

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

President Eric R. MacDougall called the meeting of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors to order on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 7:33 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 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
	Sharon J. Gehret	Victor M. Verbeke
	Mark D. Leer	

SOLICITOR: Brian Subers, Esq.
Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq. (Arrived at 9:00 PM)

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, R. Bradley Clemens, Grace Eves, Robert Faccenda, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Glenn Keller, Dr. Linda Larson, Terence Nesensohn, Steve Pollack, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, Colleen Wegimont, representatives from The Reporter, The Intelligencer, The Souderton Independent, The Morning Call, Radio Station WNPV and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

STUDENT/SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Souderton Area High School – Girls Swim Team

Dr. Amuso introduced Terence Nesensohn, girls swim team coach, who thanked the Board for their support and spoke about the team’s accomplishments for the season. The girls of the Souderton Area High School Swim Team recently won the Continental Division Championship title with a 13-2 record.

Individual achievements:

**ASHLEY KICHLINE, VALERIE PETTINE,
ANGELA SEVERN, PAIGE WHITMIRE**
11th Place in the 200 Medley Relay
Second Team All-State

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gehret, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School Girls Swim Team for their accomplishments.

EXHIBIT A

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT/SCHOOL RECOGNITION (continued)

Souderton Area High School – Girls Swim Team (continued)

Dr. Amuso acknowledged the parents in attendance and thanked them for their support.

Souderton Area High School – Boys Swim Team

Dr. Amuso introduced Robert Faccenda, boys swim team coach, who spoke about the team's season and special projects. One such project being the pen pal program that was established with children from the Autistic class at Vernfield Elementary School.

The boys of the Souderton Area High School Swim Team won the Continental Division Championship title for the ninth year in a row with an 11-4 record. The team placed third at Districts and seventh at States.

Individual achievements:

RYAN CORCORAN

Sixteenth in the 50 Freestyle
Second Team All-State

MATTHEW GRUSZECKI

Second in the 50 Freestyle
Fifth in the 100 Freestyle
First Team All-State and High School All-American

MATTHEW ZRADA

Eighth in the 200 Freestyle
Ninth in the 500 Freestyle
First Team All-State and High School All-American

RYAN CORCORAN, MATTHEW GRUSZECKI

REID FOX, MATTHEW ZRADA

Third in the 200 Freestyle Relay
Eighth in the 400 Freestyle Relay
Both relays are First Team All-State and High School All-American

Upon a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School Boys Swim Team for their accomplishments. **EXHIBIT B**

Mrs. Cole commented that these boys make us very proud and they are to be commended for going outside the realm of athletics.

Dr. Amuso acknowledged the parents in attendance and thanked them for their support.

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT/SCHOOL RECOGNITION (continued)

Outstanding Professional in Physical Education

Dr. Amuso introduced Dr. Linda Larson, principal at Oak Ridge Elementary, who spoke about the accomplishments of Ms. Wegimont. **COLLEEN WEGIMONT**, health and physical education teacher at Oak Ridge Elementary, was presented the “*Outstanding Professional in Physical Education Award for 2006*” by the Eastern District Association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). Ms. Wegimont received the award at the 84th annual Eastern District Association Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, where she offered the workshop “Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart: New Ideas to Help You.”

Mr. Verbeke indicated that he has children who attend Oak Ridge Elementary, and he has seen Ms. Wegimont in action. He thanked her for all she does at Oak Ridge.

Upon a motion by Mr. Verbeke, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize COLLEEN WEGIMONT for her achievements.

EXHIBIT C

Requests for Conferences/Workshops

Dr. Amuso presented the requests for conferences and workshops, stating that they all conform to present administrative policy.

Dr. Parry asked what “restorative practices” referred to.

Mrs. Ryan explained the concept of working with children so they learn how to right the wrongs. Children learn how their behavior affects others.

Dr. Amuso indicated that he has attended one of these workshops and it is very powerful. The program works to bring students together.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gehret, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the conferences and workshops as listed:

DALE BURKHARD	Lehigh University Middle Level Conference
Principal, Indian Valley M. S.	Bethlehem, PA
TERESA MUSSELMAN	April 25, 2006 (Tues.)
German, Indian Valley M. S.	Est. Expenses: \$617.80 (combined)
SCOTT MYERS	Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (Musselman & Myers)
Health/Phys. Ed., Indian Crest	Total Expenses: \$817.80 (combined)
JEFF PAMMER	
Principal, Indian Crest Jr. High	
JACK SILVA	
Director of Secondary Education	

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

Requests conform to present administrative policy.

SUE CHAMBERS Counselor, Franconia Elem.	Introduction to Restorative Practices Norristown, PA April 28, 2006 (Fri. 1/2 day only) Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>50.00</u> (1/2 day only) Total Expenses: \$50.00
DR. JOHN M. EELLS Supervisor of Special Services	Mid-Atlantic Consortium of Education Foundations Annual Conference New Cumberland, PA May 11, 2006 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$224.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$224.00
PAMELA HYDECK Fourth Grade, EMC Elem. LINDA KELLER Fourth Grade, EMC Elem. Partially funded with Title funds.	Reciprocal Teaching for Grades 2-8 Downingtown, PA May 31, 2006 (Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$180.19 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (combined) Total Expenses: \$380.19 (combined)
BRENDA JONES BRAY Director of Business Affairs	2006 School District Conference Malvern, PA June 1, 2006 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$227.92 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$227.92
DR. LINDA LARSON Principal, Oak Ridge Elem. MARYELLEN MYERS Principal, Salford Hills Elem.	The Leadership Institute San Diego, CA July 10-12, 2006 (Mon.-Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$4,127.90 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$4,127.90 (combined)

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Brenda J. Bray

School Board Minutes

Mrs. Bray presented the School Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2006 for approval.

Report of the Secretary

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the School Board Minutes of March 23, 2006 as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held March 23, 2006 following the Board meeting to discuss personnel issues and litigation. The meeting lasted sixty minutes.

On Thursday, March 30, 2006, the Board held an information session regarding the high school project with its architect and construction management firm. The meeting lasted three hours and fifteen minutes.

Student Expulsion

Mr. MacDougall presented the student expulsion for action.

Pursuant to the laws of Pennsylvania, that the Board approve the expulsion of Student I. D. #229964 from the Souderton Area School District for the remainder of the school year, with the option to return during the next school year based on a report of good behavior, the completion of a counseling program, and successfully completing his/her academic program, all at the discretion of the superintendent.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the expulsion of Student I. D. #229964 for the remainder of the school year with the option to return during the next school year based on a report of good behavior, the completion of a counseling program, and successfully completing his/her academic program, all at the discretion of the superintendent.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Mrs. Eves presented the Financial Statements for March 2006 as an information item.

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

At the April 5, 2006 meeting, the Education-Personnel Committee discussed the following:

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Second Reading of Planned Courses

Mr. Leer indicated that the planned courses for English 9, English 11 and English 12 were discussed at the last Education-Personnel Committee meeting and presented tonight for a second reading.

2006-2007 Proposal – Palm Handheld Computing Initiative for Grade 5

Mr. Leer indicated that Dave Ramage presented a wonderful video presentation at the last Education-Personnel Committee meeting which explained the program and the proposals for the next two academic years. The program is presently in place in one fifth grade classroom at Lower Salford, Oak Ridge and Salford Hills Elementary Schools. The 2006-2007 proposal is for the program to expand to the other fifth grade classrooms at Lower Salford, Oak Ridge and Salford Hills, and to add a fifth grade classroom at E. M. Crouthamel, Franconia, West Broad Street and Vernfield Elementary Schools to the program. During the 2007-2008 school year, all fifth grade classrooms would be included in the program.

Overview of the Three-Year Transition Plan for Grades 6-8

Mr. Leer indicated that Mr. Silva had presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the history of the Transition Steering Committee, the work done so far, and outlined what needs to be done before the transition takes place for the 2009-2010 school year. The committee will continue to report their progress at future Education-Personnel Committee meetings.

Recommendation to Approve Requests for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

Mr. Leer presented the following out-of-state and overnight field trips for approval:

Vernfield Elementary School – Fifth Grade Classes

Place: Camden Yards, Baltimore Aquarium, Fort McHenry – Baltimore, MD

Date: May 1, 2006 (Monday)

Purpose of Trip: To study ecosystems in science, math information, and visit a site from the War of 1812.

Number of Students: 71

Number of Chaperones: Teachers/Staff – 6 Parents – 30

Requesting Teacher: Amy Welsh

Trip will be financed by students and fundraising activities.

Salford Hills Elementary School – Fifth Grade Outdoor School

Place: Camp Men-O-Lan, Finland, PA

Date: May 31 to June 2, 2006 (Wednesday-Friday)

Purpose of Trip: Providing fifth graders with a three-day outdoor school, environmental experience.

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Requests for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips (continued)

Salford Hills Elementary School – Fifth Grade Outdoor School (continued)

Number of Students: 63

Number of Chaperones: Teachers/Staff – 13 Parents – 4

Requesting Teachers: Jeff Sinkinson, Dave Purnell, Janet Smith

Trip will be financed by students and Home and School Association.

OTHER ITEMS

Recommendation to Add an Additional Learning Support Aide Position at Vernfield Elementary, 5.5 Hours Per Day, Through the End of the 2005-2006 School Year.

Mr. Leer explained the request for the additional learning support aide. This position would only be for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

Dr. Parry asked how this aide would be informed of the timeline of the position.

Mr. Clemens responded that the new hire would be told that the position is only for the remainder of this school year. The enrollment numbers will be evaluated over the summer and if needed, the aide position would be kept for the 2006-2007 school year.

Dr. Parry expressed that he felt this request should be tied to curriculum needs not budgeted items.

Mr. Clemens explained how evaluations are made on classroom enrollment and staffing needs. When there is a staffing need, the request is put into the budget calculations for the next school year.

Dr. Parry asked what happens next year with this position.

Mr. Clemens indicated that if the aide is not needed, the employment ends.

Dr. Parry asked if the Palm Handheld proposal would be revisited at a future Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

Mrs. Ryan responded that this is a three-year pilot program and a review of the results would be made next year. She also repeated the proposal of adding fifth grade classrooms in the three elementary schools that currently use the program and also adding one fifth grade classroom in each of the four remaining elementary schools. The following year, 2007-2008, would add the remaining fifth grade classrooms in the district.

Dr. Amuso indicated that this proposal was included in the budget proposed.

Education-Personnel Committee

Dr. Parry asked if the proposal would be approved if the Board approved the budget.

Mr. Leer indicated that the proposal included a reasonable expense for the Palm handhelds.

Mr. MacDougall asked for a report next year at this time to assess how the program was going and decide on the next step.

Mr. Paul Baumgartner, from Telford, indicated that he would like to see the educational outcomes of the Palm handheld program. He asked if there was specific educational value.

Mrs. Cole reviewed the Palm handheld presentation and indicated that it was very clear that students and teachers alike found this program to be a valuable learning experience.

Mr. Currie indicated that the Palm Handheld Computing Initiative was presented tonight only as an informational item. There was nothing to be decided this evening. Financial approval for this program would come through the budget process.

Mr. Brong questioned if there was any type of security in place to ward off electronic cheating, etc.

Mr. Silva indicated that an issue of electronic cheating and/or electronic security would need to be addressed by district policy.

Mr. Rosato, from Upper Salford Township, asked how many handheld units would need to be purchased.

Mrs. Ryan estimated that 525 units would need to be purchased over the two-years of the program.

Mr. Rosato expressed his concern that the program was not a necessity. The expense of this program should not be put on the shoulders of the taxpayer.

Mrs. Cole explained why this program is important and indicated that the students are held responsible for any damage or loss.

Mr. Rosato again expressed his concerns about the program.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Mr. Leer made a motion to take the Professional Staff retirement and request for childrearing leave; the Support Staff resignations, transfers, recommendations for employment; and the additions to the Substitute Teacher listing for 2005-2006 as one motion. The motion was second by Mrs. Cole.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the personnel items as listed below:

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Retirement

MARY ANN SLEEVA

Family & Consumer Science, Indian Crest Jr. High
Effective: End of 2005-2006 school year
Employed by SASD: 28 years

Request for Childrearing Leave

CINDY VESEY

Special Education, Indian Valley Middle School

Beginning approximately April 3, 2006 through the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

Mrs. Vesey is planning to return to work for the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignations

MARTHA DANBERRY

Food Service Substitute
Effective: April 14, 2006

AMY HARCLERODE

Title I Teaching Assistant, Language Arts
West Broad Street Elem.
Effective: April 14, 2006

JACQUELINE KRAIL

Supervisor of Special Education Secretary
Effective: April 21, 2006

TREVOR STOUT

Part-Time Custodian, West Broad Elem.
Effective: March 27, 2006

ANDREA WILKINS

Title I Language Arts, Oak Ridge Elem.
Effective: April 13, 2006

Transfers

CHRISTOPHER BALL

Replacement for
Mark Saverio (retired)

From: Full-Time Second Shift Custodian
Vernfield Elem.

To: Full-Time Second Shift Custodian
Franconia Elem.

Beginning: April 18, 2006

Hourly Rate: \$16.43

Hours: 8 per day

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Transfers (continued)

KATHERINE DESANCTIS MOYER
Replacement for
Anne Marie Bunk (transfer)

From: Substitute Nurse
To: Special Services Nurse
Multi-Handicapped Class
E. M. Crouthamel Elem.
Beginning: April 3, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$17.90
Hours: 7.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

BENJAMEN DELP
Replacement for
Trevor Stout (resigned)

Part-Time Custodian, West Broad Street Elem.
Beginning: April 12, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$8.96
Hours: 4 per day

JESUS HERNANDEZ
Replacement for
Christopher Ball (transfer)

Full-Time Second Shift Custodian, Vernfield Elem.
Beginning: April 18, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$16.43
Hours: 8 per day

ELISSA SANER
Replacement for
Margaret Burke, April Smith

Title I Aide, E. M. Crouthamel Elem. and
Franconia Elem.
Effective: April 12, 2006 until the end of the
2005-2006 school year.
Hourly Rate: \$12.55
Hours: 6 per day

Additions to the Substitute Teacher Listing for 2005-2006.

EXHIBIT D

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER

Sharon Gehret and William Brong, Representatives

Mrs. Gehret thanked Moyer and Son, of Souderton, for their donation of recycled refrigeration units to the Technical Career Center. This generous donation will assist the technical school students with hands-on learning.

North Montco Technical Career Center

Mrs. Gehret invited the public to attend the next Joint Operating Committee meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the North Montco Technical Career Center, Sunneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ralph “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Miller indicated that at the April 4, 2006 special meeting, the Operations Committee discussed the following:

- Construction bids for the new Souderton Area Senior High School.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Mr. Miller indicated that the requests met prevailing rates and conform to present policy.

SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Indian Valley Chamber of Commerce
Gymnasium
October 6, 2006 (Friday)
6:00PM – 10:00PM
Corporate Volleyball Game
Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN CREST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Region CYO Track & Field Program of Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Track & Field
March 25, April 8, 2006 (Saturdays)
12:00PM – 5:00PM
April 12, 2006 (Wednesday)
5:30PM – 8:00PM
Track & Field Meets
Certificate of Insurance on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

INDIAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Harleysville Baseball
90' Baseball Field
April 1 – August 1, 2006
5:30PM – 8:30PM
Community Baseball
Certificate of Insurance on file

VERNFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts
Library and Pod
April 4, 2006 (Tuesday)
7:00PM – 8:15PM
Parent Informational Meeting
Certificate of Insurance on file

WEST BROAD STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lions Gate Homeowner's Association
Cafeteria
May 2, 2006 (Tuesday)
6:30PM – 9:30PM
Association Meeting
Certificate of Insurance on file

New High School Project

Recommendation to approve Resolution to award contracts for the construction of the new Souderton Area Senior High School, Franconia Township, Montgomery County, PA.

Mr. MacDougall began this portion of the meeting by reviewing the history of the new high school project. The project started taking shape about five years ago when a committee made up of various administrators, teachers, parents, and community members met for approximately nine months discussing what course of action should be taken. The recommendation from the committee was to build a new high school that was centrally located in the district. After searching the district for approximately one and a half years, land was found for the new high school. A new high school and new grade configuration would give Souderton the ability to realign the secondary grade levels.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that we are currently bursting at the seams, classrooms are full, buildings have make-shift classrooms and most of the schools are using portable classrooms. When there is a building that is functional, children benefit. This project will benefit the community and we hope to get corporations involved in fundraising opportunities.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Breslin, from Breslin Ridyard Fidero Architects, and Doug Taylor from D'Huy Engineering. He indicated that everyone has worked hard and long to get where we are today.

Mr. Miller indicated that Souderton was very successful in the bidding process. The bids were very competitive. At this point, Mr. Miller read the list of contractors who were awarded bids:

General Construction – Skepton Construction, Pennsburg, PA
Base Bid - \$58,600,000 Total Alternates - \$5,469,000
Total Contract Amount - \$64,069,000

Electrical Construction – The Farfield Company, Litiz, PA
Base Bid - \$7,987,000 Total Alternates - \$458,000
Total Contract Amount - \$8,445,000

Mechanical Construction – Boro Developers, Inc., King of Prussia, PA
Base Bid - \$7,178,000 Total Alternates - (\$17,000)
Total Contract Amount - \$7,161,000

Plumbing Construction – J.B.M. Plumbing, Inc., Nazareth, PA
Base Bid - \$4,887,000 Total Alternates - \$20,000
Total Contract Amount - \$3,907,000

Fire Suppression System – Guy M. Cooper, Inc., Willow Grove, PA
Base Bid - \$1,285,000 Total Alternates – None
Total Contract Amount - \$1,285,000

Food Service Equipment – Todd Devin Food Equipment, Inc., Yardley, PA
Base Bid - \$697,000 Total Alternates – None
Total Contract Amount - \$697,000

Swimming Pool Construction – Gall Construction of America Limited, Ontario, Canada
Base Bid - \$749,000 Total Alternates - \$47,000
Total Contract Amount - \$796,000

Data and Communications Construction – NRG Controls, Inc., Oberlin, PA
Base Bid - \$2,323,000 Total Alternates - \$ 0.00
Total Contract Amount - \$2,343,000

Mr. Miller noted that the total construction cost was approximately \$89,000,000. He indicated that as far as the tax impact, we have already provided for the tax increase and will talk about the swap agreement later in the meeting.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Mr. Miller indicated that decisions must be made on alternates, but the total cost should not change that much. He stated that the Resolution will be read and then the Board would vote on each of the suggested alternates. Statements from Board members and the public would be welcomed. The alternates were discussed at the special Operations Committee meeting on April 4, 2006. Alternate A-16 was not discussed at that time, but the administration is recommending that A-16 be included in the alternate list with the underground drainage system.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the administration recommends the alternates chosen by the Operations Committee on April 4th with the addition of Alternate A-16 which will fully utilize the site.

At this point, Dr. Amuso read the Resolution.

EXHIBIT E

Mr. Leer asked if there was any type of drainage system included in the base bid for Alternate A-16.

Dr. Amuso responded that yes, the cost was included in the Alternate A-16 cost.

A motion was made by Mr. Brong to amend the administration's recommendation to accept the Resolution with Alternate A-34 removed from the Bid document. The motion was second by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Brong explained why he opposed putting in Classroom Alternate 34 – operable windows.

Dr. Parry questioned if there was a way to ventilate the building should there be an emergency. He asked if operable windows will help ventilate the building.

Mrs. Gehret commented that she felt operable windows were needed.

Mrs. Cole read a statement regarding her position on the new high school project. She thanked the administrators and staff who have worked so diligently on the project for the past few years. She thanked the architect, engineers and their staff who have been there every step of the way providing guidance and expertise. A thank you went to the construction manager who joined the team within the last year. Mrs. Cole also thanked her fellow Board members who have endured countless meetings and made personal sacrifices for the project planning. She thanked the community who have entrusted the Board to make decisions that affect everyone. **EXHIBIT F**

Mr. Verbeke read a statement regarding his position on the high school project. He shared a bit of history of the land being used for the project and how the early settlers of Pennsylvania German-Mennonite ancestry lived simply and frugally. Mr. Verbeke shared that his objective when running for the Board was to emphasize the substance of learning. He stated that unless absolutely necessary for the advancement of learning, we need to exercise fiscal restraint. Mr. Verbeke indicated that in his opinion, more savings could be realized. We can live without many of the items approved by the administration and Operations Committee.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

After sharing stories from local tax collectors about residents who have been burdened by taxes and how it has impacted their lives, Mr. Verbeke stated that he would be voting “no” to those contracts which contain alternates that do not advance the educational needs of the Souderton Area School District.

EXHIBIT G

Mr. Currie read a statement regarding his opinion about the project. He shared his concern about the affordability of the project. He stated that it takes income or savings to pay real estate taxes. The amount of the tax is based on the assessed value of a house, but one must have cash to pay the tax, and that cash is from income or savings. Mr. Currie shared that 61% of the community on the earned income tax roles have gross incomes of less than \$35,000. This brings a whole new meaning to “discretionary income.”

Mr. Currie indicated that he would make a motion to remove every expensive upgraded alternate, previously accepted by the Operations Committee that can not be minimally justified by the program.

EXHIBIT H

Mr. Miller thanked the Board members for their statements. He questioned Mr. Currie’s statement regarding 61% of the community on the earned income tax roles have a gross income of less than \$35,000. He indicated that the district has residents who are not home owners. Mr. Miller also indicated that we would be financing the project over a 20 year period.

Mr. Miller added that \$2 million for the alternatives will not make a difference in taxes due to the long term financing in place to cut taxes. We need to attack the budget process. He indicated that he was going to support the alternates; costs will rise if we wait. Mr. Miller indicated that the district needs to look into raising money for the project. He indicated that he would vote to add the operable windows. The administration commented that the teachers feel it is important to have windows.

Mr. Rosato questioned where the windows would be placed.

Mr. Breslin responded that three windows would be in each classroom.

Mr. Rosato also asked what the rate of air exchange would be in the rooms.

Mr. Breslin did not have that information at the meeting.

Mr. Paul Baumgartner, from Franconia Township, indicated that he had been at the Operations meeting last week. He had asked about the length of the warranty for each roof proposal and mentioned that the underground drainage system would cause additional cost for watering the fields. Mr. Baumgartner indicated that he had asked several other questions about the project at the Operations meeting, but had not received answers.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Mr. MacDougall and Mr. Pollack responded to the roof warranty question indicating that two of the bids had a 20 year warranty and one bid had a 25 year warranty.

Mr. Lord questioned if Alternate A-16 was replacing another field and if the maintenance building was crucial.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the district needs to maximize all the fields at the high school site. With the addition of Alternate A-16, all fields will be used heavily in the fall and spring seasons. Franconia Township will only allow lights at the stadium site.

Mr. Lord indicated that he was concerned about operable windows and security issues. Also, he felt that windows could cause a heating and air conditioning problem.

Mrs. Judy Whitmire, from Lower Salford Township, commented that due to damage/use to the football field at the present high school, sports were being housed at other fields. She also asked about the alternate bid concerning tiling the pool. She felt there was value in considering larger upfront costs.

Mr. Tim Howe, from Telford, asked if terrazzo tile would be the same as rubber tile as far as maintenance costs. He also asked where the cost for the toilets at the stadium was coming from.

Mr. MacDougall responded that the district is in talks with Franconia Township regarding the toilets at the stadium. The number of toilets required will directly influence the cost of that facility.

Mr. Lord indicated that he had not heard or seen anything regarding Alternate A-12.

Mr. Miller indicated that if the Board had decided not to have a track, then A-12 would have saved money. However, this issue was not considered by the Board because we need a track.

Mr. Miller also indicated that the architect and construction manager were extremely pleased where the bids came in. Therefore, we could keep some items in the design.

Mr. MacDougall reviewed the motion, stating that this vote would be to remove Classrooms Alternate A-34 (operable windows) from the bid tabulation. A yes vote would support the removal of A-34 from the bid tabulation; a no vote would keep Alternate A-34 in the bid tabulation. He asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for a vote.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – No	Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – No	Mr. MacDougall - No
Mr. Leer – No	

With a vote of 4 votes Yes and 5 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

A motion was made by Mr. Brong to remove Roof Alternate A-38 (Garland - Base + 3ply + flood/gravel) from the bid tabulation and substitute Roof Alternate A-37 (Firestone – Base + 2ply). The motion was second by Mr. Currie.

Dr. Parry indicated that there was no clear information from the roofers as to how long the roof would last.

Mr. Breslin indicated that he has had experiences where this type of Garland roof has lasted 30 years.

Mr. Rosato asked if the roof would need maintenance or refurbishing.

Mr. Taylor, from the construction management firm, indicated that there was no maintenance or refurbishing.

Mr. Rosato commented on his experiences with roof construction.

Mr. Leer questioned if the Firestone roof would need to be refurbished after 15 years.

Discussion followed regarding the cost of maintenance on a Firestone roof versus a Garland roof.

Mr. Lackler questioned the use of skylights in the pool area.

At this point, Mr. MacDougall called for a vote to remove Roof Alternate A-38 (Garland roof) from the bid tabulation and substitute Roof Alternate A-37 (Firestone roof). A yes vote would support the removal from the bid tabulation; a no vote would keep Alternate A-38 in the bid tabulation. He asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for a vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – No	Dr. Parry - No
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – No	Mr. MacDougall - No
Mr. Leer – No	

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

With a vote of 3 votes Yes and 6 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

A motion was made by Mr. Brong to include Pool Alternate SP-1 (ceramic tile pool) in the bid tabulation. The motion was second by Mr. Leer.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that this item was discussed at the Operations meeting. We have gotten 20 years of service out of the plaster pool at the current high school.

Mr. Pollack indicated that over the 20 year period you may need to re-grout ceramic tile.

Mr. Breslin commented that the present high school pool is only 16 years old.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the pool system was the problem at the current pool, not the plaster.

Mr. Leer indicated that he felt tile added long-term value to the pool.

Mr. Lord indicated that if we look at ceramic tile for the pool then we should look at terrazzo tile for long lasting wear.

Mrs. Whitmire commended the Board for keeping costs down. She felt that the Board should go with the design team's recommendation. Spend the money now for a long-lasting product.

Mr. Rosato indicated that spending the money now on quality products will last for generations. He commended Mr. Currie and Mr. Verbeke for holding firm on costs. Mr. Rosato shared his opinion about keeping costs down throughout the district.

Mr. MacDougall called for a vote to add Pool Alternate SP-1 (ceramic tile) to the bid tabulation. A yes vote would support the addition to the bid tabulation; a no vote would remove SP-1 from the bid tabulation. He asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for a vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes

Mrs. Cole – Yes

Mr. Currie – No

Mrs. Gehret – Yes

Mr. Leer – Yes

Mr. Miller - No

Dr. Parry - No

Mr. Verbeke - No

Mr. MacDougall - No

With a vote of 4 votes Yes and 5 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

Mr. MacDougall clarified the bid regarding the use of terrazzo tile. He mentioned that the rubber tile costs less and requires the about the same maintenance as terrazzo tile. Rubber tile is cheaper per square foot.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Mr. Lord indicated that terrazzo tile would last longer.

Mr. Leer indicated the since the Board is trying to scrutinize expenses this was a good compromise.

NOTE: Mr. MacDougall called for a five minute recess at 9:53 PM. The meeting resumed at 9:58 PM.

A motion was made by Mr. Currie and second by Mr. Verbeke to remove Floor Alternate A-24 (concourse terrazzo), Alternate A-25 (classroom wings terrazzo – first floor), and Alternate A-26 (“back” corridors terrazzo – first floor) from the bid tabulation.

Mr. Currie indicated the Board had no firm numbers regarding terrazzo durability.

Dr. Parry stated that Mr. Currie had a good point regarding no evidence of terrazzo’s durability. But he felt that with the traffic that will be going through the hallways of the high school, terrazzo was needed on the floors.

Mr. MacDougall called for a vote to remove Floor Alternate A-24 (concourse terrazzo), A-25 (classroom wings terrazzo – first floor) and A-26 (“back” corridors terrazzo – first floor) from the bid tabulation. A yes vote would support the addition to the bid tabulation; a no vote would remove A-24, A-25 and A-26 from the bid tabulation. He asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for a vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – No	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – No	Dr. Parry - No
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – No	Mr. MacDougall - No
Mr. Leer – No	

With a vote of 2 votes Yes and 7 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

A motion was made by Mr. Leer, second by Mr. Brong to add Pool Alternate A-39 (skylights), Alternate P-3 (skylight related roof drains) and Alternate FP-1 (skylight related sprinklers) to the bid tabulation.

Mr. Leer commented that skylights would save money and they would offer long-term value.

Mr. MacDougall commented that the board had received photo comparisons of pools with and without skylights. He indicated that he would not support skylights.

Mr. Leer indicated that he felt the Board needed to save on energy costs.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

Dr. Parry commented that skylights did not guarantee a cost savings. He did not feel that skylights were necessary.

Mr. Brong indicated that if skylights were used, we may need to discuss some type of blinds in the future.

Mrs. Whitmire shared her opinion regarding skylights in the pool area.

Mr. Lord indicated that using skylights would call for reprogramming sensors.

Mr. MacDougall called for a vote to add Pool Alternate A-39 (skylights), Alternate P-3 (skylight related roof drains) and Alternate FP-1 (skylight related sprinklers) to the bid tabulation. A yes vote would support the addition to the bid tabulation; a no vote would remove A-39, P-3, and FP-1 from the bid tabulation. He asked Mrs. Bray to call the roll for a vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – No	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – No	Dr. Parry - No
Mr. Currie – No	Mr. Verbeke - No
Mrs. Gehret – No	Mr. MacDougall - No
Mr. Leer – Yes	

With a vote of 1 vote Yes and 8 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

There was a motion by Mr. Leer to add Field Alternate A-4 (underground drainage system to 5 additional fields) to the bid tabulation. There was no second to the motion. Therefore the motion **failed**.

At this point, Mr. MacDougall reported that even though the Board had just voted on five alternate changes, the results of the voting had not changed the initial Resolution.

Mr. Miller restated his original motion still on the floor, and recommended approval of the Resolution regarding the new high school project bid tabulation with the addition of Alternate A-16 (additional fields). There was a second by Mrs. Gehret.

Mr. MacDougall called on Mrs. Bray for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – No	Mr. Miller - Yes
Mrs. Cole – Yes	Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Currie – No	Mr. Verbeke - No
Mrs. Gehret – Yes	Mr. MacDougall - Yes
Mr. Leer – Yes	

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Project (continued)

With a vote of 6 votes Yes and 3 votes No, the motion **passed**.

Mr. Miller stated that the motion had passed to build the high school. He also indicated that the Resolution also included PlanCon G. **EXHIBIT I**

Dr. Parry questioned the difference of \$458,000 in PlanCon G. He asked where the money was coming from.

Mr. Breslin indicated that the money would be a cash contribution from local funds.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the administration believed that the cash would be on hand when needed.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 5:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

At the April 5, 2006 meeting, the Finance Committee discussed the following:

Recommendation to Approve Resolution for Interest Rate Management Plan

Dr. Parry indicated that the swap costs were discussed at the last two Finance Committee meetings. He introduced Jamie Doyle of Public Financial Management and asked Board members to direct their questions to Ms. Doyle.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the fee for the financial advisors was \$53,000 and bond insurance was now at \$160,000. The bond counsel/solicitor fees were \$10,000; we have the money now to pay the fees.

Ms. Doyle distributed information regarding the final details of the interest rate agreement. The interest rate swap will be priced as of 9:00 AM on Wednesday, April 12th. Ms. Doyle indicated that yesterday the market was at 3.82%. The market had rallied later today and at last check, Jamie said the market was at 3.78%. She also reviewed the cash flow schedule and suggested that the Board budget money now to fall back on later.

Ms. Doyle explained the Resolution before the Board.

Mr. Lackler asked if the Board members understood the Resolution.

Finance Committee

Recommendation to Approve Resolution for Interest Rate Management Plan (continued)

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the Board had been presented with enough information over the past few months and could make an educated decision.

Dr. Parry asked Mrs. Doyle what would be the next step.

Ms. Doyle responded that at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, she would initiate a conference call and process the paperwork. The swap will begin on September 1, 2009.

Mr. Currie commented that he had spent a lot of time researching the swap agreement. He felt that this agreement is the most cost effective way to finance the project.

A motion was made by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong to approve the Resolution as presented with the cash flow attachment.

Mr. Sultanik read the resolution:

Resolution adopting an interest rate management plan, awarding an interest rate management agreement, authorizing an interest rate management agreement and authorizing and directing the preparation, certification and filing of the necessary documentation with the department of community and economic development including attachment of cash flow schedule.

EXHIBIT J

Mr. MacDougall called on Mrs. Bray for a roll call vote.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes
Mrs. Cole – Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes
Mrs. Gehret – Yes
Mr. Leer – Yes

Mr. Miller - Yes
Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mr. MacDougall - Yes

With a vote of 9 votes Yes and 0 votes No, the motion was **approved**.

Recommendation to Approve 2006-2007 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budgets

Dr. Parry indicated that the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit budgets had been discussed in committee. Souderton's contribution this year is \$89,400, which is an increase of 2.91%.

A motion was made by Dr. Parry, second by Mrs. Cole to approve the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budgets as presented.

Dr. Amuso indicated that as per school code, local school districts must vote on only this portion of the IU's budgets.

Finance Committee

Recommendation to Approve 2006-2007 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budgets (continued)

Mr. Sultanik explained to the Board that they are to vote on all four budgets and to fill out the official ballot.

Mr. Currie made a motion to amend the motion on the floor by voting separately on the four budgets. Mr. Brong second the motion.

Mr. Currie indicated there were significant increases in salaries. Souderton is one of several schools that support the IU. He was not in favor of the IU's recruiting practices and pay increases.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the IU does not have to answer to taxpayers. They can pay what they want to pay in salaries. There is no accountability at the IU like there is in a school district.

Mr. Miller questioned what the overall increase would be for 2006-2007.

Dr. Parry responded that the overall increase was at 3.59%.

Mr. MacDougall reviewed the motion. He called on Mrs. Bray for a roll call vote on the MCIU General Administrative Services Budget.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – No	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – Yes	Dr. Parry - No
Mr. Currie – No	Mr. Verbeke - No
Mrs. Gehret – No	Mr. MacDougall – No
Mr. Leer – No	

With a vote of 1 vote Yes and 8 votes No, the motion **did not pass**.

The vote was taken for the MCIU Curriculum and Staff Development Services Budget.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – No	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – Yes	Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – Yes	Mr. MacDougall – Yes
Mr. Leer – Yes	

With a vote of 7 votes Yes and 2 votes No, the motion was **approved**.

The vote was taken for the MCIU State and Federal Legislative Services Budget.

Finance Committee

Recommendation to Approve 2006-2007 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budgets (continued)

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – Yes	Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – Yes	Mr. MacDougall – Yes
Mr. Leer – No	

With a vote of 7 votes Yes and 2 votes No, the motion was **approved**.

The vote was taken for the MCIU Instructional Materials Services Budget.

Mrs. Bray called the roll:

Mr. Brong – Yes	Mr. Miller - No
Mrs. Cole – Yes	Dr. Parry - Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes	Mr. Verbeke - Yes
Mrs. Gehret – Yes	Mr. MacDougall – Yes
Mr. Leer – Yes	

With a vote of 8 votes Yes and 1 vote No, the motion was **approved**.

Mr. MacDougall asked Board members to make sure their ballot reflected how they voted and sign the ballot.

2006-2007 Budget Overview

Dr. Parry indicated that the Board has gone through half of the budget . At this point, it looks like 6%. State revenue is about 3%. The budget is still a work in progress.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole indicated that the Policy Committee continues to discuss the Student Wellness Policy. This policy will be under discussion at the next meeting which will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

No report.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy Cole, Representative

No report.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Representative

Dr. Parry reported that a special committee has been working on drafting property tax relief legislation. Information indicates that the vote will take place this Thursday in Harrisburg.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

Request for District participation in ESEA Federal Programs during the 2006-2007 school year.
Dr. John Eells will serve as the official representative to file the appropriate applications.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Gehret, second by Dr. Parry, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the District's participation in ESEA Federal programs for the 2006-2007 school year, with Dr. John Eells serving as the official representative to file appropriate applications.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Amuso thanked the Board members for taking the next step in the new high school project. He also thanked everyone who has worked on the project.

Dr. Parry commented on the high school's production of "*Grease*."

Mr. Lackler thanked the Board for voting on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit budgets as four separate items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the adjournment of the meeting at 10:58 PM.

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Jones Bray
Secretary