele reported that he attended the Bernie Romanoski Chapter of the Hall of Fame event on Saturday and Southern Columbia athletes, Kurt Kessler and Cynthia Adams, won the male and female Scholar Athlete Awards.

Mr. Porter stated that he didn't realize that there would be new information presented regarding the PlanCon documents that were approved the previous week. The new information included new traffic patterns, moving the fuel tanks and removing part of the elementary building. He noted that at the time the fuel tanks were installed, it made perfect sense, because the softball field was located where the buses are currently parked. He noted that decisions that are made now based on current information may not seem like the best decisions ten years down the road.

Mr. Stellfox stated that the site plan will change numerous times, because PennDOT and other entities will get involved. Mr. Porter stated that the Board never saw the plan that the Board agreed on. He stated that he contacted the Columbia County Planning Commission and they informed him that the district should submit the plan the way they want it to be. He added that the process based on the information the architect provided is a backwards way of doing things. He noted that he has lost trust in the architect. He would like to see a plan submitted the way it is wanted. Mr. Stellfox stated that Planning Commissions must operate differently, because that is not the way it is done in Luzerne County. Mr. Yocum stated that he thought Mr. Brobst said that he would submit the drawing the way the county or zoning required, but he

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would also attach something stating that the district would rather not do it that way. Mr. Stahley stated that he should be going to the Planning Commission with a sketch plan to discuss it, as it would be cheaper for the district. After further discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Reh would direct Mr. Brobst to revise the site plan to be submitted.

### **RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC**

District resident, Shirley Breech, asked for clarification on the number of classrooms proposed in the building project. It was determined that there are seven regular education classrooms, plus labs, an art room, a computer lab and three special education classrooms.

Mrs. Breech also asked about the assessment increase for Clean and Green. Mr. Rodgers stated that the rate is projected to go up fifteen percent, but the Columbia County Commissioners passed a resolution to maintain the current levels.

Mr. Gotshall asked for the main reason for sending special education students off campus. President Yeager reported that they didn't have the space. Mr. Gotshall asked if there would be monetary gain if they are brought back. President Yeager replied affirmatively and added that the district would save tuition costs.

District resident, Florey Guarno, asked if PlanCon D and E were submitted to PDE. Mr. Reh replied affirmatively. He noted that the date of the Act 34 Hearing was incorrect in the documents.

District resident, Tom Levan, stated that he understands that there will be no summer program for elementary students this year. Mrs. Monick stated that the district does not have a definite amount of the grant extension from the State. The proposed programs under the extension are a Pre-K program, and a middle and high school program, but there is not funding for K-4 students this year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Yocum and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary