

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

The September 20, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:36 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

Jennifer Oiler
Charles Porter
Eric Stahley

Paul Starr
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, 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He congratulated the Board and noted that they are very prudent with taxpayer dollars and they did an excellent job in negotiating with the teachers as well as with the AFSCME union. It is the commitment of the Board to provide a quality education at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. He added that it is a fact that the negotiations established with the union were well below the average for IU 16 and well below the state average. He thanked the negotiating team and Mr. Chris Gengler and the Education Association in their negotiations.

2.) Southern Columbia has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in all areas.

3.) He announced that the next Facilities & Finance Committee meeting on October 4th would be held at the Career Development Academy in Numidia.

4.) Southern Columbia Area High School has been nominated as a finalist for the Edutopia Award from the George Lucas Foundation. The award deals with excellence in technology education. Mrs. Monick stated that Classrooms for the Future set the bar for integrating technology in the high school.

5.) Southern Columbia is a member of the CS Trust. Three representatives from the district attend the Trust meetings. The Superintendent, Business Manager and a member of the faculty normally attend the meetings. Each member can vote their own way. It was recommended that the representative of the Board be a voting member of the Board, in lieu of the superintendent. The next meeting is September 29th, which is during Fair week; however a regular meeting scheduled is not set. A motion to appoint a Board member to serve as a Trustee is on the agenda.

6.) Mr. Barry Brobst, Heather Rhizetto Schmidt and George Moore from The Architectural Studio were in attendance to discuss PlanCon F. Mr. Brobst reported that a PlanCon F review

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meeting with the Department of Education is scheduled for September 30th, pending approval of PlanCon F by the Board. A pre-bid meeting will be held October 5th and bids would be due October 27th. He explained that PlanCon F is the paperwork for the final documents to go out for bid. Mr. Porter questioned the capacity of the classrooms. Mr. Brobst replied that the plan lists the capacity at 25 students. Mr. Porter stated that his concern was that the classrooms are not much bigger than the current rooms. He asked Mr. Nunkester if he was satisfied with the size of the classrooms and he responded affirmatively and noted that he was especially pleased with the size of the proposed science labs. Mr. Brobst stated that according to PDE, if a classroom is smaller than 660 square feet, it is not suitable for 25 students.

Mr. Brobst stated that one of the most difficult processes is phasing, because there are lot of things in a small area on the district's campus. The procurement process is also more difficult because contractors are not stocking materials as they have in the past. He anticipates signing contracts in December and having the contractors getting shop drawings to the architect in January and February with all of the major earth work beginning in March. The construction phase will last approximately 16 months. July and August 2012 would be for finalizing the earth work. The Clerk of the Works would need to be on site March 1, 2011.

Mr. Porter asked about a check payable to the Conservation District for track improvement. Ms. Rhizetto-Schmidt stated that the full approval process is not required for the track area because there is not enough land involved, and therefore it was kept separate. Mr. Porter stated that early on in the process he asked if the HRG bills come out of the percentage the architect receives, and he was told that they do not. Mr. Brobst responded that some do and some don't; the approval process does not. Mr. Porter stated that it appears that there have been total fees agreed upon. The HRG Phase I total fee agreed upon was \$26,900 and the Phase II total fee was \$32,850. He asked for an explanation. Mr. Brobst stated that there is a part that comes out of his fee. He noted that the architect is responsible for doing the contract documents from which the bidders need to build the site, which comes from the architect's fees. HRG deals with all of the government agency approvals, which is over and above, and represents the extra part. Mr. Porter asked if \$32,850 is an agreed upon fee. Mr. Brobst replied that it is an estimate of what they thought it would run.

ITEM – FISCAL

On a motion by Starr and second by Steele, PlanCon F for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). (*Fiscal Item C*)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that Mrs. Monick reported on the Learning Focused Schools (LFS) conference she attended. Mrs. Monick explained the AYP handout to the Board. She noted that the reading target is going up from 63 to 72 percent and the mathematics target is going from 57 to 67 percent. There was minimal growth in both areas. Southern Columbia is making little steps, while some districts are making leaps and bounds. She stated that the district needs to do a better job making sure that things are being done across the board and teachers are getting the right message regarding accountability. Mrs. Monick, Mr. Becker and several teachers attended the national LFS conference in Wilmington, Delaware. Several of the sessions were conducted by Max Thompson.

Mrs. Monick reported that iPads were purchased for the administrators through PA PAC funds. The iPads will be used for walk-through evaluations. She convinced Max Thompson to

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allow Southern to be a pilot school district for evaluation software at no charge. Administrators will have access to their e-mail and calendars as long as they have their iPads with them. Mrs. Monick stated that the administration needs to set the tone for integrating technology. The staff is continually asked to utilize technology and this shows that the administration is also stepping up.

Mr. Yocum reported that there will be a new report card in the elementary. Mrs. Monick stated that the report card was modified so that it could be automated through PowerSchool. When the report card moves to the next grade level, the teacher will be able to look at it and know exactly where the student is academically. It will serve as a comprehensive evaluation/assessment tool.

Facilities - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that representatives from The Architectural Studio and Strunk-Albert were present at the last meeting. They had concerns as to how they were putting the construction together. He stated that it seems like they have addressed those issues. They asked Strunk-Albert to re-look at some of the air handling situations and control work. Generally, the major design of the building, electrical or mechanical has not changed. The summer projects have been completed.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that they voted on the contract, and there is nothing new to report.

Transportation - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that they discussed the bus routing system and how it saved one bus route. Three cameras were purchased and are being installed in the buses. All of the construction projects should be completed by the first week in November. The Ashton Hollow project is scheduled for next year. They looked at a possible van driver training program for non-union van drivers (coaches, teachers, etc.)

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that the annual conference is coming up in October. They will be doing work on a state-wide platform. Mr. Porter questioned whether the resolution pertaining to PSERS was sent to PSBA for the annual meeting.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that Dr. Witten will be retiring sometime during the school year. They will be discussing the replacement process at the meeting on Wednesday. They had a 98 percent graduation rate for parenting teenagers. They have renewed leases with Bloomsburg, Luzerne County and Shamokin. They furloughed four social workers due to school districts hiring their own social workers. Mr. Porter stated that he would like to hear what salary range they would be offering the new director.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that Mr. Mark Freeman left to take a position at the Bloomsburg School District. The JOC would meet the following night and they would be discussing some changes in the structure for the administration, to make it more streamlined and cost effective.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

- A. Minutes of August 9, 16 and 30 (special meeting), 2010, were presented for approval.

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- B. General Fund invoices in the amount of \$913,888.48, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$44,432.25 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$44,451.12.

Prior to the vote, it was clarified that 8th grade Earth and Science textbooks would be purchased for students. It was reported under the August 16, 2010, Curriculum report that only classroom textbooks were needed. Since that meeting, it was determined that if student textbooks were purchased, the online resources would be included at no extra charge; however to purchase the online resources alone would cost the same as purchasing the textbooks.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. To reject the bids for a 9-Passenger School Van from New Holland Auto Group and Brightbill Body Works due to failure to meet bid specifications (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit A**).
- B. A Thirty-six month Lease Agreement with DCFS USA, LLC for a 2011 9-Passenger Ford E-150 Van in the amount of \$10,223.55 per year, to commence on or about October 1, 2010 (**Bid Tabulation per Exhibit A**).
- D. To establish a Student Activity account for a Scholastic Competition Club; Shannon Jeffrey, Advisor.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The addition of the following individual to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective September 21, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
➤ Eric B. Deeter (Paraprofessional)
- B. *(Item B was pulled from the block vote.)*
- C. To change the employment status of Tracy Sudol from Part-time Paraprofessional working 4.5-hours per day (High School) to Part-time Paraprofessional working 4.0 hours per day (Elementary) effective September 21, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- D. Employment of Annette D. Hunsinger for the position of 3-Hour Cafeteria Worker effective September 22, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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- E. To change the employment status of Sandra Snyder from Half-time Paraprofessional to Full-time Paraprofessional (currently assigned to Life Skills) effective September 27, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- F. Employment of Kimberly Betts as Half-time Paraprofessional effective September 22, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements); salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Oiler, to appoint Charles Porter as the Board Representative to the Central Susquehanna Region School Employees' Health and Welfare Trust and to appoint the Superintendent as the alternate, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. (*Personnel Item B*)

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. The addition of the following assessments to the 2010-2011 List of Frequently Used Assessments:
 - Wiig Assessment of Basic Concepts (Speech and Language)
 - Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Fourth Edition
- B. Agreement pertaining to a student disciplinary matter and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the same on behalf of the District.
- C. The purchase of the following textbooks and/or reference materials for 8th Grade:
 - Glencoe Science, "Earth Science"(2008)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager announced that the Band Boosters would be having a live lobster sale October 9th.

Mr. Starr questioned the parking for the football game. Mr. Reh stated that he heard no complaints. Mr. Steele said there were some small issues when it became crowded. Mr. Vought stated that it worked okay without renting the field.

Mr. Porter stated that in light of the recent newspaper article, the Board should take a look at the athletic policy. Mr. Becker stated that all coaches must follow the Athletic Handbook, but they can implement guidelines beyond those contained in the Handbook. Mr. Porter requested that copies of the current policy be distributed to Board members, as well as any specific written team guidelines.

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Mr. Florey Guarno asked about the increase for the track. Mr. Stellfox stated that the entire track project is an alternate. Mr. Guarno expressed further concerns about the teachers' salary increases.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Oiler and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary