

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

The October 11, 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

Jennifer Oiler
Charles Porter
Eric Stahley

Paul Starr (*Absent*)
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, 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 Policy and Programs item on the agenda would be considered action items. He also announced that an executive session was held at the last Facilities and Finance meeting to discuss personnel and possible litigation, and an executive session was held prior to the current meeting to confer with counsel on a personnel matter.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Southern Columbia has been accepted as a model demonstration site in the National Inclusive Education Institute by the University of New Hampshire. The Pennsylvania Department of Special Education and PaTTAN have selected Southern Columbia to receive a \$20,000 mini grant to support activities associated with participation in the New Hampshire Project. The grant will cover staff development and materials. There is also the possibility that the district will receive an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 grant. Mr. Mehalick, Mr. Nunkester and Mr. Reh have been invited to attend a PaTTAN conference on inclusion on October 20th at Hershey.

2.) Auditor General, Jack Wagner has placed a moratorium on any new charter or cyber/charter schools. Charter and cyber charter schools are costing the taxpayers of every school district in the state of Pennsylvania. Parents are told that it is free, but it is not free to taxpayers. There are problems with the cyber charter system and the way it is funded. The district is billed approximately \$7,600 for ever student from Southern Columbia who attends a cyber charter school. The district is billed approximately \$16,000 for a special education student attending a cyber charter school. If a student has an IEP for speech and language, it is considered special education. Southern Columbia has fifteen students in cyber charter schools. The charges are not consistent among school districts. The superintendents proposed that there should be a \$3,000

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basic fee. Only twenty percent of cyber charter schools meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The superintendents are not against cyber charter schools, but they are against the funding and the way the legislature is allowing it to happen. Eighty percent of cyber charter schools have a fund balance greater than ten percent.

3.) The Federal regulation pertaining to healthcare was promoted as not costing taxpayers any money. It was brought up at the CS Trust meeting that the new regulations are increasing the cost to the districts. For example, children up to age twenty-six can now be picked up under their parent's insurance plan. Those are the major childrearing years, and it is estimated that mandate will increase the district's healthcare insurance cost by one to one and one-half percent.

Also discussed at the CS Trust were two appeals. There will be a meeting on October 27th. The discussion of unbundling of rates and the possibility of having a reduction in rates for districts that have positive experience of three or more years, will take place at that meeting.

4.) The movie, "Waiting for Superman" is based on the poor education system in the inner city school districts. It portrays public education in a poor light, but it is not a reflection of all school districts; especially IU 16 school districts. The PSSA scores have increased yearly in IU 16 and the schools are meeting AYP.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - The meeting was cancelled.

Facilities & Services - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that the committee met the previous week at the Career Development Academy in Numidia. They discussed the project schedule. They received a breakdown from Pyramid (value engineering firm) regarding approximately fifteen items regarding the new addition. Since that meeting, answers have been received from the engineering firm. Mr. Stellfox reported that he was on the phone with them for over an hour earlier in the day going over the items. He stated that everything they want to do seems sensible except for the low voltage electrical lighting system. Mr. Reh and Mr. George informed him prior to the meeting that they asked them not to go with the low voltage as they thought the occupancy sensors would be the right way to go. The Facilities Committee came up with the same recommendation. In speaking with David Strunk earlier in the day, he was told that it might be a little late to make the change. Mr. Stellfox recommended that an addendum be developed right away. Mr. Rodgers stated that the following Friday was the deadline for revising the specifications. Tim George reported that low voltage would add about \$300 per classroom. It was confirmed that occupancy sensors would meet code. Mr. George stated that he reviewed all of the specs and everything they've asked for is included with the exception of the occupancy sensors.

Mr. Porter asked about the contractors meeting. Mr. George replied that there were twelve to thirteen people in attendance. He stated that he took two different electrical contractors on a walk-through the day of the meeting.

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that there were four items on the agenda. They discussed healthcare consulting services. Mr. Rodgers drafted a request for proposals. They heard an update on the Tax Collection Committee. They appointed Centax to collect the earned income tax. It is a one-year contract, which will go into effect January 1, 2010. They discussed the bus leasing. For a total of approximately \$82,000, three buses and one van are being leased over the next three years. They also discussed some of the State budget proposals. The stimulus money will no longer be available. Mr. Brookhart, Director of Columbia-Montour Vo-Tech, reported at the last JOC meeting that there is potential for state allocations to drop to the 2007-08 levels, and they could go down as far as the 2005-06 levels.

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Policy & Programs - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that the committee was unable to meet due to the executive session. They held a special meeting to discuss the policies relating to chaperones and field trips to obtain input from the various organizations, such as HART, SMART, Band, etc. There is a great deal of interest regarding this policy due to the significant impact it could have on various activities. At this point, a policy will be put together, based on all of the discussions they have had, and it will be presented to the full Board. The first reading of a new policy relating to screening and evaluations for students with disabilities will be on the agenda for approval next week. The policy was referred to the committee by Mr. Mehalick. Mr. Stellfox asked if there was currently a policy in force relating to field trips. Mr. Steele replied affirmatively, but added that none of the existing policies require any clearances for chaperones of field trips. Mr. Nunkester stated that the officers of SMART appreciated being involved in the process. Mr. Steele stated that there may be the need for additional meetings. The policy is planned to take effect next year.

CSIU - Mike Yeager reported that a special meeting was held to discuss Dr. Witten's replacement. It will most likely be a national search. The only requirement is that the person has a superintendent's certificate. The consensus was that they would ask Dr. Witten to be their advisor and they would hire an outside company to do the search. Mr. Porter asked if a salary range had been set. President Yeager replied that a range was discussed but nothing was determined.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that the JOC met on September 21st. They accepted the resignation of Mark Freeman; approved new substitutes, coaches and volunteers; and approved their updated radiological response plan. They approved the bus contractor rates and drivers for the 2010-2011 school year. A 1998 GMC Sierra pick-up truck was donated to the Automotive Tech shop by the Benton School District. They also heard about an informational item regarding the presentation that Tony DaRe gave to the JOC. He guaranteed to save them money or he would not charge them for his work. They received approval of the Perkins plan for a little over \$173,000. They discussed forming committees of the JOC. Mr. Bacher reported that the remediation and extra instruction enrichment periods were working well to prepare the students for PSSA retests. Mr. Freeman reported on the administration of the ASVAB tests. Mr. Dunkelberger reported on a planned visit to Penn Tech. Mr. Brookhart talked about the Chapter 12 legislation moving ahead without the physical education component. They also discussed the levels of State funding.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

Mr. Vought questioned the invoice for the scoreboards, and stated that he didn't think those funds were supposed to come out of the athletic budget. Mr. Rodgers explained that it was always intended to come out of the Athletic Fund, however during budget season they talked about budgeting \$6,000, \$3,000 or zero. At the last minute, they did cut it out of the Athletic Fund completely with the intention to go to community sponsors or booster organizations to solicit donations. Mr. Roth is currently in the process of getting donors to advertise on the boards. Any monies that are not donated would have to come out of his budget and he is aware of it. Mr. Rodgers noted that the quotes of \$3,000 that they received during budget season were for portable boards and Mr. Roth thought that for an extra \$1,000 the boards purchased were much more stable and durable.

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ITEMS – FISCAL

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. Employment of Jody Roup (Bus Driver) as a member of the 2010-2011 Security Personnel effective October 1, 2010.
- B. To change the employment status of Eric Deeter from Substitute Paraprofessional to Full-time Paraprofessional effective October 12, 2010; salary and benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- C. To extend the FMLA qualifying leave of employee #1755KC from November 1, 2010 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
- D. To acknowledge that Laurie Savitski will continue to serve as a Long-Term Instructional Substitute for 4th Grade effective November 1, 2010, through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.
- E. The addition of the following individual to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective October 12, 2010 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
 - Jennifer Asbury (Elementary)
 - Deserae J. Bielski (Secondary School Counseling)
 - Jason Campbell (Biology)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Porter, Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#40157) effective October 6, 2010, for a maximum of five (5) hours per week, until further evaluation by a physician, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

President Yeager thanked Mr. Stellfox for his extra work, as well as all of the Board members for the extra time they have been devoting to the district.

Mr. Porter asked if any quotes were obtained regarding the truck purchase. Mr. Rodgers replied that Derek is in the process of getting quotes. They are going later this week to look at the truck that is to be auctioned off. If it is determined that the vehicle is something the district would be interested in, Mr. Rodgers is going to request at the next meeting that the Board give him or Mr. Reh purchasing power up to a certain dollar amount to represent the district at the public auction. Mr. Porter asked to see the quotes at the next meeting.

Mr. Porter referred to the draft request for proposals for a health care consultant that was included with the Friday Letter. He asked if it should be discussed as it is a time sensitive matter. Mr. Reh stated that nothing would be changed until July, and unbundling of rates and other discounts won't be discussed until October 27th. He recommended waiting until the next Finance

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Committee meeting to discuss the matter. After more discussion, it was recommended that they continue to discuss it at Finance Committee meetings and possibly make changes when contracts are coming due.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Oiler, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary