

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

The April 11, 2011, 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 (*Absent*)
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 Personnel Items, three Policy and Programs items and one item under Minutes and Invoices on the agenda would be considered action items. Mr. Porter asked that Personnel Item F pertaining to the Memorandum of Agreement with the teachers' union be kept a discussion item. After a brief discussion and on the recommendation of Mr. Reh, the item remained an action item.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) The current reduction in state funding over last year is \$735,858, which is a 14.6 percent reduction. The administration is looking at all areas of the budget, and at the next Finance meeting they will have a thorough evaluation of all personnel, staffing and non-mandated programs. The reason no final decisions have been made, is that an important item is the motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Southern Columbia Area Education Association, which if passed, will give the administration a clearer understanding of what faculty will be retiring and a better understanding of what decisions will need to be made. He recommended approval of that motion.

2.) He announced that Aleah Jones took first place in the State FBLA competition in the Job Interview category. She qualified for the national competition. Mrs. Force (FBLA Advisor) presented to the Board cost information regarding the national competition, and asked the Board for support to send Ms. Jones to the competition in Orlando, Florida.

3.) Mr. Reh announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.

4.) Mr. Nunkester stated that the previous week the Middle School participated in the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Mobile Ag in the Classroom. All students went through the Mobile Lab during their science class. Teachers found the Mobile Lab to be an excellent opportunity and a great experience for students.

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He also announced that he and Mrs. Bloom and four students will be travelling to WFYY Radio Station in Selinsgrove on Friday, where they will be doing a spot for their anti-bullying campaign.

Mr. Nunkester also announced that Kent Lane (8th grade) was the state champion at the Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling Tournament. Blake Marks (7th grade) came in fourth, Trent Donlan (8th grade) came in third and Jaret Lane (6th grade) came in fourth.

Mrs. Monick reported that the Mobile Ag Lab was on campus a little earlier this year. If the district submitted its application early enough, it qualified for a \$500 grant and got a discount on the cost.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities - Paul Starr, Chairperson, reported that the committee met prior to the regular meeting. The first topic of discussion was the band trip to Florida. They discussed FBLA, which was covered earlier in the meeting. The Athletic Handbook will be on the agenda for approval the following Monday. They also discussed the changes to the Assistant Athletic Director job description. Mr. Becker noted that the revised Athletic Director job description was included in the Friday Letter. He noted that the revisions served as clarification on certain duties and explained the revisions. Mr. Stellfox asked if this would change the duties of the Athletic Director. Mr. Becker stated that the Athletic Director job description is not being changed. Mr. Stellfox asked if he should just look at last year's job description. Mr. Becker replied affirmatively.

Facilities & Services - Dave Stellfox, Chairperson, reported that the committee met the previous Monday, but it was more of a Finance meeting. They discussed the broken sewage line. They requested that the Clerk of the Works attend the next Facilities meeting to give an update on the building project, and answer some questions. They briefly discussed some large projects. They discussed getting rid of unsightly debris that needs to be removed.

Finance - Eric Stahley, Chairperson reported that they met on April 4th. The majority of the meeting dealt with interviewing and discussing the hiring of a healthcare consultant that would review the district's healthcare benefits and try to save the district some money while not affecting the quality of the benefits. They interviewed two companies; BSI Corporate Benefits, and Banyan Consulting. Mr. Tony DaRe from BSI Corporate Benefits had in his contract that he would guarantee the district a savings of at least \$100,000 within fifteen months or he would refund the fee. He said that it would need to be a team effort between the Board, the unions involved and any other employees, or it wouldn't work. Banyan Consulting talked about a fee of \$9.95 per employee per month, which worked out to be about \$1,500 per month; however they would not handle any of the additional employee benefits, such as dealing with retirees or COBRA benefits, but BSI would. The Finance Committee voted to recommend to the full Board to consider hiring BSI Corporate Benefits, which is on the current agenda.

Mr. Rodgers provided a revision to the budget. They discussed the athletic budget and some special dates for budget meetings. The next special budget meeting would be held April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. The regularly scheduled Finance Committee meeting would be held on May 2nd in conjunction with the Facilities Committee meeting, and a special Finance Committee meeting would be held May 25th at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office. Mr. Rodger's stated that the budget deficit went from \$224,000 to \$566,000 due to state funding. The latest budget included the most recent numbers from the state.

Policy - Rick Steele, Chairperson, reported that they met prior to the regular meeting. They discussed the policies pertaining to chaperones, field trips and medications. Mr. Reh stated that he

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was notified earlier in the day that school districts will be required to have policies regarding dating violence connected with Title IX.

CSIU – Mike Yeager stated that they had a meeting to hire a new Director.

Vo-Tech - Eric Stahley reported that the JOC met March 15th. They elected a new chairperson. They discussed budgetary issues. The home schools were taking a hit, but the Vo-Tech budget remained unchanged. It was the decision of the JOC to average out the decrease in the districts' amounts of funding and then cut that amount in the Vo-Tech budget so they could pass that savings on to the districts. That number came out to be about 4.5 percent. There would be a budget committee meeting at Vo-Tech the following evening. They also discussed trying to move some of their employees on the Keystone plan within the CStrust to another plan to bring the premiums down. The Business Manger gave a report regarding the purchase of new accounting software. His recommendation was to go with a program developed by CSIU for \$18,550.84. They accepted the donation of a vehicle from Hawkins Collision Center, which they will use in the auto body shop. The Long-Term Planning Committee discussed the cost of expansion of the school, as well as expansion of the buildings and projects, and new programs associated with that. They discussed having a copy of the Act 93 Agreement for the next meeting. There was some discussion about increasing enrollment of special education students, but it was a very preliminary discussion. The Director of Student Services reported that 163 9th grade students were accepted from all of the sending districts, and 66 are still on a waiting list. Mr. Forsythe discussed working four 10-hour shifts this summer. Mr. Brookhart gave a report regarding the state fiscal report and the student performance report. He reported on House Bill 455, which pertains to the furlough of employees for economic reasons. He also discussed the expanded mandate relief program. Mr. Brookhart reported on shared services between districts that were discussed at the superintendents' meeting.

President Yeager reported that he attended the PSBA Region 6 meeting in Selinsgrove. Some of the discussion was centered on vouchers. They discussed mandates and waivers, and how to get legislators involved with school districts.

ITEMS – TREASURER'S REPORTS

ITEMS – MINUTES/INVOICES

On a motion by Vought and second by Starr, a 2011 Capital Project Fund Invoice in the amount of \$3,370.57 payable to ECI Construction, LLC, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – FISCAL

There was some discussion regarding the feasibility of hiring BSI Corporate Benefits as a healthcare consultant.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Vought, an FBLA Nationals trip to Orlando, Florida; June 26 through July 2, 2011, at a cost of \$3,268.50, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

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ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. To accept the resignation for retirement of Peggy Mattivi from the position of Bus Driver effective June 2, 2011. Ms. Mattivi has been with the district since June 1986.
- B. FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #1547DS effective March 30, 2011; not to exceed twelve weeks in the next 12-month period.
- C. FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #1807LB effective on or about March 24, 2011, and conclude on or about January 17, 2012.
- D. FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #1982MH effective on or about May 10, 2011, through June 8, 2011.
- E. Motion to approve an FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #1277JV effective on or about August 22, 2011, and conclude on or about October 28, 2011.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Vought and second by Stellfox, a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Southern Columbia Area Education Association (per Exhibit C) was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Porter stated that if they would have waited until April 15th, they would have known if they needed to incent or not. By doing it this way, the people who would have retired anyway will take advantage of it. Mr. Stellfox stated that they know that this is going to save a lot of money. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

ITEMS - POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Following a brief discussion regarding the Middle School Student Handbook, Mr. Nunkester was directed to revise the Electronic Devices section of the handbook to broaden the description of devices.

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

- C. The third revision to the 2010-2011 School Year Calendar (per Exhibit F).
- D. The first revision to the 2011-2012 School Year Calendar (per Exhibit G).
- E. Homebound Instruction for a high school student (#53846) effective April 11, 2011, until further evaluation by a physician; not to exceed 5 hours per week.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

(No comments.)

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Shirley Breech, asked if the 1.5 percent Earned Income Tax is more than other school districts receive. Mr. Rodgers replied affirmatively, compared to some of the local districts. She noted that when she saw the statement that Southern Columbia residents pay the lowest property taxes around, she felt it was misleading, because it is made up in the Earned Income Tax. Mr. Rodgers replied that it was a good observation. He noted that he did do an analysis last year that is still on the website that took into account several different scenarios, such as owning a fair market value home of \$100,000 and also having household income of \$100,000. It was actually more of an apples to apples comparison to other surrounding districts. On another note, the district increased the Earned Income Tax to 1.5 percent when they opted into Act 50, however the abolished all the nuisance taxes. At that time it was supposed to be more of a revenue neutral option.

District resident, Frank Berger, asked if there has been any feedback from the employees of the district regarding a wage freeze. President Yeager stated that topic would be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Berger asked for clarification regarding the difference between the enrollment figures on the exception application and the actual enrollment figures. Mr. Rodgers replied that they were looking at that specific question in house, and they called PDE, who told them that they had received a call and they were actually doing their own study on it. They will be reporting back to the district whether or not the number is accurate. He stated that on Friday, the district had to upload some revised information to PDE and they are awaiting their results. He will share that information with the Board as soon as it is received. Mr. Berger asked for information from Mr. Mehalick regarding teacher/student utilization information. Mr. Reh stated that Mr. Mehalick was not present due to illness, but he would provide the information at the next meeting. Mr. Berger asked where the furniture and those types of expenditures for the building project were in the budget. President Yeager replied that they were included in the building project budget. Mr. Berger asked if there would be a monthly report of what is being spent on the building project. Mr. Rodgers replied that it is actually on the current agenda, and he plans on including it on the agendas going forward. Mr. Berger stated that it is very generic and asked Mr. Rodgers if his budget, as he manages that cost center, is specific. Mr. Rodgers replied that it comes out of a building project budget, which is a little different compared to a General Fund budget. He noted that they have the beginning balance, less the expenditures. Mr. Rodgers stated that he could give a report at the monthly Finance meetings

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Yocum and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary