

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

The November 15, 2010, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:30 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	Paul Starr	Timothy Vought
Charles Porter	Richard Steele	Michael Yeager
Eric Stahley	David Stellfox	John Yocum <i>(via telephone)</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Joseph Shirvinski, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Barry Brobst, Janet Grazul and George Moore from The Architectural Studio; district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all items on the agenda would be action items. District resident, Florey Guarno, stated that he still feels that the district would put a hardship on the taxpayers by approving the building project.

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Steele and second by Vought, to issue notices of intent to award the bids for the renovations and alterations to the Southern Columbia Area School District Middle/High School project as follows:

1. General Construction to ECI Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$8,670,000, and the following alternates:

(i)	G-1A.1	460,000	
(ii)	G-2A.1	86,300	
(iii)	G-3	47,000	
(iv)	G-4	41,000	
(v)	G-5	1,300	
(vi)	G-7	<u>6,600</u>	
	TOTAL		\$9,312,200.00

2. Mechanical (HVAC) Construction to MBR Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$1,578,000, and the following alternates:

(i)	M-1	22,231
(ii)	M-3	1,022
(iii)	M-4	10,400
(iv)	M-5	131,500

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(v)	M-6A	<u>242,000</u>	
	TOTAL		\$1,985,153.00

3. Plumbing Construction to Jay R. Reynolds, Inc. in the amount of \$1,316,000, and the following alternates:

(i)	P-1	7,000	
(ii)	P-2	<u>13,400</u>	
	TOTAL		\$1,336,400.00

4. Electrical Construction to Lecce Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$1,326,000, and the following alternates:

(i)	E-1	11,000	
(i)	E-3	5,654	
(ii)	E-4	3,250	
(iii)	E-5	13,400	
(iv)	E-6 (Deduct)	<u>-35,938</u>	
	TOTAL		<u>\$1,323,366.00</u>
	TOTAL		\$13,957,119.00

Prior to voting Mr. Stahley stated that he would not be voting for the project because of the issues with the PSERS retirement issues and the current economy. Mr. Porter stated that he would be voting against the project. He noted that in the five year projection, the district will have spent its Fund balance of \$1.5 million and be \$1.9 million in the hole at the end of the five-year period, based on the PSERS spike, which is the worst case scenario. He noted that the best case scenario would be spending the \$1.5 million Fund balance and being \$330,000 in the hole. He referred to the all-weather track alternate and stated that it is a worthy project, but because of the financial situation, this is not the right time. He noticed other districts are looking for grants, and he hasn't heard that here. Mr. Reh stated that he initiated the building project when he came on board three years ago. He felt it was important to have a middle school under one roof and to bring as many special education students as possible back to the district. He also stated that with the alternates, other issues would be addressed. Mr. Steele stated that soon after he took a seat on the Board, the Board members took a detailed tour of the district. He noted that it was eye opener for him to see the level of need that exists. The project is a combination of meeting the absolute minimum needs of the district at the current time, but also with a little bit of vision looking forward, so that similar problems don't occur in the near future. He stated that he doesn't feel the proposed project is extravagant, but he thinks the district is able to take advantage of the bad situation of the economy and the fact that under this situation, the construction rates are low and the bond rates are good. Mr. Stellfox stated that what has been lost in the project is the situation at the elementary school. That has been a driving force in the building project and he stated that it is one of the glaring issues behind the project. Ms. Oiler stated that the project would be a positive move for the students in their ability to access educational programs. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). (*Fiscal Item D*)

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Mr. Barry Brobst from The Architectural Studio stated that he would like to ask the Board to approve PlanCon F Attachment C as he would like to submit it to the Pennsylvania Department of Education prior to the next Board meeting on December 8th.

On a motion by Steele and second by Oiler, to approve PlanCon F Attachment C based on the information from the meeting and subject to approval by the administration. Prior to voting, Mr. Stahley stated that he would like to see the document before voting on it and asked how waiting until December 8th would affect the time frame. Mr. Brobst responded that he would like to have all of the approvals in place as soon as possible. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). (*Fiscal Item F*)

Mr. Brobst stated that in over thirty years of dealing with school projects, he'll remember this project as one of the most important. This project is unique in the fact that it has taken care of special education students, a truly middle school program will be implemented and safety aspects will be addressed. He stated that this is the only district where representatives from PDE have taken him aside and stated, "Wow, what a mess." He noted that the project is about fixing a lot of problems at this site. He stated that he totally respects the "No" votes, but he applauds the Board for moving ahead with the project. Mr. Reh thanked The Architectural Studio for all of the work they have put into the project so far.

At 7:52 p.m., Mr. Brobst, Ms. Grazul and Mr. Moore departed from the meeting; and Mr. Yocum ended his participation in the meeting via telephone.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) The high school held an outstanding Veteran's Day program, under the direction of Mr. Becker and Mr. Jones.
- 2.) He thanked and congratulated Derek Stine on the successful season of the Girls Soccer Team.
- 3.) The football team will be playing for the district championship against Line Mountain at 7:00 p.m. Friday at home.
- 4.) He thanked the Board for their approval of the building project.
- 5.) He announced that Mr. Becker and Mr. Nunkester were absent from the meeting due to illness.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported they held a special Facilities Committee meeting prior to the regular meeting. All of the Board members were in attendance. They discussed the alternates and what affect they would have on the project, and they heard input from Mr. George. On the Finance side, Mr. Rodgers gave a review on the district's finances and discussed the bond issue.

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - Mike Yeager reported that there was no meeting, but after meeting with Mrs. Monick last week, two items will be coming up in the near future; a presentation by the Coop teacher, Mrs. Force, and a grading issue on the weighting of college courses.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that no meetings were held, but there are possible savings in health care. He noted that discussion regarding requests for

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proposals for health care consultants should not be put on the back burner. It was decided that it would be discussed at the next Finance meeting in January. Mr. Steele stated that he would like to see a preliminary discussion with the unions prior to sending out requests for proposals. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would get feedback from Carl Beard, and then initiate a meet and discuss with the unions.

Transportation Services - No meeting was held.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele stated that a PSBA white paper is available regarding a study of Pennsylvania charter schools. He received an e-mail, along with superintendents and other Liaisons from the six school districts represented by the 107th House recommending that each district touch base with Representative elect, Kurt Masser, to discuss education issues prior to him taking office in January. Mr. Steele volunteered to arrange a meeting within the next few weeks. The districts involved are Shamokin, Mount Carmel, North Schuylkill, Southern, Shamokin and Warrior Run.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

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

MINUTES AND INVOICES

On a motion by Porter and second by Oiler, the minutes of October 11 and 18, 2010, and November 1, 2010 (special meeting), were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$446,686.12 and Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$204, 558.45 and Athletic Fund Invoices in the amount of \$4,243.58 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that he hasn't had a chance to review The Architectural Studio invoice. Mr. Rodgers stated that he had the invoices available at the meeting for review. Mr. Stellfox asked Mr. Rodgers if he had approved the invoice. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively and added that Mr. Reh also approved it. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL *(continued)*

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2010-2011 budget to ensure proper accounting **(per Exhibit A)**.
- B. To accept the Tax Collector Audit Report from Brewer & Company, LLC for the real estate taxes collected during the 2009-2010 fiscal year **(per Exhibit B)**.
- C. Paying December 2010 bills with terms equal to or less than "Net 45 Days."
- E. To authorize Standard & Poor's to perform professional services to the district relating to the proposed bond issue at a rating fee of \$13,500.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Oiler and second by Steele, to approve the second reading and adoption of Policy 113.1 Screenings and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities (per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Vought thanked the principals for all the time and work they put in talking to teachers and putting plans together in preparation for the building project. He also thanked Mr. George for all of his input and Mr. Reh and Mr. Rodgers for providing answers and information along the way. Mr. Stellfox stated that Pathline should be contacted so that the district does not have to wait on them.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Kim Delbo, asked for clarification regarding Policy 113.1. The policy states that a request to evaluate must be put in writing, but it also states that it could be verbally requested. Mr. Mehalick stated that an intent to evaluate form could be used; however, he tries to avoid using that form to save an additional ten days in the evaluation process. Mrs. Delbo stated that confidentiality is also an important issue. She stated that the district needs to ensure that documents pertaining to the evaluation process remain confidential and are not left out on a teacher's desk. Mrs. Delbo commended the Board on their approval of the building project. She also addressed the Board regarding the issue of childhood obesity and the need for a partnership approach in addressing the issue. She had several questions regarding the Wellness Committee. Mr. Reh stated that Mrs. Holleran is the head of the Wellness Committee, and she will be scheduling a meeting in the near future. She asked who serves on the Wellness Committee, how it functions, how often it meets, and what it has accomplished. Mr. Porter thanked Mrs. Delbo for all of the research she has done concerning Southern Columbia.

Mr. Guarno asked if the building project is set in stone. Solicitor Roberts explained that the Board authorized the issuance of a notice of intent to proceed. The procedure is that the bidders are notified of who the apparent low bidders were, which gives them time to get their bonding and insurance in order. The actual signing of the contracts, which is the final step, will take place later.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary