

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

The June 21, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:37 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 (*Absent*)
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 items on the agenda would be action items. Three additional Policy and Programs items would be added pertaining to resolutions. District resident, Frank Berger, asked for the quantitative dollar amount of savings for bringing back the special education students, pertaining to the budgetary transfers to close out the books. Mr. Rodgers explained that the budgetary transfers are if one department wants to move funds from one account to another. Mr. Rodgers added that if there were any unallocated funds following the audit, those funds would be transferred into the Capital Reserve Fund, but those figures won't be available until September or October after the audit is finalized.

Mr. Berger referred to Fiscal Item E and asked if the transfer includes the \$106,000 that was already dedicated to PSERS. Mr. Rodgers replied negatively and explained that any monies unallocated at the end of the audit will be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund. The \$106,000 will remain in the General Fund balance as a designated fund.

Mr. Berger asked for clarification on the savings from bringing the special education students back to the district. Mr. Rodgers explained that some of the savings as well as expenditures for teacher and paraprofessional salaries pertaining to bringing back the out of district students were already figured into the 2009-2010 budget.

District resident, Florey Guarno, referred to Fiscal Item B and asked if in order to balance the budget, \$159,000 will be taken from the General Fund. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively and added that it is anticipated that they will need to use \$159,000 out of the \$1.5 million Fund balance. Mr. Guarno stated that it looks like they will be using the General Fund balance the next three or four years to balance the budget to keep the tax increase low enough to avoid referendum. Mr. Rodgers replied that the five year projection included use of Fund balance in the next few years. Mr. Guarno asked what the anticipated tax increase will be at the end of five years when the Fund balance is exhausted. He also asked if the State requires that a district keep a certain amount in the Fund balance. Mr. Rodgers replied that a district should not exceed a certain amount. Solicitor Roberts noted that a district doesn't have to have a Fund balance, but

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the budget must balance. Mr. Rodgers noted that the five-year projections had a lot of assumptions built into them. It was based on a PSERS rate spike to 33 or 34 percent in 1213. Late last week there was proposed legislation stating that they are proposing to lower the PSERS rate. Mr. Rodgers noted that the outlying years do not look pretty, but they will continue to look at programs, increasing taxes or other revenue sources. Mr. Reh stated that the projections were based on worst case scenarios. Mr. Rodgers stated that district has taken a proactive approach to avoid large tax increases by designating \$106,000 last year and \$162,000 this year. They have also eliminated some contracted services and three positions.

Mr. Berger asked if it would be possible to implement a posting date when documents are posted on the website. It was agreed that the posting date could be included.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He recommended changing the Facilities/Finance Committee meeting to July 12th due to the Independence Day observance on July 5th. It was decided that the Facilities Committee only would meet on July 12th. The Finance Committee decided to schedule at another time.

2.) He also recommended that the Activities and Policy Committee meetings be cancelled for July 12th if there are no urgent issues. The Board members consented.

3.) He met with the architect on Thursday. The timeline the architect is looking at is to place the bids at the end of August with bids due back the end of September. Under perfect circumstances, construction could commence the beginning of November.

4.) Mr. George put in the new fire rated window in Lanny Conner's room. Mr. George stated that the cost savings was \$500 per window. He thanked Blair at Knoebel Lumber and Mr. Porter for their help in the process.

5.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that his students placed 5th in the Pennies for Patients campaign.

Mr. Porter asked about the Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Reh replied that Mr. Beattie recommended that he attend the meeting in July and said that it was not necessary to attend the second meeting in June.

Mr. Porter asked him about the condition of the football field. Mr. George replied that he is not thrilled with the condition of the field after the first spraying. He noted that the band group that was on it last week didn't help the situation. He stated that they would be watering it heavily.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the meeting. He distributed a handout to the Board members. One of the pages described what took place at the Standards Aligned Systems conference that the administrators attended. The next page is the Action Plan for Southern Columbia; manual goal activities to achieve the goal, steps to achieve the goal, timelines for implementation, and measure of students' success. The next page pertained to the PSSA proficiency levels. Mrs. Monick further explained the PSSA results.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson stated that he would like to discuss negotiations during the executive session. They have a negotiations session at 5:00 p.m. on June 29th.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that there are a number of trainings available for board members. The House passed their version of the Bill pertaining to PSERS and it is in the Senate. It would change the system that would be available to some type of "hybrid" system.

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Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that the JOC met on May 18th. They received a resignation from Dr. Rushton effective July 18th. They discussed the support staff contract. Mr. Bacher gave a presentation on the prom and graduation. They talked about the NOCTI tests. They anticipate that the Vo-Tech students will be in the top ten again this year. Mr. Freeman reported that the PSSAs are complete and they are awaiting results.

They met in executive session on June 15th. They discussed candidates for the Director position and the hiring and interview process. They purchased a new metal lathe for \$10,592. Career Camp was discussed. Preliminary PSSA numbers are way up from last year's results. Mrs. Monick pointed out that last year the Vo-Tech implemented Learning Focused Schools (LFS). They discussed PSERS legislation and Wayne Brookhart will be the Superintendent of Record. They voted on the contract, which passed even though he and Mr. Yeager voted against it. Mr. Porter thanked Mr. Stahley and Mr. Yeager for bringing the information back to the Board and for voting the way they did.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that CSIU approved the three mandate waiver resolutions that Solicitor Roberts mentioned earlier in the meeting. They discussed the PA Trust and OPEB. Mr. Rodgers stated that they should discuss programs such as OPEB after the audit is complete. The CSIU parking lot will be changed and repaved to make it safer.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, the Treasurer's Reports were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

- A. Minutes - May 10 and 17, 2010.
- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$512,033.23, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$730.00 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$9,333.58.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Porter and second by Stahley, 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 Stahley, to adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit B**) approving the Southern Columbia Area School District General Fund Budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year in the amount of \$16,887,333 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stellfox, to adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit C**) requesting permission to continue to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of General

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Services Cooperative Purchasing Program was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Shoup, to authorize the Business Manager to make appropriate transfers for proper budgetary accounting to close out the fiscal year and prepare for audit, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Shoup, to authorize the Business Manager to transfer unallocated expenditures remaining at the conclusion of the 2009-2010 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

On a motion by Starr and second by Yocum, to adopt a Resolution regarding the Homestead/ Farmstead Exclusion (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, to appoint the following institutions as school district depositories for the 2010-2011 fiscal year was presented for approval:

- First Columbia Bank & Trust Co.
- Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund
- Pennsylvania Treasurer's INVEST Program
- Union National Bank
- M&T Bank

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Stellfox, to accept the Technology Education Supplies bids (per Exhibit E) were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation for retirement of Charlotte McGinley from the position of 7-Hour Cafeteria Worker effective August 1, 2010. Mrs. McGinley has been with the district since April 1998.
- B. Employment of Linda Van Lente as a Tutor for the Ready, Set, Grow summer program effective June 21, 2010, at an hourly rate of \$22.00, which will come from proceeds of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant.
- C. To note satisfactory evaluations and accept the recommendations (pending completion of all employment requirements) for approval/re-approval of the Athletic/Activities positions and salaries for the 2010-2011 school year (**per Exhibit F**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. Motion to approve the second reading and adoption of new Policy 826 Privacy of Health Information (HIPAA) (per Exhibit G).
- C. Motion to approve the first reading of revised Policy 216 Confidentiality and Maintenance of Student Records (per Exhibit I).
- D. Motion to approve the first reading of new Policy 822 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (per Exhibit J).

(Items B, E, F and G were pulled from the block vote.)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Starr and second by Shoup, the first reading of revised Policy 005 Organization (per Exhibit H) was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No). *(Item B)*

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Steele, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to Section 106 of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. §1-106 was presented for approval. There was some discussion prior to the vote and most Board members agreed that advertising should continue in the local newspapers as in the past, regardless if the waiver is approved. Mr. Porter and Mr. Stahley expressed opposition to the Resolution. By roll call vote the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). *(Item E)*

On a motion by Shoup and second by Stahley, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to Section 807.1 (a) of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. §8-807.1(a) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. *(Item F)*

On a motion by Yocum and second by Stellfox, to adopt a Resolution pertaining to Section 807.1 (a.1) of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. §8-807.1(a.1) was presented for approval. By roll call vote the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No). *(Item G)*

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked how parents of special education students become aware of the Extended School Year program. Mrs. Shoup replied that it is part of the IEP and it should happen throughout the school year.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

Mr. Guarno asked for clarification on two courses and whether new teachers are needed for the courses. Mrs. Monick replied that the courses in question are electives as part of Family and Consumer Science. The students' selection determines whether or not the courses roster. The teachers don't always teach the same courses each semester, depending on the students' selection.

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The Board Secretary asked for clarification regarding advertising. It was agreed that advertising would continue as in past practice whether or not the waiver would be granted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Shoup and second by Steele, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary