

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

The July 19, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:38 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 (*Absent*)

**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 considered action items.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He congratulated the Digital Video Team of Jared Levan, Brandon Talisesky and Shane Yeager for placing third in the National FBLA Competition. President Yeager presented citations to each of the team members.

2.) He announced that there would be a revised bell schedule for the upcoming school year to facilitate a common planning time for the faculty, which will be an asset in developing the curriculum and Learning Focused Schools. The actual school day will begin fifteen minutes later than in the past. The high school will start at 8:15 a.m. and the elementary will start at 8:20 a.m. The instructional hours will be approximately fifteen minutes less, but the high school instructional time will only be reduced by one minute. In the elementary, the core subject instructional time will remain the same; however the special areas will be reduced by five minutes. It is planned that the revised bus schedules will be officially announced and sent home in the first week in August. Students will be picked up twenty to twenty-five minutes later.

3.) He noted that Mr. Mehalick informed him that Southern Columbia Area School District has been chosen to participate in the National Inclusive Model Project. Mr. Mehalick will be attending a webinar on August 30<sup>th</sup>. At that point, a decision will need to be made as to whether the district will participate in writing the grant.

4.) Mr. Shirvinski gave a brief explanation of Camp Create, which replaced the CSIU Summer Arts Program. Mrs. Tia Brown, Elementary Art Teacher, gave a video presentation of some of the Art activities that students have done throughout the school year and the stop motion animation videos that were made by the students during Camp Create.

## Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2010

Page 2

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

President Yeager asked Mr. Mehalick to write an article to submit to the press regarding the inclusive project grant. Mr. Mehalick agreed to do so, but it was decided that he would wait until after the August 30<sup>th</sup> webinar, and after a decision was made as to whether or not the district would participate.

President Yeager announced that executive sessions were held following the last Facilities and Finance Committee meetings and prior to the present meeting. They were all based on personnel.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - No meeting was held, but Mr. Becker would be setting up a meeting with the Spring sports coaches.

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - Rick Steele reported that they discussed the common planning time and the fact that it will be structured. They also discussed Atomic Learning, a web-based professional development tool, which can be used for most high school students as well. The district now has a district-wide Microsoft Office certificate for all Microsoft applications. Seven online courses have been added to the Compass Odyssey curriculum. Both of the building library collections can now be accessed online. The district has migrated to an online version of Accelerated Reader for grades K-12. The online version will provide access to over 350,000 book titles, compared to 7,500 titles acquired in-district over the past 12 years.

Facilities & Services - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that the summer projects are going well. The maintenance department is proceeding with the windows in the classrooms. They reviewed the Priority Projects List, which seems to be manageable. Watering the fields was a concern. An e-mail was sent to coaches to make them aware of the well situation.

Mr. Porter asked about the caulking project. Mr. Rodgers stated that they were in the process of putting bid specs together, but there was some discussion as to whether it would be done as an alternate or in-house. It was decided that they would get prices to have it done in-house.

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that the committee met July 7<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the state budget. There was a 5.77 percent increase in funding over last year's budget. A 5.0 percent increase was budgeted for the 2010-2011 school year. The .77 percent equates to approximately \$35,000 over what was budgeted. They also discussed the Tax Equalization Board. It was the understanding of the committee that they were updating software and the wrong numbers were certified. Some of the assessment values were incorrect for one or two of the municipalities within the district. The difference would be minimal, and since a school district can only levy taxes one time and the tax bills had already been mailed, no correction could be made.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, had nothing new to report, but noted that second readings of several policies were on the agenda for approval.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that training is proceeding with BusTracks. Mr. Rodgers noted that BusTracks would be remotely extracting our data to determine the next step. Mr. Vought stated that the mailers should go out on time. Five bus cameras would be purchased at a cost of \$395 each. The bridge construction projects were discussed. Mr. Rodgers stated that all of the buses passed inspection. The plan is to lease two 72-

## Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2010

Page 3

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passenger buses, one 24-passenger bus and two 10-passenger vans this year. The administration is moving ahead with getting two competitive quotes.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele stated that there is nothing new to report.

CSIU - Mike Yeager did not attend the last meeting.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that they conducted interviews for the Director position on the 12<sup>th</sup> and another meeting would be held the following evening.

### ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

On a motion by Vought and second by Steele, the Treasurer’s Reports were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that the Capital Reserve balance was less than the Capital Reserve bills. He asked Mr. Rodgers how he planned to handle the situation. Mr. Rodgers replied that he could post the new allocations to the Capital Reserve Fund July 1<sup>st</sup>; \$100,000 for the regular transfer and \$85,000 for buses. If the Board decided to go ahead with the building project and would do a bond issue, the intent is to replenish the Capital Reserve Fund for the architect’s bills that have been paid through the Capital Reserve. There is also the possibility of some stimulus funds that could be used. In the interim, the General Fund balance will be used. Transfers will be made from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Rodgers stated that he can release \$100,000 of the bills. Mr. Porter asked if there would be an interest charge from the architect. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively and stated that it would be in the best interest to include a 6<sup>th</sup> wire transfer of \$250,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund. It was the consensus of the Board to include the additional wire transfer.

Mr. Porter asked if the meal prices needed to be increased. Mr. Rodgers stated that the Cafeteria Department is fiscally sound and it would not be necessary at the current time.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

### MINUTES AND INVOICES

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

A. Minutes - June 14 and 21, 2010.

B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$994,497.23, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$246,055.94 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$12,289.07.

Prior to voting, Mr. Porter questioned several invoices. Mr. Porter stated that he noticed from some of the invoices that the district has been buying tools. He asked if an inventory of tools has been developed. Mr. Rodgers stated that the Business Office does not keep an inventory of small tools. He noted that Mr. George and Mr. Stine might keep their own inventories. He also noted that the district should provide specialized tools to its employees. He agreed that some type of inventory could be developed. Mr. Porter stated that there are Platinum Plus credit card fees of \$250, and asked if the district should look at the way bills are paid. Mr. Rodgers stated that an analysis could be done for the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Porter pointed out that the Architectural Studio is breaking the elementary and the Middle School/High School project into two different projects. Mr. Reh explained that it is because the elementary project is

## Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2010

Page 4

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not reimbursable. Mr. Porter asked if anyone had seen the construction documents for the elementary for which the district was being billed. Mr. Reh replied affirmatively.

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

### ITEMS – FISCAL

### ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of the following individuals as Game Managers for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate of \$50 per game (40 games maximum for all Game Managers combined):
  - Beth Fegley
  - Brandon Traugh
- B. To acknowledge that Cassia Maguire will serve as a Long-term Substitute for Middle School Learning Support beginning August 23, 2010 and ending on or about January 2, 2011.
- C. Employment of Michael Johnston as Winter Weightlifting Supervisor at a rate of \$7.70 per hour/70 hours maximum.
- D. To change the employment status of Diane Unger from Half-time Paraprofessional to Full-time Paraprofessional effective August 23, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- E. To change the employment status of Michelle Miller from Half-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) to Part-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days per week) effective August 23, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. Employment of Kristina Bolick as a Half-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective August 23, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- G. Employment of Megan McAndrews as a Half-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective August 23, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- H. Employment of the following Paraprofessionals for the 2010 Extended School Year (ESY) Program effective June 21, 2010, at the rates listed:
  - Renae Carl (contracted rate)
  - Dawn Kehs (contracted rate)
  - Cassia Maguire (\$9.00 per hour)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

## Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2010

Page 5

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### ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. The 2010-2011 Elementary Center Handbook (**per Exhibit B**).
- B. The 2010-2011 High School Student Handbook (**per Exhibit C**).
- C. *(Item C was pulled from the block vote.)*
- D. Second reading and adoption of revised Policy 216 Confidentiality and Maintenance of Student Records (**per Exhibit E**).
- E. Second reading and adoption of new Policy 822 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) (**per Exhibit F**).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Stellfox, the second reading and adoption of revised Policy 005 Organization (**per Exhibit D**). By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No). *(Item C)*

### BOARD COMMENTS

#### RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Florey Guarno asked if the departure time for students would be changing. Mr. Reh stated that it would be approximately five minutes later. Mr. Guarno asked how many actual teaching periods are in a day. Mr. Reh replied that there are eleven periods per day with eight full teaching periods. Mr. Guarno noted that the district has been hiring a lot of paraprofessional lately and asked if that was an upgrade from an instructional aide. Mr. Mehalick stated that the change was generated from No Child Left Behind and additional training is needed. Paraprofessionals are now required to possess an Associate's degree. Mr. Guarno requested an Act 34 packet. Mr. Rodgers agreed to provide him with on following the meeting. Mr. Guarno also stated that he had questions regarding the budget packet. Mr. Rodgers agreed to meet with him following the meeting to answer his questions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Shoup and second by Vought, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch  
Board Secretary