

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Thursday, June 22, 2006 the District Administrative Office in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by President Eric MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	William J. Brong	Eric R. MacDougall
	Tracy G. Cole	R. Bud Miller
	Bernard S. Currie	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Mark D. Leer	Victor M. Verbeke

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Steve Pollack, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Loren Szczesny, representatives from The Souderton Independent, The Intelligencer, The Reporter, The Morning Call, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

Dr. Amuso presented the requests to attend conferences/workshops, stating that they conform to district administrative policy.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the requests for conferences/workshops as listed:

CAROLYN KNOWER	Read! Read! Read! Motivating Your Students
Third Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	To Read More
SHERYL MOYER	King of Prussia, PA
First Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	July 21, 2006 (Fri.)
BARB SCOTT	Est. Expenses: \$507.00 (combined)
CARS, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
Paid by Title I funds.	Total Expenses: \$507.00 (combined)

Report of the Superintendent

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)

JILL KARDANE Fifth Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	Deepening Comprehension in a Reading Workshop King of Prussia, PA July 26, 27, 28, 2006 (Wed., Thurs., Fri.)
Paid by Title I funds.	Est. Expenses: \$695.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$695.00
DONA ITALIANO English, Senior High School	Teaching the Academic Essentials Seminar Downingtown, PA
JEFF PAMMER Principal, Indian Crest Jr. High	August 9, 2006 (Wed.)
JACK SILVA Director of Secondary Education	Est. Expenses: \$335.60 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$335.00 (combined)
SAM VARANO Principal, Senior High School	
MATT HAINES Assistant Principal, Senior High School	Disciplined Leadership Norristown, PA
CHRISTOPHER HEY Assistant Principal, Senior High School	August 14-15 and November 7, 2006 (Mon.-Tues. and Tues.)
SHAWN MESSMER Assistant Principal, Senior High School	Est. Expenses: \$2,040.05 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$2,040.05 (combined)
SAM VARANO Principal, Senior High School	

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Brenda Jones Bray

Action on School Board Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2006

Mrs. Bray presented the Minutes of the June 8, 2006 Board meeting for approval.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the June 8, 2006 Board meeting as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An informational and non-deliberative workshop on policy and governance was held on June 9, 2006. The session lasted 180 minutes.

Report of the President

An Executive Session was held on June 14, 2006 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

An Executive Session of the Board was held this evening, prior to the Board meeting, to discuss personnel issues and potential litigation. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listings for May 2006.

Mrs. Eves presented the financial statements and check listings for May 2006 for approval.

Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the financial statements and check listings for May 2006 as presented. **EXHIBIT A**

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

Mr. Leer spoke about the tentative agenda items for the July 5, 2006 Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

- Elementary Technology Curriculum
- Integrated Business Systems Materials
- Algebra III/Trigonometry Textbook

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses/Textbooks/Materials

Mr. Leer presented the following items for a third reading and final approval:

- a. Social Studies Scope and Sequence
- b. Accelerated Word Processing and Spreadsheets – New Course and Textbook
- c. Desktop Publishing – New Course
- d. Television Production – Revised Planned Course
- e. Pre-Algebra Textbook

Upon a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the third reading and grant final approval of planned courses, textbooks and materials as listed.

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Mr. Leer presented the professional staff - resignations, transfers, recommendations for employment; support staff - resignations, transfer, recommendations for employment; Community Education Summer staff and salaries, and additional Summer Sports Camp personnel, plus the addendum items, for approval

Upon a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the professional staff - resignations, transfers, recommendations for employment; Support Staff - resignations, transfer, recommendations for employment; Community Education Summer staff and salaries, and additional Summer Sports Camp personnel, plus the addendum items as listed:

Resignations

NICOLE KRATZER

First Grade, Franconia Elem.
Effective: End of 2005-2006 school year

REBECCA L. MICHALAK

Learning Support Teacher, Seventh Grade
Indian Valley Middle School
Effective: End of 2005-2006 school year

MARIAN WELCH-QUIGLEY

Fifth Grade Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem.
Effective: End of 2005-2006 school year

Transfers

ANA MARIE PECK

Replacement for
Anita Greiser (resigned)

From: Learning Support, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.
To: ESL, Franconia Elem.
Beginning: 2006-2007 school year

Education

Seton Hall Univ. (BS) 1977
Rutgers Univ. (MA) 1980
Immaculata Univ. (Certif.) 2006

Experience

1998-2006-SASD-E. M. Crouthamel Elem.
Special Education/Learning Support

KAREN PLANINSHEK

Replacement for
Lynn Robinson (transfer)

From: CARS, Vernfield Elem.
To: Second Grade, Vernfield Elem.
Beginning: 2006-2007 school year

Education

West Chester Univ. (BS) 1993
Gwynedd-Mercy College (MS)
2001

Experience

2005-2006-SASD-Vernfield Elem.-CARS
Jan. 2000-2005-SASD-Franconia Elem.,
West Broad Street Elem., Vernfield Elem.
First Grade Teacher

Education–Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Transfers (continued)

LYNN ROBINSON

Replacement for

Karen Planinshek (transfer)

Education

Grove City College (BA) 1977

Penn State Univ. (M.Ed.) 1981

From: Second Grade, Vernfield Elem.

To: CARS, Vernfield Elem.

Beginning: 2006-2007 school year

Experience

2005-2006-SASD-Vernfield Elem.-Second Grade

1995-2005-SASD-Lower Salford Elem.,

West Broad Street Elem., Vernfield Elem.

Reading Specialist (CARS)

ELIZABETH STONE

Replacement for

Meryl Lightstone (transfer)

Education

Penn State Univ. (BS) 2001

Arcadia Univ. (M.Ed.) 2005

From: CARS (Reading), West Broad Street Elem.

To: First Grade, West Broad Street Elem.

Beginning: 2006-2007 school year

Experience

2005-2006-SASD-West Broad Street Elem.

CARS (Reading)

2001-2005-SASD-West Broad Street Elem.

First Grade

RICHARD SWARTZ

Replacement for

Nancy Karkoska (resigned)

Education

East Stroudsburg Univ. (BS)

1969

Lehigh Univ. (M.Ed.) 1976

From: Fifth Grade, West Broad Street Elem.

To: Language Arts, Sixth Grade, Indian Valley

Beginning: 2006-2007 school year

Experience

1969-1979-SASD-Franconia Elem.-Sixth Grade

1979-1993-SASD-West Broad Street Elem.-

Reading Specialist/CARS

1993-2006-SASD-West Broad Street Elem.-

Fifth Grade Teacher

Recommendations for Employment

MEREDITH MCMAHON

Replacement for

Michele Ruch (childrearing)

Education

Penn State Univ. (BS) 1999

Arcadia Univ. (MA) 2006

Arcadia Univ. (Certif.) 2006

English Teacher, Souderton Area High School

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

Effective: First Semester, 2006-2007 school year

Experience

Jan.-Jun. 2006-Jenkintown Middle/High School

Language Arts, Student Teaching

Recommended Salary

\$20,219.50 – M (1)

Education–Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

BRIAN PENDERGHEST Replacement for Andrea Lystad (childrearing)	Phys. Ed. Teacher, E. M. Crouthamel Elem. and Salford Hills Elem. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE Effective: First Semester, 2006-2007 school year
<u>Education</u> Ursinus College (BS) 2002	<u>Experience</u> 2005-2006-SASD-E. M. Crouthamel Elem. and Salford Hills Elem.-Physical Education (LTS) 2004-2005-North Penn S.D.-Permanent Substitute Teacher Jan.-Apr. 2004-Wissahickon S. D.-Wissahickon Middle School-Physical Education (LTS)
	<u>Recommended Salary</u> \$18,385.50 – B (1)

NICKOLE TROUT Replacement for Michael Rucinski (retired)	Guidance Counselor, Indian Crest Jr. High TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL Beginning: August 2006
<u>Education</u> Shippensburg Univ. (BA) 1999 Eastern Univ. (MA) 2003	<u>Experience</u> 2005-2006-SASD-Indian Crest Jr. High Guidance (LTS) 2003-2005-Lakeside Educational Network North Penn S. D. – Mainstay Counselor
	<u>Recommended Salary</u> \$42,049 – M (2)

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignations

MICHAEL CAPKO	Part-Time Summer Custodial Substitute Effective: June 8, 2006
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JENIFER WILDE	Special Education Aide, Multi-Handicapped Class E. M. Crouthamel Elem. Effective: June 15, 2006
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Transfer

TAMMY OWENS Replacement for Dave Lindsay (transfer)	From: Second Shift Custodian, Vernfield Elem. To: Second Shift Custodian, E. M. Crouthamel Elem. Beginning: To be determined
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Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment

ANDREW BARNDT Part-Time Custodian, Senior High School
Replacement for Beginning: June 23, 2006
Matthew Freed (resigned) Hourly Rate: \$8.96
Hours: 4 per day

JORDAN GREEN Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Beginning: June 23, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$8.96
Hours: 4 per day

Recommendations for Employment of Community Education Summer 2006 Staff and Salaries, plus the addition as listed:

JUDY SCHWENK	Program Planning	\$450.00
MATTHEW LESUER	Day Camp Director (Substitute)	15.00 per hour
DAN PIERCE	Day Camp Director (Substitute)	15.00 per hour
LEDERACH GOLF CLUB	Summer Golf Camp	150.00 per registrant

EXHIBIT B

Additional Recommendations for Employment for the 2006 Summer Sports Camp

JAY JAMISON	Guest Speaker – Boys Basketball	\$100.00
KEVIN METZ	Lacrosse Group Counselor	7.00 per hour
BILLY SCHUERER	Lacrosse Group Counselor	7.00 per hour
DAN MOHR	Lacrosse Group Counselor	7.00 per hour

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER

William J. Brong and Mark D. Leer, Representatives

Mr. Brong reported that at the June 19th Joint Operating Committee meeting, the Board approved a policy to form a Finance Committee. He also mentioned that Dr. Priscilla Feir, Superintendent of Perkiomen Valley School District, was named Superintendent of Record for the Technical Career Center. Dr. Feir will hold this position for two years. The Board also held an election for officers due to the resignation of Mrs. Sharon Gehret. Mr. Brong was elected Vice President of the Joint Operating Committee Board.

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Monday, August 14, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Administrative Conference Room at the North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R. "Bud" Miller, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

Mr. Miller spoke about the following items that were discussed at the June 14, 2006 Operations Committee meeting:

- Presentation on Indian Valley Middle School Gym Improvements
- Trash Bids
- Phase II Site Improvements Contract at Lower Salford Elementary School
- High School Project Update
 - Status Report by Construction Manager
 - PECO Agreement for Natural Gas Installation
 - Land Development Agreements with Franconia Township

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Mr. Miller indicated that the request from the AFS Lenape group to use E. M. Crouthamel Elementary was being removed from the agenda for further review.

FRANCONIA

E.P.Y.S.A. – Souderton Soccer Association
Cafeteria
Saturday, September 16, 2006
8:00AM – 3:00PM
Soccer Photo Day
Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN CREST

Boy Scout Troop #91
Parking Lot at Gym
Saturday, June 17, 2006
9:00AM – 12:00PM
Collection of mobility equipment
Certificate of Insurance on file

High School Project Update

Recommendation to Approve PECO Agreement for Natural Gas Installation.

Mr. Loren Szczesny, from Fox Rothschild, explained the background for the PECO agreement and the reason for the action. PECO will absorb the installation cost to the new high school if the school district connects and uses their service for natural gas within twelve months. PECO is also willing to extend the agreement for an additional twelve months for the connection process. The agreement would be in effect for two years. However, in order to take advantage of the twelve month extension, the district must acquire a bond. Mr. Szczesny indicated that he tried to extend the contract further, but PECO did not agree.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

High School Project Update (continued)

Recommendation to Approve PECO Agreement for Natural Gas Installation (continued)

Mr. MacDougall asked what type of bond was required.

Mr. Szczesny indicated a payment bond, with Mr. Sultanik in agreement.

Mr. MacDougall asked if PECO was looking for some form of measurable usage by June 2008.

Mr. Brong indicated that PECO had mentioned in previous correspondence that they would supply \$130,000 of natural gas per year.

Mr. Brong asked for clarification regarding the extension of the agreement if the district acquired a bond.

Mr. Szczesny indicated that posting a bond would extend the initial agreement for an additional year. He stated that the two years would start when the agreement is signed. PECO provided the district with a limited response time.

Mr. Miller questioned if the district presently uses PECO for natural gas.

Mr. Pollack responded that we presently have a dual-fuel set up in many of the buildings. The reason for the action now would be for PECO to put down their lines at the new high school before the site is paved.

Mr. Miller asked if this was the best agreement that the district could get.

Mr. Szczesny indicated that it could not be extended.

Mr. Currie questioned if the June 2008 extension could be reviewed at a later date.

Mr. Szczesny said no.

Mr. Leer asked if there was a cost involved for the bond.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that the district could probably work out a low rate with area banking institutions or it may even become an accommodation from the local banks.

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the PECO agreement for natural gas installation and service.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Recommendation to Award Trash Bid per MCIU Joint Bid
Ches-Mont Disposal – 3 year contract totaling \$150,508.36

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board award the trash bid to Ches-Mont Disposal for a period of three years, with the contract totaling \$150,508.36 as per the MCIU Joint Bid.

Recommendation to Approve Additional Cost for Phase II Site Improvements Contract at Lower Salford Elementary School to R. J. Sell, Pennsburg, PA in the amount of \$6,000.

Mr. Miller presented this item for approval.

Wolf Lackler, from Upper Salford Township, asked why there was an additional cost.

Mr. Brong responded that blacktop costs had increased.

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the additional cost for the Phase II site improvements contract at Lower Salford Elementary as presented.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification regarding the PECO agreement that it was only for natural gas and not electricity.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

Dr. Parry indicated that the following items were discussed at the June 14, 2006 Finance Committee meeting:

Recommendation to Approve 2006-2007 Special Education Services Plan with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Dr. Parry explained the special education services plan and some of the related services for special education students.

Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2006-2007 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Special Education Services Plan as presented. **EXHIBIT C**

Recommendation to Approve the 2006-2007 Alternative School Contracts

Dr. Parry spoke about the contracts for the various alternative schools and how slots are reserved for students with social and emotional problems.

Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2006-2007 alternative school contracts as presented. **EXHIBIT D**

Recommendation to Approve Berkheimer Request for 2004 EIT Information

Dr. Parry asked the Board to authorize the release of information to Berkheimer Assoc.

Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the request for information from Berkheimer Associates as presented. **EXHIBIT E**

2006-2007 Budget

The Finance Committee is recommending adoption of the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$90,642,609, and that local taxes to support this budget are established as listed:

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 23.61 mils and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

That the following Act 511 taxes be continued for the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX.....	1%
EARNED INCOME TAX.....	1%
PER CAPITA TAX.....	\$10.00

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

The Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax on residents, and the Per Capita Tax under Act 511 are shared equally with municipalities.

Dr. Parry briefly reviewed the budget process. He indicated that originally the budget came in at \$91,201,418, and now we are at \$90,642,609, a 5.36% increase in expenditures over the 2005-2006 budget.

Mr. Miller added that expenditures continue to increase and are too high. He indicated that he would vote against the budget and felt the budget could still be cut by \$300,000 by controlling personnel costs.

Mrs. Cole indicated that she has concerns about eliminating the 5:30 PM late buses. Due to the late time table, the Board will not be able to get public feedback. She indicated that the same concerns applied to eliminating the mid-day kindergarten buses. Mrs. Cole asked if the district would be slowing down the floor replacements.

Mrs. Cole shared that she felt the additional cuts are short-sighted and the Board should be back at the 4.8% mark and remove the reductions from the vote. If reductions are made, Mrs. Cole felt that the Board needed more time for public comment.

Mr. Brong was under the impression that bussing for kindergartners at noon and the 5:30 PM late buses were eliminated.

Mr. Miller asked if the board would be voting on a budget number.

Mr. Sultanik responded that the board is approving the revenues and expenditure as per the administrations' submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on form PDE 2028.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the board was approving a balanced budget.

Mr. Sultanik mentioned that the PDE 2028 form and budgetary documents that go to the state show line items for revenues and expenditures. There needs to be specific direction where the reductions need to come from.

Dr. Amuso interjected that the PDE 2028 form reflects the numbers associated with the budget, but the handout (available at the meeting) showed how the district arrived at those numbers. **EXHIBIT F**

Mr. Currie stated that expenditures have increased more than two times the rate of inflation. He would not be supporting the budget.

Mr. MacDougall mentioned that this has been a difficult year due to Board and administrative changes and especially Special Session House Bill 39. It has been a challenging process. The Board has agreed that the process used this year will be changed next year. Our expenses have increased and our growth is not keeping pace with our funding. There are contractual and policy issues that cannot be changed.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

Mrs. Cole clarified that the reductions went from a 4.8% Real Estate Tax Millage increase to 4.2%. These reductions were not administrative recommendations; rather the administration was told to reduce costs by the Board.

Mrs. Cole made a motion to accept the budget at the 4.8% increase as recommended prior to May 17th by the Finance Committee and the administration.

Mr. Brong second the motion.

A parent from West Broad Elementary School spoke about a recent visit to West Broad and her concern about possible mold at the school.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that all versions of the budget include the removal of carpet.

Dr. Amuso mentioned that he would follow-up on the parent's comments about her concerns at West Broad.

Mr. Cary Hall, from Souderton, asked if the budget could be amended at any point after it was approved.

Mr. Sultanik responded no, the budget can not be amended.

Mr. MacDougall called on Mrs. Bray for roll call vote #1. The motion was to approve the 2006-2007 budget at the 4.8% increase, putting the expenditure budget at \$90,951,640.

Mr. Brong cast a no vote.
Mrs. Cole cast a yes vote.
Mr. Currie cast a no vote.
Mr. Leer cast a no vote.
Mr. Miller cast a no vote.
Dr. Parry cast a no vote.
Mr. Verbeke cast a no vote.
Mr. MacDougall cast a no vote.

The motion failed, 7 to 1.

Mr. Leer indicated that he would not support a budget higher than the 4.2% level and agreed that next year's process should be different.

Mr. Verbeke spoke about how the Board should govern based on policy and mentioned several policies that govern the Board. He indicated that he feels this budget reflects all of the standards and will support the budget. Mr. Verbeke also agreed that the process should change and keep the public informed and involved.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

Dr. Parry shared Mr. MacDougall's sentiments about the budget process.

Dr. Amuso indicated that although Souderton Area School District is not bound by the provisions of Act 72, this budget is within the index that would be required by the Act.

There was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Verbeke to approve the 2006-2007 budget at 4.2% increase, putting the budget at \$ 90,642,609.

Mr. MacDougall called on Mrs. Bray for roll call vote #2.

Mr. Brong cast a no vote.
Mrs. Cole cast a no vote.
Mr. Currie cast a no vote.
Mr. Leer cast a yes vote.
Mr. Miller cast a no vote.
Dr. Parry cast a yes vote.
Mr. Verbeke cast a yes vote.
Mr. MacDougall cast a yes vote.

The motion failed with a 4 to 4 tie.

At this point, Mr. Miller made a motion to reduce the current budget figure by \$200,000 by reducing funds from the individual schools' building budgets by \$20,000 each. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leer.

Dr. Amuso explained the problems with reducing supply funds for the buildings by a flat dollar amount. Some schools would lose up to 50% of their funding; others would lose a much smaller percentage.

Mr. Miller amended the motion by deleting the supplies portion of the motion and adding that the budget be reduced by \$200,000 to be decided at the discretion of the administration. Mr. Leer seconded the motion's amendment.

Mrs. Cole asked for clarification on the \$200,000 reduction.

Mr. Sultanik explained that this would be a \$200,000 reduction from the 4.2% budget.

Mr. MacDougall mentioned that to arbitrarily throw out numbers is micromanaging the administration. The Board gave the administration a directive and then changed course halfway through the process. We can't just cut things; we have contracts and obligations that must be upheld.

Mr. Verbeke indicated that the CPI for the Philadelphia metropolitan area is at 4.1% and now is not the time to change course.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

Dr. Parry agreed that we would all love to see lower taxes, but we must find other methods.

Mrs. Cole indicated that expenses for special education are increasing in double digits. The CPI and our situation are not comparing the same costs. She agreed that the process may be flawed, and we need to improve the process, but we have been methodical in working on this process from the beginning. The principals and their staff have been working hard on keeping costs down.

Mr. MacDougall called on Mrs. Bray for roll call vote #3. The motion was to approve the 2006-2007 expenditure budget in the amount of \$90,442,609, which would include the reduction of \$200,000 as determined by the administration.

Mr. Brong cast a no vote.
Mrs. Cole cast a no vote.
Mr. Currie cast a yes vote.
Mr. Leer cast a yes vote.
Mr. Miller cast a yes vote.
Dr. Parry cast a no vote.
Mr. Verbeke cast a no vote.
Mr. MacDougall cast a no vote.

The motion failed, 5 to 3.

Mr. Miller made a motion to accept the original budget figure of \$91,201,418. Second by Mr. Brong.

Mr. Gardinier, from Souderton, asked if the Board had looked at increasing the earned income tax rate.

Mr. Sultanik responded that the Board can not increase the earned income tax rate at the present time.

Both Mr. Miller and Mr. Sultanik indicated that the new law would prevent the Board from increasing the earned income tax rate.

Douglas Killough, from Souderton, asked if the district could use the fund balance.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that there is money in the fund balance but some of it is earmarked for the new high school.

Mr. Leer expressed that throwing out a number is not a good way to do business. He would suggest that we change the process next year.

Mr. MacDougall explained that administration would make a “state of the district” by giving the Board information and numbers at the beginning of the budget process.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

Mr. Leer indicated that he is skeptical about the process.

Mr. Brong expressed that if the administration knew what the percentage would be at the beginning of the process, then they will work within the numbers.

Mrs. Cole questioned the procedure to add an amendment to a motion. She is not in favor of picking programs to eliminate. Mrs. Cole made a motion to amend the last motion by adding \$85,045 to include the continuation of the 5:30 PM late buses and also the flooring replacement.

Mr. Brong seconded Mrs. Cole's motion.

Dr. Parry questioned the impact of eliminating the late buses.

Mr. Amuso indicated that there are six buses used as late buses for secondary co-curricular and sports students.

Mr. Silva added that the buses are used primarily for athletic students.

Dr. Parry questioned if these buses were cut, would it deter students from participating in sports and after school activities.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the middle-level students would be affected. Some of the late buses have very low ridership.

Mr. Pollack reported that Indian Valley has about 40 students who use the late buses heavily. Indian Crest and the High School have about 10 to 15 students that use the late buses regularly. However it varies from season to season and day to day. Mr. Pollack added that the district had done a study and found that parents said their students would use the late buses more frequently if the buses had stops closer to their homes.

Dr. Parry thanked the administration for addressing the mold issues. He felt that the district did not need to replace carpets at West Broad since the state officials said that the mold situation at West Broad is clean.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the replacement of carpets with flooring has been a long-term project. We have been replacing carpets with flooring as the carpets wear out.

Dr. Parry indicated that he was not in favor of replacing carpets if not needed.

Mrs. Cole asked for clarification on the \$40,000 to replace carpets with flooring.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the \$40,000 would have accelerated the process at West Broad and half of the money would go towards replacing carpets at Oak Ridge. With the elimination of the \$40,000 there would still be some replacement at West Broad.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

Mr. Leer expressed concern about the late bus issue. He questioned if all of our students have the opportunity to ride the late buses due to the staggered sports schedules and not enough field space.

Mr. MacDougall asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for vote #4.

The motion is to approve the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$90,642,609 and add \$85,045 to include the continuation of the 5:30 PM late buses (\$45,045) and also the flooring replacements (\$40,000).

Mrs. Bray called the roll as follows:

Mr. Brong cast a yes vote.
Mrs. Cole cast a yes vote.
Mr. Currie cast a no vote.
Mr. Leer cast a no vote.
Mr. Miller cast a no vote.
Dr. Parry cast a no vote.
Mr. Verbeke cast a no vote.
Mr. MacDougall cast a no vote.

The motion to amend failed 6 to 2.

Mr. Miller made a motion to amend the motion to approve the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$90,642,609 and adding \$45,045 to include the continuation of the 5:30 PM late buses only.

Mr. Brong seconded the motion to amend.

Mr. MacDougall asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for vote #5.

Mrs. Bray called the roll as follows:

Mr. Brong cast a yes vote.
Mrs. Cole cast a yes vote.
Mr. Currie cast a no vote.
Mr. Leer cast a yes vote.
Mr. Miller cast a yes vote.
Dr. Parry cast a yes vote.
Mr. Verbeke cast a no vote.
Mr. MacDougall cast a yes vote.

The motion to amend passed 6 to 2.

Finance Committee

2006-2007 Budget (continued)

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Leer to approve the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$90,642,609 with the addition of \$45,045 for continuation of the 5:30 late buses resulting in a total expenditure budget of \$90,687,654 and a 4.3% millage increase.

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 23.63 mils and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

That the following Act 511 taxes be continued for the 2006-2007 fiscal year:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX.....	1%
EARNED INCOME TAX.....	1%
PER CAPITA TAX.....	\$10.00

The Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax on residents, and the Per Capita Tax under Act 511 are shared equally with municipalities.

Mr. MacDougall asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for vote #6.

Mrs. Bray called the roll as follows:

- Mr. Brong cast a yes vote.
- Mrs. Cole cast a yes vote.
- Mr. Currie cast a no vote.
- Mr. Leer cast a yes vote.
- Mr. Miller cast a yes vote.
- Dr. Parry cast a yes vote.
- Mr. Verbeke cast a yes vote.
- Mr. MacDougall cast a yes vote.

The motion passed 7 to 1 to approve the 2006-2007 budget.

Dr. Parry indicated that the Board will improve the process next year. The Board will provide parameters to the administration with a focus on personnel expenditures. Benefits need to be addressed and data researched regarding ratios of teachers to students.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

Mrs. Cole indicated that Policy #113.2 – Behavior Support Plan was listed for a second reading. At the last Policy meeting, Mrs. Berk provided a chronological listing of changes for this policy. Presently, there is a change in wording, which is reflective of the regulations. The committee is seeking clarification from our solicitor to see if “highly restrained” must be defined in the policy.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole announced that the Intermediate Unit will be holding a workshop on July 24th at 7:00 PM on Special Session House Bill 39 – Tax Reform. Superintendents and board members will be invited to this workshop.

The next Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2006 beginning at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the IU, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole indicated that on June 13th, the House Appropriations Committee rubber-stamped the subcommittee’s recommendations to essentially level-fund special education and Title I, proposing \$10.7 billion for IDEA and \$12.7 billion for Title I for the Fiscal Year 2007 Appropriations Bill. Amendments to increase funding for education and healthcare failed along party lines. The appropriations bill may be considered by the full House during the last week of June. Mrs. Cole also shared some information regarding appropriations for hurricane recovery.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Jack Parry, Representative

Dr. Parry reported that Special Session House Bill 39 was revised and approved, and is now waiting for Governor Rendell's signature. The legislation will require school districts to go to referendum when their budget exceeds the set index. There is discussion about "trailer" legislation to address school districts' 20062-007 budgets.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Sultanik indicated that Governor Rendell will be signing SSHB 39 next Tuesday. The "trailer" amendments could be approved anytime between Tuesday and June 30th.

Mr. Sultanik also reported that one of the requirements for school districts, once this Bill is signed into law, is to form a Local Tax Reform Commission. More information will be shared at the Intermediate Unit workshop on July 24th.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Tim Howe, from Telford, asked when the Board was going to address TV cameras to record Board meetings.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that this issue has been placed in the budget and will be discussed at a later date.

At 9:45 PM, Mr. MacDougall called for a recess.

Mr. MacDougall reconvened the meeting at 9:52 PM.

Appointment of Board Member to Serve the Remainder of Former Board Member, Sharon Gehret's Term of Office

Mr. MacDougall announced that the Board would be appointing a new member to complete the unexpired term of Sharon Gehret, whose term would end in November 2007. He reviewed the process and explained how the voting would take place. Mr. MacDougall explained that this is a public process as required by State Code. A majority of five votes would be needed to win.

The floor was opened for nominations, with the following candidates nominated:

Mr. Brong nominated Dr. Paul Baumgartner
Mrs. Cole nominated Mr. Jonathan Gardiner
Mr. Miller nominated by Stephen Nelson

Unfinished/New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Verbeke to close the nominations, with a second from Mr. Currie. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board close the nominations for these three candidates and take a roll call vote.

Mr. MacDougall asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll and Board members were to cast their vote.

Mr. Brong cast a vote in favor of Dr. Baumgartner.
Mrs. Cole cast a vote in favor of Mr. Gardineri.
Mr. Currie cast a vote in favor of Mr. Nelson.
Mr. Leer cast a vote in favor of Dr. Baumgartner.
Mr. Miller cast a vote in favor of Mr. Nelson.
Dr. Parry cast a vote in favor of Dr. Baumgartner.
Mr. Verbeke cast a vote in favor of Dr. Baumgartner.
Mr. MacDougall cast a vote in favor of Dr. Baumgartner.

With a vote of five votes for Dr. Baumgartner, one vote for Mr. Gardineri and two votes for Mr. Nelson, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board appoint Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner to the Board of School Directors to fill the unexpired term of Sharon Gehret. Mrs. Gehret's term expires November 2007.

Mr. Miller thanked all who were involved in the process and thanked the candidates for coming forward. He urged the candidates to think about running in the next election.

Dr. Parry also thanked the candidates and indicated that they were all very impressive.

Mr. MacDougall welcomed Dr. Baumgartner to the Board and performed the swearing in ceremony.

At this point, Mr. MacDougall announced an Executive Session after tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues and potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 10:10 PM.

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary