

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

The May 16, 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
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; James Becker, Roger Nunkester, Joseph Shirvinski, Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; Larry Bowers, Clerk of the Works, district residents and members of the media.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that the meeting was being recorded, and all items on the agenda, with the exception of Policy and Programs Item E, would be action items.

District resident, Florey Guarno, questioned the possibility of the district receiving more state funding than originally anticipated. Mr. Rodgers stated that early projections show that no additional funding would be restored into the basic education subsidy for the district, however additional funding could be reinstated into the Accountability Block Grant. Mr. Guarno asked if the additional funds would reduce the amount of the tax increase. Mr. Rodgers replied that it would be discussed at the upcoming special budget meeting on May 25th.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

1.) Mr. Reh explained the importance of approval of Change Order E-01, due to the current electrical service to the sewage plant running under the new addition. Mr. Stellfox asked Mr. George for some clarification on the drawings.

2.) Mr. Shirvinski reported that elementary students, raised \$796 through Jump Rope for HART, which was organized by Mrs. Bower.

3.) Mr. Nunkester reported that the annual Middle School Chorus Concert would be held Wednesday.

4.) Mr. Becker reported that the High School Band and Chorus concert was held the previous week and it was an excellent performance. The Awards Ceremony would be held the next Wednesday, Baccalaureate would be held June 1st, and Graduation would be held June 8th.

5.) Mr. Shirvinski also announced that the district-wide art show would be held in the elementary building the following evening.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology – John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that they received a newsletter from the Secretary of Education, Mr. Duncan. He indicated that federal officials will continue to push for data driven learning systems. He referred to an article from the local newspaper regarding the use of technology in education versus a lecture format. Mr. Duncan also indicated that schools should incorporate digital content into everyday classes and consider open source management systems. They also discussed technical goals, student computer replacement, printer replacement, whiteboards and the consolidation of servers for the network. Mrs. Monick will include information regarding the costs involved, in the next Friday Letter, for discussion on May 25th. Mrs. Monick gave more details on the server consolidation/virtualization.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that no meetings were held. He thanked the Act 93 Administrators for offering to take a salary freeze.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that no meeting was held.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that PSBA is sponsoring a webinar regarding school board minutes compliance. He recommended that the Board Secretary attend the webinar and report back to the Board. He noted that they will also consider input from the Solicitor. The House passed its version of the budget as amended. He noted that in effect, it restores some educational funding. Mr. Steele reported that as of April, the State received roughly \$500 million over and above the projected revenue for the year. There is ongoing discussion regarding what should be done with the additional revenue. There are numerous bills relating to educational issues being introduced.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Yocum and second by Vought, 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 Stellfox, the Minutes of April 11 and 18, 2011, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Stellfox and second by Starr, the General Fund invoices in the amount of \$646,488.37, Capital Reserve Fund invoices in the amount of \$83,921.73, Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$21,829.97 and 2011 Capital Projects Fund invoices in the amount of \$278,011.11, were presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 7-Yes, 2-No (Porter and Stahley voted No).

ITEMS – FISCAL

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

- A. Budgetary transfers in the 2010-2011 budget to ensure proper accounting (**per Exhibit A**).
- B. *(Item B was pulled from the block vote.)*

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- C. The 2011-2012 Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,785,386; Southern Columbia Area School District's cost is \$517,934 (**per Exhibit C**).
- D. To refund 2010 real estate taxes in the amount of \$495.74 to Michael and Elizabeth Williams due to a decrease in assessed value as a result of a revision in occupancy.
- E. *(Item E was pulled from the block vote.)*
- F. *(Item F was pulled from the block vote.)*

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Steele and second by Vought, the Southern Columbia Area School District 2011-2012 Proposed Final Budget in the amount of \$16,492,258 (**per Exhibit B**), was presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Stahley state that he would like to be able to compare actual numbers to actual numbers instead of actual to budgeted numbers. Mr. Rodgers replied that the actual from two years ago reflects an increase of less than \$4,000 over a two-year period, and noted that there are not excessive expenses. Mr. Porter stated that the educational cuts represented in the budget were somewhat predictable. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Stahley voted No). *(Item B)*

On a motion by Yocum and second by Oiler, an Agreement between Husky Research Corporation, Inc. and the Southern Columbia Area School District for Speech Therapy Services (**per Exhibit D**), and to authorize the Superintendent to execute the same on behalf of the District, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote. *(Item E)*

On a motion by Oiler and second by Stellfox, Change Order E-01 for an increase in the amount of \$30,750 (**per Exhibit D-1**), was presented for approval. Mr. Stahley expressed concern over why it wasn't picked up when they did the original site work if the box was visible. Mr. Vought stated that it was actually buried at the time due to years of snow plowing. Mr. George stated that he has been documenting everything they have found so far on the district's copy of the site drawings. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 8-Yes, 1-No (Stahley voted No). *(Item F)*

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

- A. A Resolution pertaining to the alteration or curtailment of the District's educational program (**Per Exhibit E**).

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- B. Employment of the following student maintenance/custodial workers effective June 13, 2011, at minimum wage (maximum of 35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks during the summer):
- Alex Carawan
 - Victoria Hairston
 - Chevy Ryan
 - Tyrell Thomas
 - Joshua Wells
- C. Employment of Alexis Spade for the position of School Nurse effective July 25, 2011 (pending completion of all employment requirements), at Step 1 of the Bachelor's Salary Schedule (\$39,057); benefits per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- D. FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #1341TK effective February 8, 2011; not to exceed twelve weeks in the following 12-month period.
- E. To accept the resignation of Lindsey Lerch from the position of Assistant Band Front Advisor effective June 8, 2011. Ms. Lerch has been in the position since July 2005.
- F. The addition of the following individual to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective May 3, 2011 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- Joseph T. Smith, III (Custodian)
- G. Employment of the following student clerical worker effective June 9, 2011, at minimum wage (maximum of 35 hours per week for approximately 9 weeks during the summer):
- Kathleen Lazarski (Elementary Office)

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

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

- A. A revision to Dual Enrollment Grading Procedure section of the 2011-2012 Secondary Course Selection Guide as follows:

All final grades for dual enrollment are calculated into a student's final GPA and ranking at ~~Students taking a core subject course; for example (math, social studies, science, and/or English)~~ will receive a weighted grading of 1.06. ~~Students taking other college courses not of core subject content will receive a weighted grading of 1.04.~~

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- B. To authorize the Board Secretary to send a Notice of Reasonable Assurance of Employment for the 2011-2012 school year to those non-instructional employees and substitutes employed less than 12 months.
- C. Participation in the National School Breakfast and Lunch USDA Commodities Program for the 2011-2012 school year.
- D. Senior Class trip to Washington, D.C., on Monday, June 6, 2011. The cost per student is \$21 with no additional cost to the district; senior teachers to chaperone.

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Mr. Stahley commented on the discussion item pertaining to limiting the minutes. He stated that his biggest concern is that they do not impede any of the transparency of what happens on the Board. Mr. Steele stated that there should be a happy medium between the bare minimum and exceeding the purpose of the minutes that could properly reflect their activities. Mr. Porter stated that their activities are fairly well reflected now. He stated that it might be helpful to have a microphone system. He noted that the minutes are a service to the community and they should not be diminished. Mr. Stellfox recommended they make a decision after receiving information from the webinar. Mrs. Oiler stated that the direction from the Board to the Board Secretary should be clear.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Porter asked the status of the tutoring program. Mrs. Monick reported that five different programs will be running during the summer, and there were programs in grades 3 through 8 during the school year. Some of the summer programs will not be at the cost of the district. A reading program will be run by Bloomsburg University, with no cost to the district or parents, however since transportation will already be running for the other programs, the district will provide transportation. The pre-K program will be covered by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. A middle school computer science and forensics camp will be held for one week, which will be covered by the 21st Century Grant this year and the following two years will be picked up by the grant from Bloomsburg University. In the future, they might consider charging tuition for the programs as the grant funds run out. After looking at research and talking to people from other school districts who are running tutoring programs, the research shows that after school tutoring has very little impact on student achievement because they rarely get the students that need it, and the students that do attend are not there for learning and are a distraction to the other students. She noted that those programs need to be revisited.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Frank Berger asked if the software would provide actual numbers. Mr. Rodgers replied that the software that the district uses for its daily transactions does provide that type of information. He uses a different budgeting software that provides actual numbers on an annual basis; not monthly. Mr. Berger stated that they talked about a monthly actual report so the Finance Committee could look at what was actually budgeted and watch it develop. Mr. Rodgers stated that he feels that the Business Office has become more transparent than ever and will continue to do so. Mr. Rodgers asked the Board and public to keep in mind that these additional analyses require time. Mr. Vought stated that by asking Mr. Rodgers to do these

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additional duties, he is unable to dedicate the needed time to transportation and other duties. After a brief discussion, Mr. Rodgers agreed to provide monthly reports.

Mr. Berger recommended posting digital recordings of the minutes on the district website. Mrs. Monick stated that digital recordings take a lot of space and would not be able to be archived on the website.

Mr. Guarno asked for clarification on the architect fees regarding change orders. Mr. Stellfox replied that fees should be the same as if they were included on the original contract, but he would need to refer to the contract to confirm.

District resident, Lyonne Snyder, asked if the program of student who was in a pullout program for Speech services would change due to the new contracted services. Mr. Mehalick replied that it would not change, unless it was recommended following re-evaluation.

District resident, Barb Splitt, asked about the contract for the building project and noted that the district is not being protected when mistakes are made. Mrs. Oiler stated that some of the issues with the change orders were the district's responsibility. Mr. Stellfox stated that change orders are a normal part of a building project and a contingency fund is included for that purpose. Mrs. Splitt stated her opposition to changing the current format of the minutes. Mr. Guarno asked for clarification on the contingency fund. Mr. Stellfox stated that it is money that is just sitting there and is part of the project cost. Mr. Stellfox stated that if the overall project comes out well, the contingency is not used and the school district gets what it thinks it is supposed to get, then the district is ahead of the game. He went on to say that if that doesn't happen, then there were some very poor decisions made somewhere.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Oiler and second by Porter, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary