

**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 Thursday evening, March 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	William J. Brong	Eric R. MacDougall
	Tracy G. Cole	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Bernard S. Currie	Victor M. Verbeke
	Mark D. Leer	
ABSENT:	Sharon J. Gehret	R. Bud Miller (Arrived at 7:40 PM)
SOLICITOR:	Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Stacey Aronow, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, R. Bradley Clemens, Grace Eves, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Dan Kujala, Joseph Reichert, Gail Ryan, Sam Varano, representatives from The Reporter, The Souderton Independent, Radio Station WNPV and the public.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

**STUDENT/SCHOOL RECOGNITION**

**Souderton Area High School District PMEA Band Members**

Dr. Amuso introduced Joseph Reichert, who then introduced the four members of the Souderton Area High School Band who were selected by audition to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Band. Two of the students, who attended District Band, were selected to move on to Regional Band. Mr. Reichert, high school band director, also thanked the parents for their support.

**LUCAS BRYCE** – District Band – Tuba  
**ERICA CHERRY** – District and Regional Band - Clarinet  
**KYLE ROBERTSON** – District and Regional Band - Clarinet  
**AUSTIN SHOLLENBERGER** – District Band – Snare Drum

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 7-0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the High School band members listed and their director for their accomplishments.

**EXHIBIT A**

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT/SCHOOL RECOGNITION (continued)

Souderton Area High School District PMEA Orchestra Members

Dr. Amuso introduced Dan Kujala, who then introduced the members of the Souderton Area High School Orchestra who were in attendance and who were selected by audition to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District Orchestra. Kevin Sloan was selected to move on to Regional Orchestra and All-State Orchestra. Mr. Kujala, orchestra director, thanked the parents for their support and encouragement.

**THOMAS KEANE** – District Orchestra – Cello  
**KEVIN SLOAN** – District and Regional Orchestra – Violin  
Also selected for All-State Orchestra – 1<sup>st</sup> Violin  
**ANNE ZAGORSKI** – District Orchestra – Violin

Upon a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 7-0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the High School orchestra members listed and their director for their accomplishments. **EXHIBIT B**

Souderton Area High School Newspaper – Arrowhead

Dr. Amuso introduced Stacey Aronow, *Arrowhead* faculty advisor, who then introduced this year's editorial staff. The 2004-2005 *Arrowhead* recently won several awards from various national organizations for excellence in journalism.

**GOLD MEDAL** – Columbia Scholastic Press Association with all Columbian Honors in the categories of coverage and business operations

**KEYSTONE AWARD** – Pennsylvania School Press Association

**INTERNATIONAL FIRST PLACE AWARD** – Quill and Scroll International Journalism Honorary Society for Superior Achievement

**FIRST CLASS AWARD** – National Scholastic Press Association

**NOTE:** Mr. Miller arrived at this point of the meeting.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the 2004-2005 *Arrowhead* staff and their advisor for their journalistic achievements as listed above. **EXHIBIT C**

Mr. Verbeke commented that he enjoys reading the *Arrowhead* and thanked the staff for their hard work.

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops

Dr. Amuso presented the requests for ratification and approval of conferences and workshops, stating that they all comply with administrative policies.

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

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

Ratification of Conferences/Workshops

<b>TRACY COLE</b>	PSBA Legislative Leadership Conference
<b>BERNARD CURRIE</b>	Hershey, PA
<b>DR. JACK PARRY</b>	March 5-6, 2006 (Sun.-Mon.)
School Board Members	Est. Expenses: \$1,419.93 (combined)
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$1,419.93 (combined)

<b>GRACE EVES</b>	Pennsylvania Association of School Business
District Assistant Business Manager	Officials Annual Conference
	Hershey, PA
	March 8, 9, 2006 (Wed., Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$604.80
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$604.80

Recommendation for Approval of Conferences/Workshops

<b>KAREN BERK</b>	Making the Grade: Successful Students, Successful
Director of Special Education	Schools Seminar
<b>REBECCA FOGLE</b>	Hershey, PA
Super. of Secondary Special Ed.	March 16, 17, 2006 (Thurs., Fri.)
<b>ELIZABETH MAZA</b>	Est. Expenses: \$1,313.71 (combined)
Super. of Elementary Special Ed.	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
Paid from IDEA Funds.	Total Expenses: \$1,313.71 (combined)

<b>ROBIN FOX</b>	PA Association of School Nurses and Practitioners
School Nurse, Vernfield, Elem.	Conference
	State College, PA
	March 31 – April 2, 2006 (Fri.-Sun.)
	Est. Expenses: \$546.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$546.00

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

Recommendation for Approval of Conferences/Workshops (continued)

**REBECCA FOGLE** 2006 Council for Exceptional Children Conference  
Super. of Secondary Special Ed. and Expo  
Salt Lake City, UT  
Paid from IDEA Funds. April 5-8, 2006 (Wed.-Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$327.00  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Expenses: \$327.00

**MICHELE NEFF** Pennsylvania Association of Family and Consumer  
Family and Consumer Science Sciences Conference  
High School King of Prussia, PA  
April 6-8, 2006 (Thurs.-Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$250.00  
Sub. Expenses: 200.00  
Total Expenses: \$450.00

**ARLENE BUCHMAN** Steering Committee of the Governor's Institute for  
Spanish Teacher World Language Educators  
Indian Crest Jr. High Harrisburg, PA  
April 7, 2006 (Fri.)  
Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00  
Sub. Expenses: 100.00  
Total Expenses: \$100.00

**CARLA CLARK** Assistive Technology Core Team Update  
Speech, Vernfield Elem. Norristown, PA  
April 18, 2006 (Tues.)  
Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Expenses: \$ 0.00

**THERESA BLOCK** Kutztown University Children's Literature Conference  
Title I Assistant, Franconia Elem. Kutztown, PA  
April 28-29, 2006 (Fri.-Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$120.94  
Paid from Title I Funds. Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Expenses: \$120.94

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

Recommendation for Approval of Conferences/Workshops (continued)

<b>BILL MICHUDA</b>	College Admission Conference
Guidance, Senior High School	Washington, D.C.
	May 4-5, 2006 (Thurs.-Fri.)
	Est. Expenses: \$281.30
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$281.30
<b>VICTORIA BALL</b>	Reciprocal Teaching Workshop for Grades 2-8
Student Support Teacher	Downingtown, PA
Oak Ridge Elem.	May 31, 2006 (Wed.)
<b>CHRISTINE BENNETT</b>	Est. Expenses: \$320.00 (combined)
Fourth Grade, Oak Ridge Elem.	Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (Bennett & Moyer)
<b>J. SUZETTE MOYER</b>	Total Expenses: \$520.00 (combined)
Second Grade, Oak Ridge Elem.	
<b>ANDREA WILKINS</b>	Partially paid from Title I Funds.
Title I Aide, Oak Ridge Elem.	

Recommendation to Approve a Confidential Settlement and Release Agreement Regarding the Placement of a Student.

Dr. Amuso presented this request for Board approval.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the recommendation of a confidential Settlement and Release Agreement regarding the placement of a student as presented in the attachment.

**EXHIBIT D**

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Brenda J. Bray

School Board Minutes

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

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

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

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held February 23, 2006 to discuss real estate. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

An Executive Session was held on March 1, 2006 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 20 minutes.

Board of School Directors Meeting Calendar for the 2006-2007 School Year.

Mr. MacDougall noted that a few other schedule options were considered, but the calendar that is attached is what is being recommended.

Mrs. Cole asked if a notation could be made to the calendar advertising that the public is invited to all meetings on the schedule.

Mr. Miller questioned how the calendar is formulated.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the administration makes the recommendation. He also shared the scheduling problems that would occur if the schedule was changed.

The 2006-2007 Board of School Directors meeting calendar will be entered as an exhibit in the minutes. **EXHIBIT E**

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Grace Eves

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

**EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

**Committee Chairperson Report**

At their March 1, 2006 meeting, the Education-Personnel Committee discussed the following:

**CURRICULUM ITEMS**

Second Reading of Planned Course

Mr. Leer presented the Multicultural Foods Planned Course, new course for 2006-2007, for a second Reading.

Dr. Parry questioned the number of courses offered in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department.

Mr. Currie responded that the department offers twelve courses at the present time.

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Second Reading of Planned Course (continued)

Mr. Leer indicated that one of the courses would not be offered next year.

Indian Crest Jr. High School Bullying Prevention Initiative

Mr. Leer indicated that the Bullying Prevention Initiative was presented at the last Education-Personnel Committee meeting. This new program will be presented next week at Indian Crest to both the staff and students. Mr. Leer commended Ms. Mundy and Mrs. Kircher on their presentation.

2006 Summer School Program

Mr. Leer indicated that the 2006 Summer School Program was presented at the last Education-Personnel Committee meeting. This program is financially self-sufficient.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Overnight Field Trip

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mr. Brong.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on the term “challenge student.”

Mrs. Berk responded by reviewing the process associated with determining what students are gifted.

Mrs. Ryan added that the results of the Otis Lennon Test, in grades two and four, help to refer students for further assessment.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8-0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the overnight field trip request as listed:

Souderton Area School District – Fifth Grade Challenge Students

Date: May 16-17, 2006 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

Destination: The Pocono Environmental Education Center, Delaware Water Gap, PA.

Purpose of Trip: An extension and culminating activity of environmental education studies.

Number of Students: 57

Number of Chaperones – 3 – Teachers and 15 – Parents

Teachers Involved: Stacy Zanine, Jean Frey, Tamara Callahan

Financing of Trip: By students and fund raising activities.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 8-0, it was

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Professional Staff request for an unpaid medical leave; Support Staff transfers and recommendations for employment; supplemental contracts for 2005-2006 coaching positions; contracted services for 2005-2006 coaching positions; the addition to the Substitute Teacher listing for 2005-2006, and the Community Education recommendation for employment as listed:

Request for Unpaid Medical Leave

**LISA LYNCH-SHUMAS**

Instrumental Music/Strings  
Indian Crest Jr. High

Mrs. Shumas is requesting an unpaid medical leave from March 11, 2006 to the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF

Transfers

**HEATHER KOPP**

Replacement for  
Lori Snyder (resigned)

From: Substitute Cafeteria Aide, Lower Salford Elem.  
To: Cafeteria Aide, Indian Valley M. S.  
Beginning: February 27, 2006  
Hourly Rate: \$9.55  
Hours: 3 per day

**CYNTHIA STEYER**

Replacement for  
Debbie Hauck (resigned)

From: Substitute Teacher  
To: Special Education Aide, Learning Support  
Indian Crest Jr. High  
Beginning: March 2, 2006  
Hourly Rate: \$9.08  
Hours: 5.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

**JILLIANNE HANGEY**

Replacement for  
Kate Gwillam (resigned)

Special Education Aide, Learning Support  
Senior High School  
Beginning: March 10, 2006  
Hourly Rate: \$9.08  
Hours: 6.5 per day

**RUTH ANN KOLB**

District Substitute Secretary  
Beginning: March 9, 2006  
Hourly Rate: \$10.00  
Hours: as needed



Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

**HARRISON YERGER** Full-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Jr. High  
Replacement for Beginning: March 13, 2006  
Dolly Groff (retired) Hourly Rate: \$16.43  
Hours: 8 per day

Supplemental Contracts for 2005-2006 Coaching Positions

<b>LEIGH VOIGT</b> ^	Head Girls Lacrosse Coach (IV)	\$1,954.00
<b>KATIE JOHNSON</b> ^	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Softball Coach (IC)	1,954.00
<b>AMANDA WEBER</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Softball Coach (IC)	2,176.00
<b>MARA ROONEY</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Lacrosse Coach (IC)	2,424.00

^ Indicates new to coaching at SASD

Contracted Services for 2005-2006 Coaching Positions

<b>CHRISTIAN NICKELS</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Baseball Coach (IC)	\$2,072.00
<b>EDWARD MOLNAR</b> ^	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Head Baseball Coach (IC)	1,954.00

^ Indicates new to coaching at SASD

Addition to the Substitute Teacher Listing for 2005-2006

**THOMAS GARD**

Community Education – Recommendation for Employment - Aquatics Program

<b>MATTHEW GRUSZECKI</b>	Spring season 2006	
Lifeguard	\$ 7.00 per hour	Hours as scheduled
Instructor	10.00 per hour	Hours as scheduled

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 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

No report.

The next Joint Operating Committee meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the North Montco Technical Career Center, Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Ralph “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Miller shared one of the topics that will be discussed at the next Operations Committee meeting:

- Five-Year Capital Program

**BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE**

**Requests for Use of School Facilities**

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

**E. M. Crouthamel Elementary School**

**E. M. Crouthamel Elementary Home & School Association**

Multi Purpose Room

Saturday, May 13, 2006

7:00am – 12:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

**Mega Spirit Athletics**

Gym - Mondays & Wednesday Evenings

6:15pm – 8:15pm

February 27 – April 26, 2006

Certificate of Insurance on file

**Franconia Elementary School**

**Souderton Area School District - Community Education**

Gym, Cafeteria, Library, Classrooms

June 19 - August 18, 2006 – All Day

Summer Adventure Program

**Souderton Area Soccer Association (EPYSA)**

Fields behind school

July 17 – November 30, 2006

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

**Souderton Area High School**

**Souderton Area School District - Community Education**

Cafeteria – June 26 – 30, 2006

9:00am – 12:00pm

Summer Adventure Workshop

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

**Souderton Area High School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

Pool – June 26 – July 27, 2006

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Summer Adventure Program

**Indian Crest Junior High School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

Volleyball Fields

Mon & Wed Eves – May 3 – August 25, 2006

5:45pm – Dusk

Souderton Area Soccer Association (EPYSA)

Soccer Field

July 17 – November 30, 2006

6:15pm – 7:45pm

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs.

Certificate of Insurance on file

Community Flag Football League

Indian Crest Football Field

Sundays – March 12 – June 25, 2006

9:00am – 1:30pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

**Indian Valley Middle School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

Classroom B-10

Various dates in July & August

8:30am – 11:30am

Driver's Education Classes

Community Flag Football League

Football Field

Sundays – March 12 – June 25, 2006

9:00am – 1:30pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

**Indian Valley Middle School**

Mark Cashatt's Taekwon-Do School

Gym

Saturday, April 8, 2006

8:30am – 4:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Peter Becker Community

Parking Lot – Overflow Parking

March 16-17-18, 2006

Certificate of Insurance Pending

**Oak Ridge Elementary School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

Gym, Café, Library, Classrooms

June 19 – August 11, 2006 – All Day

Summer Adventure Program

Oak Ridge Elementary School Home & School Association

Art Room

March 14, 2006

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Belcourt Manor Homeowner's Association

Cafeteria

April 10, 2006

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Hammersmyth Farms Homeowner's Association

Cafeteria

March 16, 2006

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

**Salford Hills Elementary School**

Salford Hills Elementary Home & School Association

Whole School – Community Day

March 24 – 25, 2006

8:00am – 3:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

**Vernfield Elementary School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

Gym, Café, Library, Classrooms

June 19 – August 11, 2006 – All Day

Summer Adventure Program

Girl Scouts of Southeastern PA

Library - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays

Sept. 27, 2006 – May 23, 2007

3:30pm – 5:15pm

Certificate of Insurance Pending

FENCOR (AAU Basketball)

Gym

March 21, 22, 28, 29, 2006

6:30pm – 9:30pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Child Evangelical Fellowship of Montgomery County

Library – February 24 – April 7, 2006

3:30pm – 4:45pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

**West Broad Street Elementary School**

Souderton Area School District - Community Education

S.A.V.E. Areas, Café

June & July 2006 Dates

Summer Adventure Program

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

**West Broad Street Elementary School**

Souderton Area Soccer Association (EPYSA)

Fields behind school

July 17 – November 30, 2006

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

Souderton Area Soccer Association (EPYSA)

Fields behind school

April 1 – November 30, 2006

9:00am – 4:00pm

Certificate of Insurance on file

New High School Update

Mr. Miller indicated that the pre-bid meeting was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The contractors present at the meeting asked questions of the architect and construction management firm. Bid opening will take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 PM, and the public is invited to attend.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 6:30 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 their March 1, 2006 meeting, the Finance Committee discussed the following:

2006-2007 Budget – Functions 2600 – Operations

Functions 2700 – Transportation

Finance Committee

- Discussion of SWAP Agreement – Mr. Leer indicated that the Board will take action on the SWAP Agreement at the April 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Recommendation to Approve 2005-2006 Budgetary Transfers

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the 2005-2006 budgetary transfers as presented.

**EXHIBIT F**

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Tracy Cole, Chairperson

**Committee Chairperson Report**

Mrs. Cole shared that at the last Policy Committee meeting, the following items were discussed:

Third Reading and Final Approval of Policy

Mrs. Cole indicated that the Policy Committee has been looking at Policy #913.1 – Commercialism in Schools for several months.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve Policy #913.1 – Commercialism in Schools as presented.

**EXHIBIT G**

Second Reading of Policies

Mrs. Cole indicated that Policy #011 – Local Board Procedures, was drafted and recommended for approval by PSBA and we can make amendments if and when needed. The policy relates to Board-driven issues. A third reading and recommendation for approval will take place at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Cole also indicated that Policy #702 – Gifts, Grants, Donations, will be scheduled for a third reading and recommendation for approval at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Cole shared that the Wellness Committee has completed their work on the state mandated Wellness policy. This policy will be discussed at the next Policy Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 5:30 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

Mrs. Cole noted that the next meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board will take place on March 22, 2006 at 7:45 PM. She also indicated that Souderton's Board members should have received a copy of the Intermediate Unit Proposed Budgets for 2006-2007. Souderton's share of the funding increased by 3.59%.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the proposed Intermediate Unit budgets will be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting.

**INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Tracy Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole reported that Congressman Dent was in the District on February 27 to congratulate the S.A.V.E. organization on their recent EPA award. A few of the S.A.V.E. students and Mr. Hamilton will be going to Washington, D.C. to receive the award. There is a possibility that they may meet President Bush at the White House.

Mrs. Cole indicated that she had attended the PSBA Legislative Leadership Conference over the weekend. Several of Pennsylvania's legislators were present at the conference and they shared their opinions regarding education and Federal Programs. She noted that several of the gubernatorial candidates were also present at the conference and they shared their views on education and other issues that will be addressed in their campaigns.

Mrs. Cole shared that another topic discussed at the conference was school vouchers and how NSBA is concerned that giving vouchers to Hurricane Katrina students who were displaced, may be setting a precedent. Private schools adhere to different accountability policies from public schools.

Another topic addressed at the conference was getting the voting records of the federal legislators out into the media. It is important for the public to see how our legislators vote on the issues.

Mrs. Cole added that she did get a change to talk to Representative Robert Godshall at the conference.



**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Representative

Dr. Parry indicated that he also attended the PSBA Legislative Leadership Conference this past weekend. One of the workshops that he attended dealt with the issues of revising Chapter 4 and how this revision will impact both school policy and finances.

Dr. Parry indicated that he had also attended a workshop on property tax reform. He reviewed the three major pieces of legislation that are in the House and Senate at the present time. Dr. Parry mentioned that there was discussion about back-end referendum, construction costs and exceptions permitted as related to Act 72. He added that there was no conversation about how gaming revenue would affect education. However, there was conversation about Earned Income Tax vs. Personal Income Tax. Dr. Parry added that when the legislators finally pass the property tax reform bill, our local school board will not have a lot of time to react, and the decision could affect this year's budget.

Bonnie Sheehan, Solicitor, indicated that the decision was to be made on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Leer asked if this decision could affect our SWAP agreement.

Mr. MacDougall added that the property tax reform bill will determine how the Board reacts.

Mr. Currie indicated that it will be hard to determine how this bill will affect the district.

Another topic proposed was the mandatory training of school board members. Dr. Parry shared some of the proposal's issues and concerns.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS**

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

**REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR**

No report.

**UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Lord, from Telford, asked for clarification regarding student proficiency and graduation requirements.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has not made a formal decision.

Unfinished/New Business

Mr. Lord asked if there was a deadline for their decision.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the decision is up to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. MacDougall announced that there would be an Executive Session following the Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8-0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the adjournment of the meeting at 8:32 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Brenda Jones Bray  
Secretary