

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

The June 20, 2011, Board Meeting of the Southern Columbia Area School District Board of Directors convened in the High School Library at 7:37 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
David Stellfox (*Absent*)

Timothy Vought
Michael Yeager
John Yocum

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles Reh, Superintendent; Daniel Rodgers, Business Manager; Tresa Britch, Board Secretary; Richard J. Roberts, Solicitor; Brenda Monick, Robert Mehalick, James Becker, Administrators; Timothy George, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds; district residents and members of the media.

President Yeager announced that an executive session was held prior to the regular meeting to discuss personnel contracts.

AGENDA HEARING PERIOD

President Yeager announced that all items on the agenda would be action items. District resident, Frank Berger, asked if the exhibits could be posted on the website along with the agendas. Mr. Steele stated that the agenda could change up until the time of the meeting. It was agreed that the agenda and exhibits that are available at the time of distribution of the agenda would be posted on the website, with the understanding that items could change up until the time of the Board meeting.

District resident, Lori Kriebel, pointed out a discrepancy on the agenda pertaining to the resignation of Jennifer Oiler. It was determined that two different copies of the agenda were in circulation, and the motion to accept Ms. Oiler's resignation should be included as an action item. Ms. Kriebel also asked if the Spanish teacher would be replaced. President Yeager replied affirmatively.

District resident and Head Mechanic, Derek Stine, asked to see Exhibit H. Mr. Rodgers replied that Mr. George was running copies as they spoke. He noted that Exhibit H was a list of the non-union support staff employees and their proposed salary increases for the 2011-2012 school year. At this point, they are recommending a one percent salary increase over the previous year's salary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Reh's report included the following topics:

- 1.) He thanked Ms. Oiler for her service to the Board.
- 2.) He receive a letter from the Pennsylvania Energy Consortium announcing that graduate Sarah Yeager received a PenCon scholarship in the amount of \$750 annually for the next four years as the result of a project and essay she submitted.

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3.) Mr. Rodgers presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2011-2012 budget (**see Attachment A**). Mr. Berger recommended that a list of all of the non-mandated programs could be put together for the next Finance meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction & Technology - John Yocum, Chairperson, reported that the committee received copies of the 2010-2011 PSSA data. The results indicate some major gains. The 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals were met for all grades and areas, except 5th, 6th and 7th grade reading. Those scores fell short by less than one percentage point in 6th and 7th grades. Fourth grade science increased by over ten percent in four years. Fifth grade writing has increased over the past three years. Eleventh grade writing is over 95 percent proficient and 11th grade math scores have increased over twenty percent over the past six years. Middle school reading continues to be an area of concern. There will be a meeting this summer to discuss staff changes, scheduling, resources, use of special education staff and professional development. Reading AYP is increasing to 81 percent next year and most grade levels will not make AYP if scores remain the same. Math in most grade levels may not meet AYP if the scores do not increase. Data on the IEP subgroup of students will be closely examined to see how more students could become proficient. Ms. Oiler pointed out that the data is preliminary, and noted that the district could still meet AYP in those areas. Mrs. Monick pointed out that in previous years, the Columbia-Montour Area Vo-Tech scores were attributed to the home districts, however this year they were not included in the data received.

Mr. Porter asked if Mrs. Monick came up with the power requirements for the server. Mrs. Monick replied that Mr. Davis was working with the contractor to get that information. There was some discussion over the urgency of having an electrical backup, but it was determined that a generator would not run during the electrical shutdown the week of July 5th. President Yeager announced for the public that the Board would hold only one meeting in July on the 11th.

Negotiations & Personnel - Charlie Porter, Chairperson, reported that they had an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss the non-union support staff salaries. They anticipate another executive session at the Finance meeting to discuss the labor attorney.

Transportation Services - Tim Vought, Chairperson, reported that the meeting was cancelled. The next meeting would be held July 18th.

It was determined that the Curriculum Committee and Activities Committee meetings scheduled for July 11th would be cancelled, and the Policy Committee would be rescheduled to July 18th.

PSBA Liaison - Rick Steele reported that he had nothing new to report. A lot of legislation relating to education is going through the House and Senate.

CS Trust - Dan Rodgers reported that they had a meeting on May 19th. They discussed the early retirement reassurance program that is now offered, that might translate into some federal funds coming back to the CS Trust on behalf of the school districts. They discussed some transition in administrative services from NCAS to Capital Blue Cross directly to save some overhead expenses. Other topics of discussion were wellness screenings, acceptance of the 2010-2011 audit, election of officers; re-appointment of the solicitor and auditor, two claims appeals, new rates were approved, out of school interest in the trust, and the inclusion of the Shamokin Administration in the CS Trust.

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TREASURER'S REPORTS

On a motion by Vought and second by Yocum, 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 Steele, the Minutes of May 9 and 16, 2011, were presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Oiler and second by Vought, General Fund invoices in the amount of \$456,958.75, Athletic Fund invoices in the amount of \$14,137.09 and 2011 Capital Projects Fund invoices in the amount of \$1,087,481.64 were presented for approval. Prior to voting, Mr. Stahley questioned an invoice from Air Management. Mr. Rodgers stated that Air Management has been on campus servicing some of the units, but he would need to check with Mr. George when he returns to the meeting. Mr. Porter asked for clarification on an invoice from HRG for extra services and bus parking revision. Mr. George explained that it was for the plans for relocation of the field events and the change of the bus flow traffic at the fuel island. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Porter voted No).

ITEMS – FISCAL

On a motion by Oiler and second by Steele, 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.)*
- C. To adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit C**) requesting permission to continue to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of General Services Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- D. To authorize the Business Manager to make appropriate transfers for proper budgetary accounting to close out the fiscal year and prepare for audit.
- E. *(Item E was pulled from the block vote.)*
- F. To adopt a Resolution regarding the Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion (**per Exhibit D**).
- G. To appoint the following institutions as school district depositories for the 2011-2012 fiscal year:
 - First Columbia Bank & Trust Co.
 - Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund
 - Pennsylvania Treasurer's INVEST Program
 - Union National Bank
 - M&T Bank

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- H. 2011 Summer Athletics Activities Schedule (per Exhibit E).
- I. To award the bid for Fuel Products #2 Heating Oil to Jack Rich, Inc., in an amount to be determined on June 21, 2011, calculated by taking the average of the October 2011 and January 2012 NYMEX cost plus \$.18 per gallon (**Bid Tabulations per Exhibit F**).
- J. To accept the Technology Education Supplies bids (per Exhibit G).

The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

On a motion by Oiler and second by Steele, to adopt a Resolution (**per Exhibit B**) approving the Southern Columbia Area School District General Fund Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year in the amount of \$16,472,216 was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Stahley voted No). (*Item B*)

On a motion by Vought and second by Yocum, to authorize the Business Manager to transfer unallocated expenditures remaining at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 fiscal year to the Capital Reserve Fund was presented for approval. (*Item E*) Mr. Porter stated these funds would actually transfer until the audit is completed in October. He stated that by approving the motion, they would be committing extra funds to the Capital Reserve Fund, but stating that they may have the need for additional money for the pension fund. He stated that he would vote no, because he would like the flexibility to the decision at the time of the transfer. Mr. Rodgers stated that the Board could take the motion off the agenda and assess it at a later time.

On a motion by Oiler and second by Steele, to table the previous motion was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Stahley voted No).

ITEMS – PERSONNEL

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

(Items A, B and C were pulled from the block vote.)

- D. To accept the resignation for retirement of Linda Van Lente from the position of High School Spanish Teacher effective June 9, 2011. Mrs. Van Lente has been with the district since September 1989.
- E. To accept the resignation of Jennifer Oiler as a Director on the Southern Columbia Area School Board effective June 21, 2011. Ms. Oiler has been on the Board since December 2009.
- F. The addition of the following individual to the 2010-2011 Substitute List effective June 21, 2011 (pending completion of all employment requirements):
- David Joseph (Custodian)

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G. FMLA Qualifying Leave for employee #2100HS beginning August 22, 2011, and ending October 28, 2011.

On a motion by Oiler and second by Porter, to approve Support Staff (non-union) salaries for the 2011-2012 fiscal year effective July 1, 2011 (**per Exhibit H**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 5-Yes, 2-No (Steele and Vought voted No).

On a motion by Steele and second by Yocum, to note satisfactory evaluations and accept the recommendations (pending completion of all employment requirements) for approval/re-approval of the Athletic/Activities positions and salaries for the 2011-2012 school year (**per Exhibit I**) was presented for approval. By roll call vote, the motion carried; 6-Yes, 1-No (Yeager voted No).

On a motion by Vought and second by Steele, to acknowledge that Kam Roth will serve as a Long-Term Instructional Substitute for 3rd Grade effective August 22, 2011, through October 29, 2011, was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

ITEMS – POLICY AND PROGRAMS

On a motion by Yocum and second by Oiler, a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Locust Township Police Department (**per Exhibit J**) was presented for approval. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Stahley referred to the Middle School Principal position and Spanish Teacher positions and noted that before hiring anyone in the future, they need to consider if it is necessary to fill the position. Mr. Reh stated that he feels that they already do that. Mr. Steele stated that the graduation ceremony was excellent.

Mr. Porter referred to the change order regarding the electrical line to the sewage plant, and asked if the district got bids for the job. He noted that Angle Electric was asked to put in a bid for the job. Mr. George stated that he was asked for a rough quote. Mr. Porter stated that Angle Electric reported that his quote was \$15,000 net and the one approved was \$30,750 from Lecce. He asked what happens to the copper, because Mr. Hampton indicated that it was worth about \$6,000. Mr. George stated that he didn't know, but the last time he saw it, it was outside the loading dock, and agreed to check into it.

Mr. George stated that they need to keep in mind that if Mr. Hampton had done the work, the district would have needed to rent the backhoe and do all the excavation, which was not factored into the price.

Mr. Porter asked if the Board could see a summary of teacher evaluations; not including names. He noted that they have never seen the range of evaluations for the staff. Mrs. Monick stated that the iPads the administrators were using for their walk-through evaluations this year were in beta testing and the software was revised several times throughout the year. The data was not consistent from form to form, as the administrators were never aware when they were updating the product. They used the program sporadically. The data was not consistent this year, but they plan to use the software consistently next year, and it will be discussed over the summer. Mrs. Monick noted that it was intended to be a tool to identify instructional strategies for Learning Focused Schools (LFS). Mr. Reh stated that the future evaluations will be based on data driven information.

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RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC

District resident, Barbara Splitt, expressed concern over the change orders and noted that the district is not protected and the taxpayers are footing the bill. She asked if it is written into the contract that when they create a change order it is their responsibility. Solicitor Roberts stated that change orders that are required by an error would be the architect's responsibility unless the change order was for a cost that would have been incurred anyway.

Mr. Porter stated that it would be beneficial for the Board members to have a copy of the points system for coaches before they meet with Mr. Roth at the Finance meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Porter and second by Oiler, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. The motion carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tresa J. Britch
Board Secretary