

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

The May 10, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:32 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 (*Absent*)

Eric Stahley

Paul Starr

Richard Steele

David Stellfox (*Absent*)

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, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that Fiscal Items C, D, E, F, G and H; all Personnel Items except Item C (for clarification of language); and Policy and Programs Items C, D, E, F, G, and J on the agenda would be considered action items.

District resident, Florey Guarno, asked if Mr. Roth would be performing duties of the Athletic Director position during the regular school day. Mr. Becker replied that some of the duties would be done during the day in addition to his regular duties.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) The special education plan revision concerning the Work Foundations Program being housed at the Family Center was approved by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Special Education.

2.) A report regarding value engineering will be included in the next Friday Letter.

3.) The property tax relief allocation for taxpayers who have been approved for the Homestead/Farmstead exemption would be approximately \$110.

4.) Mr. Joel Thomas and Mrs. Letha Stone reported on the Band and Chorus trip to Florida and the various activities in which the students would participate. The trip takes place every four years, and various fundraising activities are held to fund the trip.

5.) Mr. Reh congratulated Mr. Nunkester for his blog, "Nunk News" which was recognized nationally by Education World.

6.) Mr. Nunkester reported that the high school and middle school recently held a successful "sexting" assembly presented by several local police officers. On the 28th of April the middle school and fourth grade bands held a very successful concert. On Wednesday, Matt Lupold, Sunny Sen, and Justin Ernest will be receiving an award at the Front Street Station for winning the Stock Market Game. Law Day will be held Thursday. A carwash will also be held on Saturday.

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7.) Mr. Becker reported that the prom was held on the past Saturday. The senior high chorus and band concert was held during the past week. He also reported that he attended the Life Skills dance and noted that the students had a great time. He commended Mr. Mehalick and his staff for organizing the event.

8.) President Yeager reported that an executive session was held prior to the regular meeting to discuss personnel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met with the fall sports coaches on April 27th. They had fairly good seasons and very few complaints.

Facilities & Services – Tim Vought, reported that the committee met May 3rd. There was a presentation on field maintenance by Big Foot. They will be spraying and fertilizing one of the fields for an approximate cost of \$1,800. If the district is satisfied with their work, they may add two additional fields next year. They also had a presentation on the energy control system that was donated by NRG. They discussed the tractor and sprayer. The committee recommended that Mr. George look for a different sprayer, which he since purchased for a significant savings compared to the bid received. They discussed the priority projects list. Most of the projects are getting done during the summer. The committee held a special meeting on May 5th to discuss the parking lot with a representative from HRG.

Mr. Porter recommended bidding out separately the fuel tanks job to save money and bypass the architects. He noted that nobody is going to want to take a loss if contaminated soil is found. The bid specs will need to be designed accordingly. Mr. George stated that the tanks are covered under the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund, in which cleanup from a spillage would be nearly entirely reimbursable.

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that two meetings were held on April 22nd and May 3rd. They discussed the fuel oil bids. It was recommended by Mr. Rodgers that they lock in at \$2.49⁹ per gallon with Jack Rich. Jack Rich also agreed to carry over the \$1.93 per gallon price that was still remaining on the allotment from last year. They discussed using the Joint Purchasing Council for octane and diesel, which is on the agenda. They also discussed costs for energy purchase, and the tractor and sprayer bids. Mr. Rodgers presented two scenarios for the Capital Reserve budget. The first scenario was to move \$235,000 per year into the Capital Reserve budget; \$100,000 for projects and \$135,000 for buses. The second scenario was to reimburse the Capital Reserve for money spent as upfront expenses associated with the building project. They decided to go with the first scenario for the time being until the bond issue is decided pertaining to the budgeting process. They discussed the Work Foundations initiative. They were informed of some wind damage that took place at the pole vault area. The general fund budget and the transportation subsidy increase of \$15,000 over last year due to implementation of the BusTracks software.

Mr. Porter reported on the May 3rd meeting as Mr. Stahley was not in attendance. They authorized the business manager to accept bids for fuel oil. It has been locked in at \$2.54⁹. Diesel has been locked in at \$2.70 gallon with CSIU. The committee recommended that the district enter into the fluctuating gas market with CSIU. They had a brief budget update from Mr. Rodgers. A special budget meeting will be held May 24th. Mr. Porter noted that there will be substantial tax implications with a building project. Mr. Rodgers provided a five-year projection and Mr. Porter stressed that these are not concrete figures. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would be discussing the projections further at the upcoming Finance meetings. Mr. Porter noted that there will substantial savings by bringing the Work Foundations out of CSIU; approximately \$50,000 per year.

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Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the regular meeting. Several policies are being looked at. First readings of policies pertaining to automated defibrillators, FERPA and a new policy clarifying the confidential nature of executive sessions, will likely take place in June. He noted that they would also be discussing a policy regarding board organization, which would clarify conditions in which board members could contact the solicitor.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that the JOC met on April 20th. At the meeting they heard from supporters of staff that was out on strike at that time. They discussed the 2010-2011 budget. They will be adding \$50,000 for repairs and upgrades to the library. A reserve will be set up for PSERS increases. They plan to purchase 120 computers. Capital expenditure funds were also discussed. They discussed reducing the tuition of the sending districts collectively by \$58,000, however that motion did not pass. Mr. Bacher discussed the PSSAs and how students are working on their NOCTI exams. They held an executive session on May 4th to discuss the support staff negotiations.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that a committee meeting was held to discuss finances and there will be a presentation to the Board regarding the viability of setting up an OPEB Trust account through the CStrust. The one year audit resulted in no findings.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- C. The 2010-2011 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,168,725; Southern Columbia Area School District’s cost is \$531,100 **(per Exhibit C)**.
- D. To reject all bids for Fuel Products pertaining to 87 Octane, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel and Low Sulfur Diesel **(per Exhibit D)**.
- E. To reject all bids for a New or Used 4-Wheel Drive Tractor **(Bid Tabulation per Exhibit E)**.
- F. To reject all bids for a New or Used Pull-behind Boom Sprayer **(Bid Tabulation per Exhibit F)**.
- G. An addendum to the Agreement with The Learning Lamp to provide an additional 2 hours per day of ESL services for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year (16 student days) at an additional cost of \$944.77 and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District.

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- H. To approve Earth Engineering, Inc. for test boring work at an estimated cost of \$5,760.00, which may be adjusted at the recommendation of the geotechnical engineer.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of Jessica Jones for the position of Middle School Guidance Counselor effective June 9, 2010, at Step 1 of the Master's Salary Schedule (\$40,554); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- B. To re-appoint Richard J. Roberts, Jr. as School Solicitor for the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011, at a rate of \$105.00 per hour.
- C. *(Motion remained a discussion item until the next meeting.)*
- D. To approve Tresa J. Britch as Board Secretary for the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2014, at an annual salary of \$2,400.
- E. To acknowledge tenure for the following employee effective the end of the 2009-2010 school year:
➤ Daniel Hauer
- F. The addition of the following individuals to the 2009-2010 Substitute List effective May 18, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
➤ Jolyn Pinamonti (Paraprofessional)
➤ Chris DeMelfi (Citizenship)
- G. To change Lindsay Reed from Substitute Paraprofessional to Half-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle), effective April 23, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- H. An FMLA qualifying leave for employee #1755KC effective August 23, 2010, through October 29, 2010.
- I. An FMLA qualifying leave on an intermittent basis for employee #1815MG effective May 5, 2010; not to exceed 12 weeks in the next 12-month period.
- J. An FMLA qualifying leave for employee #2165JZ effective August 23, 2010, through October 1, 2010.

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- K. The revised Job Descriptions for the following positions:
 - Athletic Director (**per Exhibit G**)
 - Assistant Athletic Director (**per Exhibit H**)
 - Guidance Secretary (**per Exhibit I**)

- L. An Employment Agreement with Terry Sharrow to change his employment from Athletic Director to Assistant Athletic Director effective July 1, 2010, at a salary of \$7,200.

- M. *(Item M was pulled from the block vote.)*

- N. To provide four (4) students with on-the-job clerical training and five (5) students with on-the-job maintenance/custodial training in the district during the summer months at minimum wage (35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks).

- O. Employment of Kyle Long for the position of Head Boys Soccer Coach for the 2010-2011 school year with 14.75 points and a salary of \$2,486. (85% - 1st year).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Vought and second by Steele, to change James Roth from Assistant Athletic Director to Athletic Director effective July 1, 2010, at a salary of \$11,000. Prior to voting Mr. Stahley stated that he would be voting no because he felt it would be too many responsibilities along with his teaching position. Mr. Porter expressed concern over a head coach being an athletic director. He stated that the football budget is the largest portion of the athletic budget and he recommended that the high school principal oversee the athletic budget pertaining to football. Mr. Reh stated that there has been much discussion regarding this issue. This is a one-year recommendation to see how it works. It is the recommendation of the Activities Committee, and Mr. Reh strongly recommended the change based on his knowledge of Mr. Roth. Mr. Starr stated the he feels it will work as long as Terry Sharrow remains with the district. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

On a motion by Steele and second by Yocum, to amend the Job Description of the Athletic Director to delete the language pertaining to the compensation being based upon the coaches' salary schedule.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

- C. A Band and Chorus Trip to Orlando, Florida, on Sunday, April 17 through Saturday, April 23, 2011. They will be performing at various Disney locations throughout the week. District expense limited to the cost of substitutes.

- D. An Agreement pertaining to a student disciplinary matter and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the same on behalf of the District.

- E. The 2010 Ready, Set, Grow! Summer Pre-K Readiness Program for 2010-2011 kindergarten students; June 28th through July 29th, 2010; Monday through Thursday; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Transportation will be provided and all costs will be covered by

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proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (pending final approval of grant funding).

- F. The 2010 Summer Social Dynamics Program for students in grades 5-12; June 28th through July 29th, 2010; Monday through Thursday; 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Transportation will be provided and all costs will be covered by proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (pending final approval of grant funding).
- G. The 2010 Middle and High School Summer School for students in grades 5-12 who have failed a course in the 2009-2010 school year; beginning June 14th through June 29th, 2010; Monday through Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; \$100 per course tuition fee; all remaining costs will be covered by proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant (pending final approval of grant funding).
- J. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#63971) effective May 11, 2010, until further evaluation by a physician; not to exceed five (5) hours per week.

The Motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked for clarification on hiring a full-time ESL teacher versus contracting with Learning Lamp. Mr. Reh explained that while it was a part-time position, the teachers union allowed the district to contract with Learning Lamp, however now that there is a need for a full-time ESL teacher in order to stay in compliance, the union would not approve contracting out for a full-time position.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Frank Berger, asked if the budget could be put on the webpage on Friday. Mr. Rodgers responded affirmatively. Mr. Berger stated that he has not heard any of the board members ask about the possibility of cuts in any of the budget areas. Mr. Rodgers explained that a lot of the expenditures are set by labor negotiations. The departmental budgets for supplies are at a zero percent increase and have been for the past several years. He noted that operating expenses make up the balance of the budget such as electricity and fuel consumption, and those costs are locked in. He stated that he is not really sure what other areas could be cut, but he agreed to identify some of the areas that could possibly be considered. President Yeager stated that he may not have heard the word "cut," but there have been a lot of programs brought back to the district to reduce costs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steele and second by Starr, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary