

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

The June 14, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:35 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 (*Absent*)

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

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all Personnel Items, and one fiscal item on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He and several administrators attended a Standards Aligned System program in Altoona. The administrators and Ms. Shoup were absent from the meeting due to there attendance at the three-day event.

2.) A parent rally for education will be held in Harrisburg on June 21st at 11:00 a.m. to support the Governor.

3.) He requested an executive session following the regular meeting to discuss personnel and negotiations.

4.) Mr. Rodgers gave a report on the proposed 2010-2011 budget.

5.) Mr. Reh reported that the he received many favorable comments regarding the graduation ceremony.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Tim Vought reported that they discussed the concession stand and what direction to take. They discussed some electricity upgrades and building onto the stand. The weight room was discussed and the possibility of getting a big ticket item for some upgrades for that facility.

Facilities & Services - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that they spent most of the time discussing the summer projects, which are on schedule. Mr. George is putting a watering schedule together for the fields. Mr. Vought reported that Mr. Roth indicated that the extra work on the football field has made a difference.

Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Page 2

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that a special budget meeting was held May 24th and a regular committee meeting was held June 7th. They discussed leasing some buses over a three-year lease to get some newer buses in the fleet. Two scoreboards are needed at \$3,000 each; one for field hockey and one for soccer. There was a \$300,000 growth in earned income tax and a \$130,000 growth in real estate taxes for the past year. Of the equalized millage increase for the proposed budget, .03 mill is for the PSERS increase, and .86 mill is for the proposed building project. The district is trying to build up enough reserve so the district will be prepared for the PSERS spike. Currently there is \$160,000 in the reserve fund for PSERS, which is an amount over and above the regular PSERS payments. He noted that there is one House Bill and one Senate Bill that are at the respective finance committees of each of the bodies of the General Assembly; one has been there since January and the other since February.

Mr. Rodgers pointed out that the health insurance, which is one of the larger line items, will have a zero percent increase in Blue Cross/Blue Shield programs and a one percent increase in GHP. The building budgets (principal's budgets) were held at zero percent increase again this year. The PSERS retirement is budgeted at 8.22 percent in the actual budget; however 10.0 percent is being budgeted to build a cushion to prepare for the future PSERS spike. The district will realize a savings through one retirement this year. One new position was created for an ESL teacher; however the service was contracted out the previous year. Three positions were eliminated; mechanic, grant coordinator and grant secretary. Contracts for ESL and Synergy/Blended Schools were eliminated. There was a one-time reduction in the textbook line item of \$25,000 due to the fact Mrs. Monick felt she could purchase some of those materials through some stimulus monies rather than General Fund budget items. The Vo-Tech tuition is \$531,000. The gas and electric rates are per contracted rates. A savings of approximately \$24,000 will be realized due to switching to PPL Energy Plus. The transfer to the Capital Reserve Fund has been increased by \$50,000 due to the lease program for buses, which is a capital lease with a one dollar buyout.

Mr. Rodgers stated that historically, the district budgeted \$135,000 to purchase two new buses each year; however due to the district's needs, they have had to go to the used market to address the immediate needs, which has pushed out the average age of the fleet. He noted that the lease program would be a great program to try to address the district's needs. It reduces the total cost in the transportation department.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the four policies are on the agenda for discussion and/or approval. There was some concern over the Confidentiality Policy and whether it would inhibit the intent of the Sunshine Act. He noted that it was not the intent of the policy. The intent was to ensure that Board members are aware of their responsibilities regarding confidentiality and executive sessions. The committee decided that a policy is not necessary, but Board members need to be aware of their responsibilities.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley deferred his report until the following week to encompass two meetings.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that there was a discussion regarding OPEB. He also noted that they hired several attorneys for various duties. He stated that he would give a further report at the next meeting.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that they had a negotiating session/executive session following the Finance Committee meeting. He requested some time during the executive session to discuss negotiations.

Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Page 3

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, the 2010 Summer Athletics Transportation Schedule (per Exhibit E) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation of Danielle Jacukowicz from the position of Half-time Paraprofessional effective June 4, 2010. Ms. Jacukowicz has been in the position since September 2009.
- B. To accept the resignation of Linda A. Mieriello from the position of 5-Hour Cafeteria Worker effective June 3, 2010. Ms. Mieriello has been in the position since September 2009.
- C. Employment of the following student custodial/maintenance workers effective June 7, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Jeremy Oshman
 - Joshua Wells
 - Alex Witkoskie
 - Tyrell Thomas
 - Janessa Nichols
 - Alex Carawan
- D. To acknowledge that Laurie Savitski will serve as a Long-Term Instructional Substitute for 4th Grade effective August 23, 2010, through October 29, 2010.
- E. To approve Dr. David J. Leshock (Bloomsburg) as Consultant to the Dental Hygiene program for the 2010-2011 school year to include a \$50 consultant fee.
- F. Motion to approve personnel (pending completion of all employment requirements) for the 2010 Southern Columbia Summer Programs (per Exhibit F)

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked for clarification on the mobile dental lab and the need for Dr. Leshock’s service. After some discussion Porter made a motion to amend the motion to delete Item E. Stahley seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Porter stated that he still has some reservations regarding the provisions for contact with the solicitor. Mr. Steele stated that the committee feels strongly that a policy should be in place.

Board Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2010

Page 4

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated the he thought the Finance Committee agreed that a column for the last available actual figures would be included in the budget packet. Mr. Rodgers agreed to add a column.

Mr. Porter asked for Solicitor Roberts' opinion on including the special education figures in the budget packet. Solicitor Roberts replied that there is no legal prohibition, but he doesn't feel it would be prudent to do so. Mr. Porter stated that special education costs are a large part of the budget, and the Board needs to be aware of the special education numbers.

After further discussion, on a motion by Porter and second by Stahley to add the special education numbers to the budget was presented for approval. District resident, Frank Berger, stated that the special education numbers could prove beneficial as a managerial tool. He noted that by his calculations, there should be \$212,000 that is unaccounted for after bringing seventeen special education students back to the district.

Mr. Rodgers pointed out on page 25 of the budget packet, that line item 300 for professional services was reduced from \$377,000 to \$129,729. That number reflects the savings from bringing those students back to Southern Columbia. Mr. Rodgers noted that there is still some savings not yet reflected in the budget for the remainder of the students that have not yet been brought back to the district. Those savings are not reflected in the 2010-2011 budget; nor are the expenses that go along with bringing back those students.

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 2-Yes, 5-No (Porter and Stahley voted Yes).

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Berger asked for an update on the Act 34 hearing. Mr. Reh stated that if PDE had problems, they would have notified the architect, otherwise no response would be received. Mr. Reh stated that he attended a meeting with the Columbia County Planning Commission and he was scheduled to attend a second meeting the following night. He noted that everything is going as scheduled.

Mr. Berger asked how much of the \$800,000 savings is currently being saved in the proposed budget. Mr. Rodgers replied that approximately half of the \$800,000 is reflected in the 2010-2011 budget. He pointed out that there is a projection for an additional student, so it will be difficult to pinpoint the exact savings figures because of the additional projected expenses included in the budget. Mr. Rodgers pointed out that the 2011-2012 budget will not reflect any of the savings that were projected a few months ago, because there would not be any building ready for students in the upcoming year. The remainder of the savings will not be reflected for two or three years. Mr. Rodgers reported that expenses for four additional teachers are also included in the budget. He stated that the \$800,000 savings is a gross savings. The net savings is about \$140,000 per year.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Yocum and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary