

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

The September 13, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:34 p.m. with President Michael Yeager in charge of the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

President Yeager welcomed everyone and thanked his fellow Board members for all of the time they have put in lately, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Charles Porter
Jennifer Oiler
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; Joseph Shirvinski, Roger Nunkester, 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 two fiscal items on the agenda would be considered action items.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Barry Brobst from The Architectural Studio will be present at the next meeting to seek approval for Plan Con F, which would allow the bid process to begin. The tentative date for a pre-bid conference is October 4th in the High School cafeteria. Bids would then be due October 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

2.) Mr. Mehalick gave an update on the Career Development Academy in Numidia. He reported that students are performing copying and shredding duties and will begin scanning duties in the near future. He noted that an open house was held for the families of the students attending the Academy. An open house for the public will be held in the future. President Yeager recommended that the next Finance/Facilities Committee meeting be held at the Career Development Academy. Board members were open to the suggestion and agreed that a final decision would be made at the next Board meeting.

3.) Mr. Shirvinski announced that the 4th grade students are participating in the program, Your Extra Steps, which is a program to encourage students to increase their physical activity.

4.) The stained glass mural dedication was held during the recent Meet-N-Greet Night. The mural was dedicated to staff that had passed away.

5.) Grandparents' Day will be held the last week in September for grades K through 4.

6.) Mr. Nunkester reported that the Middle School held Steppin' Up Night September 1st and it was well attended.

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Mr. Porter asked if Mr. Brobst could provide the sizes of the current classrooms and the classrooms in the proposed building project at the next meeting. He also noted that the plans had changed to include two 15,000 gallon water tanks in the space under the Middle School. He asked if that space could be reconfigured to get more useable maintenance space and at what cost.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities – The committee met with the spring coaches. The Girls' Track Coach, Kevin Jones, reported that his budget seems a little tight. Boys' Track Coach, Lanny Conner, reported that he needs to purchase some hurdles and javelins, and he would like to look into the possibility of a Junior High Track Program. Randy Young, Baseball Coach, reported that the bullpens need repairs, the infield needs to be cut and sprayed, holes need to be filled on a regular basis, weeds are not controlled, the backstop fence has a hole in the bottom, a batting box tarp is needed, the storage facility needs shelving, the infield needs to be aerated and the outfield needs to be sprayed. Softball Coach, Albert Cihocki, reported that the field hardened over the summer. His budget is too low. He doesn't have enough money for bats and balls. President Yeager stated that a parent asked if the warning track could be expanded.

Facilities & Services – The report was postponed until the next meeting due to Mr. Stellfox's absence.

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that the committee met twice since the last Board meeting. On August 30th, they had a presentation from Tony DaRe from BSI Corporate Benefits regarding health insurance. They also had an executive session to discuss personnel. The second meeting was held September 7th and they heard a presentation from Mr. Chuck Peterson from CS Trust. They discussed unbundling the traditional and PPO rates to save on health care premiums. Bids for bus leasing were discussed. The surplus sale that was held recently raised \$813. Mr. Porter stated that the Board would need to make a decision as to whether they want to hire a consultant or hire Tony DaRe. Mr. Stahley stated that he left the meeting with the understanding that some requests for proposals would be put together. Mr. Porter stated that there could be a time issue due to the open enrollment period. Mr. Rodgers stated that if they remain with the CS Trust, the open enrollment would not be an issue, but if the district decided to go outside the Trust, there would be a tight timeframe.

Mr. Porter stated that trustees for the CS Trust are almost all beneficiaries of the system. He noted that it might have a profound effect on the decisions made by the Trust. He noted that the Trust is being run by the beneficiaries and the taxpayers don't have a whole lot of representation. President Yeager disagreed and noted that all seventeen school boards are making the decisions and are directing their trustees accordingly. Mr. Porter noted that the Board should be appointing a Board member as a Trustee to represent the Board. Mr. Rodgers stated that the healthcare issue was discussed in house last year, and it was determined that it was in the best interest of the district to remain with the CS Trust for various reasons. He also noted that the district has been part of the Trust since 2004 and the reason it has not been a real hot topic at budget meetings is because the average increase has been 3.8 percent over that five-year period. He added that it was looked at last year during negotiations and it was the consensus of the Board to remain with the Trust. Mr. Rodgers asked for direction from the Board as to whether there was a consensus of the Board to move forward. Mr. Porter stated that he thought they discussed putting a Request for Proposals together to move forward. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would bring a general proposal to the next Finance meeting, and they could move forward from there. Mr. Porter asked if at the next CS Trust meeting they would be asked to unbundle the traditional and PPO rates. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively.

Policy – Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee met on August 31st with staff and district residents regarding issues surrounding field trips. Three policies will be impacted: School

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Volunteers, Field Trips and Overnight/Out-of-State Educational Trips. One of the issues is what types of clearances should be required. The Music Department has come up with some recommended guidelines for chaperones. The Policy Committee met with Jean Atherton and was informed that there are some new guidelines regarding medications. A special meeting on October 5th will be held to discuss the Field Trips Policy. Mr. Mehalick had given the Committee a policy regarding evaluations for students with disabilities, which they will be looking at in the near future.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that no meeting was held in August. The next meeting would be held on the following Wednesday.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that the JOC met August 17th. They had an executive session for personnel reasons. They hired an Auto Technology Instructor, an English Teacher and they formalized the hiring of Mr. William Forsythe as the Director. The gym floor was sanded and refinished through the state contract. Mr. Anthony DaRe was present to discuss health insurance. The Reorganization Meeting will be held December 8th, beginning with a tour at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ITEMS – TREASURER’S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Yocum requested a change to the August 16th minutes under the Curriculum report to reflect that only “classroom” textbooks would be needed in lieu of student textbooks.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Thirty-six month Lease Agreement with Municipal Capital Corporation for a 2011 72-Passenger Bluebird Vision School Bus in the amount of \$27,212.79 per year, to commence on or about October 1, 2010 (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit A**).
- B. Thirty-six month Lease Agreement with DCFS USA, LLC for a 2011 72-Passenger Thomas Built School Bus, a 2010 30-Passenger Thomas Built Minotour School Bus and a 2011 9-Passenger Ford Van in the amount of \$54,400.26 per year, to commence on or about October 1, 2010 (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit A, B & C**).

Prior to voting, Mr. Stahley asked why the lowest bid wasn’t accepted for the Van. Mr. Rodgers reported that it didn’t meet the specs in two areas; they could not meet the delivery date of October 1st, and they didn’t quote the right vehicle. Mr. Vought noted that the New Holland vehicle seems to be a much better vehicle. Mr. Rodgers stated that the 12 to 14 week wait period seemed to be a concern for the Transportation Department; however he stated that the decision on the van could be held off until the next meeting.

On a motion by Starr and second by Oiler, to amend the previous motion to eliminate the 9-passenger E150 Van and amend the leasing amount to \$44,176.71 was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Leslie Brecht as Support Teacher for Jessica Jones at an annual salary of \$821, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- B. Kelly Konyar (Teacher) as a Volunteer Assistant Field Hockey Coach for the 2010-2011 school year.
- C. Employment of James Steiner as a member of the Security Personnel for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate of \$30 per event (pending completion of all employment requirements).
- D. The addition of the following individuals to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective September 14, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Richard Donald (Elementary)
 - Kam Roth (Elementary)
- E. Employment of Amy Kauffman as Half-time Paraprofessional (working 3 days of the 6-day cycle) effective August 26, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. To accept the resignation of Paula Brosius from the position of Half-time Paraprofessional effective September 10, 2010. Ms. Brosius has been with the district since August 2009.
- G. Employment of Carin Marks for the position of 3-Hour Cafeteria worker (currently assigned to the Elementary) effective September 15, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Stahley asked if any further information was received from the Berwick School District regarding the CSIU audit. Mr. Reh replied that they were going to discuss it further and send a letter to the Board President when they had more information.

Mr. Rodgers reported that the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee would be appointing a Tax Collector on the following Wednesday. Four proposals were received; one was eliminated. The three remaining proposals were from Centax, Keystone and Berkheimer. The tax collector appointed will collect Earned Income Tax only and will not affect the district until January 1, 2012.

Mr. Porter asked if the Resolution pertaining to a combined contribution was sent to PSBA. It was agreed that the Board Secretary would look into the matter. The Board Secretary also

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announced that the approval letters from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for PlanCon A, B, D and E would be made part of the minutes of the current meeting.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Florey Guarno, recommended that the district do away with the employee passes for sporting events as a cost saving measure. Mr. Guarno asked what the taxpayers got out of the recently approved teachers contract. Mr. Porter replied that the district retained a high quality work force. He also noted that keeping the 25 percent co-pay was in their best interest. Mr. Reh stated that Southern Columbia has one of the highest health care premiums in the state. He added that they maintained a quality faculty. He noted that several surrounding districts had higher salary increases and lower co-pays. He noted that it was a fair increase. It was also noted that avoiding arbitration resulted in a savings to the district.

Mr. Guarno asked if quotes were obtained on the surveying since it could cost up to \$5,000. Mr. Reh stated that they haven't received the final cost yet. Mr. Guarno asked for the cost of the dental, vision and life insurance benefits. Mr. Rodgers agreed to provide those figures to him at the next meeting. Mr. Guarno asked for the breakdown of teachers that were hired since 2004. It was noted that the information was provided to the Board in August and Mr. Guarno was not present at that meeting. It was agreed that the information would be provided to Mr. Guarno at the next meeting. Mr. Guarno stated that he had a problem with Mr. Brobst sending the Act 34 documents to the state. Mr. Rodgers stated that it is standard practice.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Oiler and second by Vought, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary