

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

The February 21, 2011, 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
Charles Porter
Eric Stahley

Paul Starr (*absent*)
Richard Steele (*absent*)
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; James Becker, Roger Nunkester, Joseph Shirvinski, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Barry Brobst from The Architectural Studio; Sarah Yeager, Andrew Jessick, Brad Fegley, Sarah Breech, Gwendolyn Bodnar, Hannah Stone and Lydia Young, high school students; 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, asked for clarification on Fiscal Item D regarding Psychological Services. Mr. Mehalick stated that it was an independent evaluation, which the district is required to do.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Barry Brobst from The Architectural Studio reported that all of the apparent low bidders for the elementary renovations project have submitted the proper paperwork and have proper backgrounds to perform the work. The total project bids came in at \$173,258. There are no alternates; therefore it was his recommendation to accept the base bids. Mr. Porter stated that early on, the elementary renovations were all part of the project and asked why they were not part of the total project. Mr. Brobst replied that it was due to the size of the project and that it was not reimbursable. He added that PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) would not allow the projects to be combined. Mr. Porter stated that it could be reimbursable. Mr. Brobst stated that it is a small renovation with no student classroom component. He stated that it is not a reimbursable project. Mr. Porter questioned the Capital Reserve invoices and asked why the invoice from The Architectural Studio was not part of the contract. Mr. Brobst stated that anything extra for technical services or extra work is additional. Mr. Porter questioned the \$1,900 to bring someone in to look at the track specs and attend a meeting. Mr. Brobst stated that it was for the consultant. It is a separate reimbursable item and not part of the original contract.

Mr. Stellfox asked where Columbia Inspection Services was located. Mr. Brobst replied that they were from the Danville area. Mr. Stellfox asked if they would be doing everything and

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if they had their own lab. Mr. Brobst replied affirmatively to both questions. Mr. Brobst stated that they won't know the amount at the current time. He noted that they told them how many tests/cylinders, and they were given a cost per cylinder. The total cost won't be known until the end of the project. Mr. Stellfox stated that the Clerk of the Works needs to make sure the specs are followed and no unnecessary testing is done. Mr. Brobst stated that if there is a failure on the first test and a second test is needed, the contractor is responsible for the cost. President Yeager asked if the motion needed to be approved at the current meeting. Mr. Brobst replied affirmatively. Mr. Stahley stated that he has a problem approving an open ended agreement. He would like to see a not to exceed amount and have them come back and ask for more with a good reason. Mr. Stellfox stated that there are a few things where they could get hit hard and not know it until the end. He stated that he has no issue with the company. He warned that the district needs to be careful. Mr. Porter asked if the vote couldn't be delayed for three weeks. Mr. Brobst strongly recommended against it. Mr. Porter asked what kind of cost should be expected. Mr. Stellfox stated that it is one of the things that could cost up to \$300,000 and they need to make sure it's done properly. Mr. Stellfox stated that it is not Tim's (Mr. George's) job as they are paying someone to do the job, but he can keep an eye on it. Mr. Reh stated that they need to make sure that Pathline limits the testing to a minimum.

ITEMS - FISCAL

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, to issue notices of intent to award the base bids for the renovations to the G. C. Hartman Elementary Renovation Project as follows (**Bid Summary per Exhibit B**) was presented for approval: (*Fiscal Item B*)

<u>Contract</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
General	The Robert Feaster Corp.	\$124,445.
Plumbing	Bognet, Inc.	19,348.
Heating	Bognet, Inc.	10,365.
Electrical	Mariano Construction, Inc.	19,100.
Total		\$173,258.

By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, a contract with Columbia Inspections Services, Inc. to perform testing lab services relating to the building project was presented for approval. Fees to be paid through the Capital Project Fund. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No). (*Fiscal Item C*)

(*Mr. Brobst left the meeting at 8:01 p.m.*)

2.) High school students, Gwendolyn Bodnar and Hannah Stone, reported on their experiences attending the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY).

3.) High school students, Sarah Breech, Brad Fegley, Andrew Jessick and Lydia Young reported on their experiences through their participation in Building Leaders of Susquehanna Valley (BLSV).

4.) High school senior, Sarah Yeager, reported on her experience with HOBY, as well as attending Bloomsburg University courses through dual enrollment.

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5.) District resident, Kimberly Delbo, took a few minutes to discuss YAC - Youth and Activities Committee.

Mr. Porter stated that the Friday Letter doesn't have to be provided to the public, but noted that it could be. Solicitor Roberts stated that the district is not obligated to provide it to the public. It would require a weekly review to redact the confidential information. Mr. Porter asked if he is forbidden to share the Friday Letter with the public. Solicitor Roberts would not recommend it. Mr. Porter stated that the public doesn't see how the Board members are being lobbied. Solicitor Roberts reiterated that it is not a public record as it falls under the pre-decisional deliberations exception in the Right to Know Law. Mr. Stellfox stated that he has been on the Board for four years, and he can think of only two or three things that have appeared in a Friday Letter that were not discussed at a public meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the minutes and what should or shouldn't be included in them.

Mr. Vought stated that anti-bullying needs to be reiterated in light of the recent incident at Line Mountain. Mr. Becker stated that they have already talked about it. He stated that they try to do whatever they can, but it needs to be reinforced outside of school. Mrs. Monick stated that none of the social networks are accessible through school.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee discussed the 2011-2012 technology goals. This is the last year for the K-4 Science: It's Elementary grant. The hands-on science kits that are rented through ASSET could cost the district up to \$30,000 to maintain. Mrs. Monick and Mr. Shirvinski are looking at ways to save a considerable amount of money by assembling the kits in-house. It is expected to cost \$5,000 to \$10,000 next year and approximately \$3,000 to maintain the kits each following year. They discussed PVAAS, which is a statistical analysis of PSSA assessment data. Public access was recently released to PVAAS information for all school districts in the state. The district will be consolidating printers and removing or replacing many of the colored inkjet printers to reduce printing costs and the amount of paper being used. They discussed the Instructional Planning Guide and the weighted grading for college courses. The committee is recommending that the Board approve the Guide and amend it at another time.

Facilities - Tim Vought reported that a special meeting was held February 16th. They discussed the excavation at the track and football field. There is an issue with the crown on the field. The recommendation is to raise the track. A construction meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 23rd in the High School Library. They discussed the new concession stand that the Boosters intend to build. A map showing the proposed location of the stand will be included in the Friday Letter. A district-wide parking plan is in place. The turf management plan was discussed, as well as ways to do it in-house without paying someone from outside to perform the work. They agreed to not hire Big Foot to take care of the football field this year. There will be limited access to the field and Mr. George will need to take advantage of the times he can access the field. The plan will need to be followed. There were no new updates to the Priority Projects List. Larry Bowers from Pathline is on board. Mr. Stellfox asked for confirmation that he has all of the paperwork and specs in his hands. Mr. George replied affirmatively.

Mr. Porter asked who would take care of the samples from the fuel tank removal. Mr. Stellfox replied that the excavator would be approved to handle it.

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Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that the Request for Proposals for healthcare consultant services was included in the Friday Letter. He asked Mr. Rodgers if he received any proposals. Mr. Rodgers replied that the proposals are not due until February 28th, but he has fielded several calls from brokers. Mr. Rodgers stated that it was advertised in two local newspapers and the district website. He also reached out to contacts from the Pittsburgh and Lehigh Valley areas, and he heard from a consulting firm in New Jersey, and one local broker. Mr. Rodgers will bring the proposals to the Finance Committee for review and will or will not do interviews based on the recommendation of the committee.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that they discussed the bus cameras. They are trying to get the computer program to make the cameras zoom. Mr. Vought stated that there may only be one bus this year that won't pass inspection. They are looking at ways to consolidate two routes, which could add two more buses to the reserve. They need to fine tune the routes. He stated that fleet-wise the district is in pretty good shape. Mr. Stahley asked if it means that they don't need to replace one bus this year. Mr. Vought replied that they are going to continue with the \$85,000 budgeted for leasing. Mr. Vought stated that if it comes down to replacing a motor; as long as the frame is good, it may behoove the district to repair or replace the motor or transmission as apposed to retiring the vehicle. Mr. Porter stated that the district told the public that they were going upgrade the fleet to match what a contractor would do. Mr. Rodgers replied that the projections that were coming from the contractor were so significant that the district could never take that on in one or two years. The district is committed to \$85,000 again this year to upgrade the fleet. Mr. Porter stated that if they are going to replace engines, they may need to look at increasing the maintenance budget. Mr. Rodgers stated that before retiring an asset, they always do a cost benefit to determine whether it makes sense to invest money into an older asset. They will look at things more closely. He noted that he is confident in the fleet at the current time.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, 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 Oiler, the minutes of January 10 and 17, 2011, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Yocum, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$530,996.70, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$36,846.56 and Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$17,933.93 were presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

ITEMS – FISCAL *(continued)*

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2010-2011 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- D. Contract with Psychological and Educational Services for psychological services.

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- E. To accept the Single Audit Report from Schaeffer, Jones, Eichner & Wagner for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 (**per Exhibit C**). The report contains no findings and a Management Letter was received

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation of Michael Yeager as a Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board Representative, and Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee Member effective February 21, 2011.
- B. To appoint Jennifer Oiler to serve as a Representative on the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Board Representative effective February 22, 2011, to fill the unexpired term of Michael Yeager, which expires June, 2013.
- C. To appoint Timothy Vought to serve as a Member of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee effective February 22, 2011, to fill the unexpired term of Michael Yeager, which expires November 2011.
- D. To appoint John Yocum to serve as an Alternate Member of the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School Joint Operating Committee effective February 22, 2011.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yocum and second by Oiler, the secondary 2011-2012 Instructional Planning Guide (per Exhibit D) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter stated that he was approached regarding the music that is played during a basketball game; in particular the song “Black and Yellow.” He asked who would be responsible. He noted that he heard a downloaded version of the song and it did contain vulgar language. He stated that someone needs to approve the music. Mr. Stellfox stated that it is the responsibility of the coach, but the Athletic Director should have the final say. Mr. Becker stated that he will check the song. He stated that it is probably a clean version. Mr. Porter stated that it is still emulating the perversion that is out there.

Mr. Porter stated he would like to make a motion regarding the Friday Letter, but he would hold off. He stated that he has never given out confidential information that was contained in the Friday letter, but will share the Friday Letter with individuals who request it if it does not contain confidential information based on his judgment. He stated that he will wait until the entire Board is present to make a motion. Solicitor Roberts stated that there are two lower court cases that

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have both held that have determined that it is not a public record. It falls under an exception to the Right to Know Law, because it is considered pre-decisional deliberation.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Frank Berger, commended Mr. Becker for bringing the students to the Board meeting. He stated that he enjoys reading the minutes and noted that it is a good way to get caught up. As a citizen, he would like to see more information on the web. He stated that he has been asking for an updated 5-year projection on the website. Mr. Rodgers stated that he would prefer to present it to the Finance Committee before posting it to the website. Mr. Berger stated that he would like to see all of the handouts posted to the website and dated, so it is a history of the document as it changes. Mr. Stellfox stated that he agreed with Mr. Berger in that it is important that the budget and the 5-year projection are on the website, but the handouts are for discussion. They may not be correct. The public would have no idea what discussion took place. They would only see the numbers and not know how they came about. Mr. Berger stated that the public could look at the documents and ask questions at the next Board meeting. Mr. Stahley asked Mr. Rodgers to gather some information for the next Finance meeting regarding web space availability and the time it would take to get to that level. Ms. Oiler asked why it should stop there and why curriculum handouts and other committee handouts shouldn't also be posted. Mr. Stellfox stated that the public doesn't seem as concerned with those items. Mr. Berger asked if a document is handed out at a subcommittee, would he see that document up on the website? Mr. Rodgers replied negatively and added that every document he hands out would not be posted on the website. Mr. Berger suggested that Friday Letter information be included in the Superintendent's Report, to make the public aware.

Mr. Guarno asked if it would be okay to come in and listen to the tapes if there was a question about what was reported. Mr. Reh responded affirmatively. Mr. Guarno asked for confirmation on the motion regarding psychological services. Mr. Mehalick explained that this was a specific situation involving an independent evaluation. Mr. Guarno asked if he could get a copy of the corrections to PlanCon F. Mr. Reh stated that he would need to get him a copy. Mr. Guarno asked for clarification on the full-time capacity of the elementary shown on the form. Mr. Reh stated that it is based on a formula. The architect could better explain what PDE is looking for and how the formula is based.

District Resident, John Roberts, stated that he was in attendance at a recent basketball game and if it the song was a censored version, it was partially censored but not fully censored. Mr. Roberts questioned the tablet PCs and the need for a data plan. Mrs. Monick stated that there is not a data plan required. It was reported incorrectly in the newspaper article. Mr. Roberts stated that information regarding Facebook cannot be stressed enough. Bullying is constantly going on through texting and postings to Facebook. Mr. Roberts expressed concern regarding the students parking in "Death Valley." Mr. Becker stated that it will be for overflow parking only. There should be enough spaces in the temporary parking area near the elementary playground. Mr. George reported that the parking lot near the lower fields is mainly for the contractors. Mr. Roberts asked if there has ever been any talk about redoing the soccer fields. Mr. Stellfox stated that they are trying to bring them back through the turf management system. Mr. Roberts stated that he was in correspondence with Representative Kurt Masser who stated that he was surprised to find out that very few of the School Board members received phone calls from the public speaking out against the building project. Mr. Stellfox, Mr. Vought and Ms. Oiler stated that they have not received a single phone call.

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District resident, Barbara Splitt, stated that she attended the last two meetings to see what was going on and she is very disappointed. She noted that she is on a fixed income and a lot of people cannot afford a tax increase. She stated that the Board could have looked at different options.

Mr. Guarno referred to the ten letters that were sent to PDE in opposition to the building project. Ms. Oiler stated that if you compare ten letters and four or five people at a Board meeting to the thousands of people who live in the district, there is a loud voice. Mr. Guarno commented that if they had that many people in favor of the building project; they should have sent it to referendum.

Kimberly Delbo addressed the Board regarding several issues such as student mortality, student wellness, staffing of school nurses, substitutes for the Certified School Nurse, nurse to student ratios and the Wellness Committee

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Oiler and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary