

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

The October 18, 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, followed by a roll call of Board Members.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Oiler (*Absent*)

Charles Porter

Eric Stahley

Paul Starr

Richard Steele

David Stellfox (*Absent*)

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 items on the agenda would be action items. Mr. Porter asked if the Capital Reserve invoices could be a separate vote from the other invoices. Solicitor Roberts said that it could be done at the time of voting. Mr. Rodgers stated that if they were going to pull the Capital Reserve invoices off separate from the rest of the invoices, he would ask that if there is an issue with a particular bill that it be pulled off for a later date. He noted that there are one or two bills on the Capital Reserve list that need to be paid within the next two days.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) He received notification from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) that the three schools within Southern Columbia Area School District met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). He presented letters to each of the principals. He noted that achieving AYP will be more difficult next year due to the increased requirements of the PSSA testing. Each building will have increased achievement goals for next year.

2.) The bid opening for the proposed building project will be held October 27th at 2:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

President Yeager congratulated all of the principals for meeting AYP and asked them to pass it on to the staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - Mike Yeager, committee member, reported that they discussed the After School Acceleration and Previewing (ASAP) program. Previously the ratio of students to teachers was pretty high. This year, the ratio will be 8:1, so there will be fewer students with each teacher. This is the last year of the 21st Century Grant. The program

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cost approximately \$106,000 for the tutoring, transportation and snacks. The tutoring is a requirement for students who are not proficient or advanced on PSSA testing, so it will need to be worked into the budget next year. Max Thompson's son will be on campus Friday to discuss the monitoring tool of Learning Focused Schools. Four other school districts would be in attendance. The AYP packet will be e-mailed to Board members. A graph in the report shows that school districts across the state that spend more money per student, have fewer students that fall below the proficient level.

President Yeager referred to the Cyber Charter school report that Mr. Reh gave at the last meeting and noted that the schools that are in corrective action have not met AYP for four or five years. Staff took advantage of Atomic Learning online training during the last professional development day.

Negotiations & Personnel - No meeting was held.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson reported that Mr. Rodgers will be filing the state reports for the 2009-2010 school year by the end of the month. He will report next month on the outcome. Mr. Rodgers stated that the new software streamlined the reporting process, and probably saved one individual about thirty hours of compiling data. Mr. Vought reported that the next phase of the electronic bus routing system is the use of the GPS units that were purchased. The new stops at Hillcrest and Andrew, and Appel and Andrew were implemented. Mr. Vought plans to have a camera update for the Board next month. Mr. Rodgers is looking to get authorization for up to \$7,000 to buy a truck at a local auction. Mr. Rodgers stated that he, Mr. George and Mr. Stine all looked at the open market prices and would not bid above that value. Mr. Stine looked at the vehicle and gave a favorable report. Mr. Rodgers stated that the vehicle should only be purchased if they could get a really good deal on it.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that both the House and the Senate have passed versions of a bill that addresses to a certain degree the retirement issue. In the short term, they want to look at capping the contributions made by school districts, but the increase will be spread out over about thirty years. In the long term, they will be increasing the retirement age and the number of years of service to be eligible. They are moving to more of a risk benefits type of contribution on the part of the employee, and some related type of changes.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Steele and second by Starr, the Minutes of September 13 and 20, 2010, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Porter expressed concern over The Architectural Studio bill and stated that he would not be voting in favor of paying that invoice.

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On a motion by Starr and second by Porter, the following invoices were presented for approval:

- General Fund Invoices in the amount of \$688,187.79.
- Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$72,936.08 (*The Architectural Studio invoice for \$92,626.56 was pulled from the Capital Reserve Fund invoices*), pending confirmation by the administration that the contract amount with Pathline is \$12,500.
- Athletic Fund Invoices in the amount of \$25,093.96.

Prior to voting Mr. Porter questioned the quality of service being provided by the company providing the portable bathroom facilities. Mr. Vought explained that four of the facilities were brought in at the last minute due to the broken water line, which eliminated the use of the permanent facilities located on the end of the bus garage. Mr. Reh and Mr. Rodgers agreed that the issue wasn't with the Job Johnnys; it is that the district's facilities are inadequate. Mr. Porter also referred to the invoice from Tulpehocken Spring Water and asked why the district was buying water when it has well water. Mr. Becker explained that it is being purchased for the nurse's office. It was the recommendation of the Safety Committee that students should not be taking their medicine with water that comes from the hand washing sink, and that is the only sink in the high school nurse's office. Mr. Stahley asked for an explanation of the Susquehanna Bank invoice. Mr. Rodgers explained that about seven or eight years ago, the district took out a loan for \$750,000 for improvements to the stadium bleachers, auditorium and gymnasium. Twice a year debt service payments are made to Susquehanna Bank. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Vought and second by Steele, approval of the Capital Reserve Fund Invoice from The Architectural Studio in the amount of \$92,626.56 was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter asked if contracts for the subcontractors had been received. Mr. Rodgers replied that he did not have a chance to put in the request, but would do so the following morning. The roll call vote results were 4 -Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). Solicitor Roberts stated that he would need to check school code to see if five votes would be required for the motion to pass.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Steele and second by Stahley, to authorize Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager, to represent the District at a local auction and bid up to \$6,000 on a 1999 F250 XL pickup truck. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

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

- A. To refund the sum of \$294.20, representing an overpayment of real estate tax paid to the District, to Michael Shoffler.

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- B. A Master Installment Purchase Agreement between Southern Columbia Area School District and DCFS USA LLC, Superior, CO., schedule of property No. 1 and all other related documents associated with the acquisition of new vehicles (72 passenger bus, 30 passenger bus, 9 passenger van).
- C. Motion to approve a Lease with Option to Purchase Agreement between Southern Columbia Area School District and Municipal Capital Corporation, Allentown, PA., schedule of equipment A, and all other related documents associated with the acquisition of a new 72 passenger bus.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. The addition of the following individual to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective as listed (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- Michael McElroy (Van/Bus Driver) - effective October 15, 2010
 - Carol A. Carduff (Citizenship) - effective October 18, 2010
 - Derek J. Kishbaugh (Citizenship) - effective October 18, 2010
 - Lucas L. Wilber (Citizenship) - effective October 18, 2010
 - Kristin L. Mott (Elementary/Paraprofessional) - eff. October 18, 2010
- B. Revised Job Description of Secondary Instructional Paraprofessional (**per Exhibit A**) contingent upon approval of the District's labor counsel.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Starr and second by Steele, the first reading of new Policy 113.1 Screenings and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities (**per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that a Christian Parent Support Group would be holding their first meeting the following night at the Elysburg Presbyterian Church in Elysburg. He has been in consultation with Solicitor Roberts as to what roll the group can have and what parameters must be set regarding use of District buildings.

Mr. Porter expressed his opinion in regard to the salary being set for the incoming CSIU Director. He stated that the Governor's salary is around \$180,000. He said that he doesn't see how the salary plus benefits should in any way exceed those of the state's highest level government executives. Mr. Steele stated that he understands his point but added that there are employees, particularly in education that earn more than the Governor.

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Florey Guarno, stated that the building project is all about the middle school and high school, and when the project first started it was about problems in the elementary school. President Yeager explained that the modifications in the secondary building would improve the situation at the elementary building. There will be fewer classes using the elementary gym.

Mr. Guarno asked if Mr. Porter and Mr. Stahley were aware that the architect was going to send the Act 34 letters to the State. Mr. Stahley stated that he knew the information was going to the State, but wasn't sure how it was getting there. He stated that as long as it got there, he wasn't concerned with who sent it. Mr. Porter stated that he became aware of it at some point, but wasn't sure when.

Mr. Guarno asked Mr. Rodgers how the teachers' contract, building project and lack of stimulus funds would affect future taxes. Mr. Rodgers replied that those three issues or assumptions were included in the 5-year projections. Mr. Guarno asked if the General Fund would be used to balance the budget. Mr. Rodgers responded that it could be a possibility, in addition to whatever else the Board would approve at that time during the budget process; whether it would be cuts or an increase in taxes. Mr. Porter asked if the projection is still valid. Mr. Rodgers stated that everything is changing daily. One of the largest things that contributed to the projection was the PSERS spike, but the legislators have decided to make it a flat eight percent rate. Mr. Rodgers stated that he will get certified numbers from PSERS in December. Once he receives those numbers and inputs them into the projections, the projections will be more accurate. Mr. Porter stated that Brian Bradley should have a pretty good estimate of the bond rates at the next Finance Committee meeting and asked Mr. Rodgers if he would include that in his projections. Mr. Rodgers replied that he would provide the most up to date information possible, but he cannot predict what PSERS is going to do.

Mr. Reh reiterated that the opening of bids would be held on October 27th. The Facilities and Finance Committee meeting would be held November 1st, in which Barry Brobst will be present. It is planned that the Board would make a decision based on the information received from the opening of bids on November 8th as to whether the building project would move forward. At that point, the Board would not be approving contracts; just the project. On November 15th, Brian Bradley would be present and the Board could approve the bond issue.

District resident, Dawn Marie Buriak, asked if the district was able to consolidate any bus runs with the implementation of the new software. Mr. Rodgers replied that one run in the Numidia area was eliminated. Ms. Buriak asked if the district received the claims information from the CS Trust that was requested. Mr. Rodgers replied negatively and noted that the consensus of the Board was that the timing wasn't right at the current time to look into changing healthcare, but they would initiate that process with an upcoming labor contract expiration, so that changes could be negotiated. Mr. Stahley noted that they are still in the process of trying to unbundle the traditional and PPO rates within the Trust.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Stahley and second by Starr, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch, Board Secretary