

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 7:30 PM at the District Administrative Office in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order by President Richard Swartley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Tracy Cole R. Bud Miller
Sharon Gehret Richard Swartley
Mark Leer Richard Thompson
Eric MacDougall

(Note: Mr. MacDougall was present by telephone in accordance with District policy.) The phone connection was lost at 8:35 PM.

ABSENT: Dr. Jack Parry

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Meghan McAllister, Tom Quintois, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Lowell A. Tinner, Sam Varano, Wayne Walton, Paige Warbrick, Stan Wisler, representatives from The Souderton Independent, The Reporter, The Morning Call, The Intelligencer, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

School/Student/Board Recognition

Souderton Area High School Boys Soccer

Dr. Amuso introduced Tom Quintois, who spoke about the high school boys soccer team and their accomplishment this year. He also introduced the members of the team who were in attendance and spoke about **MICHAEL LUECKE**, who was named to the All-State Soccer Team. The high school boys soccer team, coached by Tom Quintois, finished the season as the PIAA District One Champions and winners of the Suburban One League Continental Conference Championship with an overall season record of 19-3-2.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School Soccer team and their coaches for their accomplishment. **EXHIBIT A**

Report of the Superintendent

School/Student/Board Recognition (continued)

Souderton Area High School Boys Water Polo

Dr. Amuso then introduced Terry Nesensohn, who introduced the team members who were in attendance. He also reviewed their successful season and the honors received by individual water polo team members. The high school boys water polo team won the PIAA State Championships with a 12-11 win in sudden death overtime against North Penn High School. The team's overall record was 26-2. Terry Nesensohn, head coach, and Ryan McGrath, assistant, are the winning coaches.

Other honors won by water polo team members:

First Team All-State – **REID FOX**
MATTHEW GRUSZECKI
MATTHEW ZRADA

Second Team All-State – **SCOTT BRONSDON**
RYAN CORCORAN

Third Team All-State – **JOSEPH DORSCH**

Honorable Mention – **NATHAN MENSCH**

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School Boys Water Polo Team and their coaches for their accomplishment. **EXHIBIT B**

Retirement of School Board Members

Dr. Amuso then indicated that it was with mixed emotions that he would ask for recommendations to recognize the retirements of Richard Thompson and Richard Swartley from the School Board.

RICHARD E. THOMPSON has been a member of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors for 10 years. Mr. Thompson has been the chairperson of the Education-Personnel Committee since December 1996 and was elected Vice President by the Board for the years 2002 and 2003.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mrs. Gehret.

Mrs. Cole expressed her appreciation to Mr. Thompson, indicating that he always kept things focused on what was best for the children of the District, what he said was always worth listening to, and she has enjoyed his support and mentoring.

Report of the Superintendent

Retirement of School Board Members (continued)

Mr. Miller indicated that Mr. Thompson was the rudder of the ship, and was always clear and concise. It will be impossible to replace the history of the District that Mr. Thompson has. Mr. Miller also expressed his thanks to the board members' families who also sacrifice by allowing their spouse/father to serve the amount of time it requires to be a board member.

Mr. Leer indicated that it has been a pleasure to get to know Mr. Thompson. His style of leadership has served as a role model.

Mrs. Gehret mentioned that she has enjoyed Mr. Thompson's friendship and has appreciated his mentoring. She offered her thanks to Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Swartley indicated that Mr. Thompson is an independent thinker and it has been good to work with him.

Mr. Thompson then indicated that there are some big issues coming up, and mentioned some of those issues. He also mentioned that during his tenure on the Board, he has focused most of his attention on the Education-Personnel Committee, and thanked Mr. Silva and Mrs. Ryan for the wonderful job that they have done. He indicated that his best moments were congratulating students for achievements and recounted his worst moment, which was when he actually wore part of a Halloween costume (cap) during the indoor graduation ceremony of 2003 because the regular graduation cap did not fit.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 6-0, with Richard Thompson abstaining, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Mr. Richard Thompson for his years of service.

RICHARD R. SWARTLEY was elected to the Souderton Area School Board in 1989. He has held various offices on the Board: Treasurer from 1991-1994; chairperson of the Finance Committee from 1991-1994, and President from December 1994-2005, a total of 10 years as president. Mr. Swartley also held the title of chief negotiator for the board for four SAEA contracts.

There was a motion by Mrs. Gehret, second by Mrs. Cole to recognize Richard Swartley.

Mrs. Cole expressed her thanks to Mr. Swartley indicating that he has been a tremendous leader in the district and the go-to person. He has been a mentor for her and she could not say enough about his work and his ability to keep politics out of the board. Mr. Swartley will be hard to replace.

Mr. Miller expressed his sentiments and his appreciation for the great leadership. He indicated that Mr. Swartley could be considered the captain of the ship. He offered his thanks to the Swartley Family for the sacrifices they have made.

Report of the Superintendent

Retirement of School Board Members (continued)

Mr. MacDougall expressed his gratitude to both Mr. Thompson and Mr. Swartley for the proper and most effective way to get through some difficult situations. He thanked both of them for their tremendous years of service to this district.

Mr. Leer expressed that Rich has always known how to handle difficult situations, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Thompson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Swartley and indicated that he has a tremendous respect for him.

Mrs. Gehret indicated that no one can work the numbers like Rich can, and thanked him for his leadership.

Wayne Walton also expressed his appreciation to both Richard Thompson and Richard Swartley and indicated that the district will be unable to replace this breadth of experience. He offered his thanks from the professional staff.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 6-0, with Richard Swartley abstaining, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Mr. Richard Swartley for his years of service.

After the vote, Mr. Swartley indicated that there are a number of challenges facing the district, such as enrollment. He also indicated that the last three superintendents have done an excellent job, and felt that we have good leadership in place, but felt that it is time to hand the reigns to someone else. Mr. Swartley expressed that his feeling that a good board member keeps an open mind, has a willingness to work toward a solution, and keeps children as the primary focus.

Mr. Swartley and Mr. Thompson were presented with gifts of appreciation from the District.

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

Dr. Amuso presented the conferences/workshops listed below for approval, stating that they conform to district administrative policy.

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

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

PATRICIA A. GOODHART
District Registrar

Attendance/Child Accounting Professional
Association Conference
Hershey, PA
March 22, 23, 24, 2006 (Wed., Thurs., Fri.)
Est. Expenses: \$736.00
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Expenses: \$736.00

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Stan Wisler

School Board Minutes

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 7-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the November 10, 2005 School Board Meeting as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Richard Swartley

An Executive Session of the Board was held on November 10, 2005 following the Board meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted 20 minutes.

An Executive Session of the Board was held on November 16, 2005 to discuss collective bargaining and real estate. The meeting lasted 120 minutes.

An Executive Session of the Board was held this evening, prior to the Board meeting, to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 30 minutes.

Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

Paige Warbrick and Meghan McAllister spoke about the recent and upcoming events at the high school.

Consideration of Mediator's Recommendation

Consideration of Mediator's recommendation, dated November 21, 2005, for settlement in the matter of collective bargaining negotiations between the Souderton Area School District and the Souderton Area Educational Support Personnel Association, PSEA-NEA.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Swartley reviewed the negotiation process and indicated that information would not be released at this point, but did describe what was included in the tentative agreement. He also indicated that the mediator's proposal does provide some single coverage for medical beginning in 2006-2007. He also indicated that since the district needs to put these issues behind us, he will be recommending approval.

Mr. Miller indicated that he is not able to vote on the proposal since his wife is part of this unit. He also expressed that the strike was unfortunate, but was allowed by law. Mr. Miller also mentioned that the district is unable to hire replacements.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that he agreed with Mr. Swartley's comments and that it has been very difficult to partner with this group. But at the end of the day, the board must do what is right for the children. He also expressed his hope that the next negotiations process with this group would be better and that he is begrudgingly voting yes.

Mr. Sultanik clarified that the board is voting on the proposal as presented by the mediator.

Report of the President

A roll call vote was taken, and with 6 yes votes and 1 abstention (Mr. Miller), it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the mediator’s recommendation, dated November 21, 2005, for settlement in the matter of collective bargaining negotiations between the Souderton Area School District and the Souderton Area Educational Support Personnel Association, PSEA-NEA. **EXHIBIT C**

Note: At this point in the meeting, which was 8:35 PM, Mr. MacDougall signed out of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listing for October 2005

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

Mr. Miller asked about the debt service payments and also the 2004 Bond issue account.

Mr. Wisler indicated that the debt service payments show on the expense report and are not paid from the 2004 Bond issue account.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the financial statements and check listing for October 2005 as presented. **EXHIBIT D**

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Richard Thompson, Chairperson

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Request for Out-of-State Field Trip

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mrs. Gehret, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the out-of-state field trip as listed:

Salford Hills Elementary School – Fourth Grade Students

Date: December 16, 2005 (Friday)

Destination: Adventure Aquarium, Camden, New Jersey

Purpose of Trip: To enhance the fourth grade science unit on oceans.

Teachers: Meredith Ehst, Sherrie Armitage, Dawn Glowacki

Number of Students: 68

Number of Teachers: 6 Number of Parents: 15

Funded by: Students and Home & School Assoc. fundraising activities

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board appoint Brenda Jones Bray as Director of Business Affairs as listed:

Recommendation for Employment

BRENDA JONES BRAY

Replacement for
Stan Wisler (resigned)

Education

Drake University, Des Moines
Iowa (BS-BA) 1978
Missouri (CPA) 1982
Pennsylvania (CPA) 1992

District Director of Business Affairs

CABINET POSITION

Beginning: To be determined

Experience

1996-Present-Palisades S. D. -Business
Administrator
1990-1996-Central Bucks S. D. -Internal Auditor
1985-1988-Leo Eisenberg & Company-Property
Tax Manager
1979-1982-PriceWaterhouseCoopers-Auditing
Staff Accountant and Senior Accountant
1978-1979-PriceWaterhouse International,
International Tax Department

Recommended Salary

2005-2006 - \$112,000 (pro-rated)

2006-2007 - \$115,000

Mrs. Bray thanked Dr. Amuso and Mr. Clemens and also the board for the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the Souderton Area School District.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the professional staff resignation, request for childrearing leave and the request for an extension of a childrearing leave, as well as the support staff resignation and recommendation for employment as listed:

Resignation

JENNIFER FORREST

Technology Education, Indian Valley M. S.
Effective: January 2, 2006

Request for Childrearing Leave

CHERI FOGLE

Kindergarten, Vernfield Elem.

The request is for a childrearing leave beginning approximately May 6, 2006 through the end of the 2005-2006 school year (following Family Medical Leave). Mrs. Fogle is planning to return to work for the 2006-2007 school year.

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Request for Extension of a Childrearing Leave

LORI GRAF Learning Support, Indian Crest Jr. High
The request is for an extension of a childrearing leave through the second semester of the 2005-2006 school year. Mrs. Graf is planning to return to work at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignation

DARLA A. NAGY Special Education Autistic Aide, Indian Valley
Effective: November 30, 2005

Recommendation for Employment

PAUL DALESSANDRO District Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Beginning: November 28, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$8.96 per hour
Hours: 4 per day

Additions to Substitute Teacher Listing for 2005-2006

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mrs. Gehret, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the additions to the substitute teacher listing for 2005-2006 and the recommendations for coaching positions for 2005-2006 as listed:

Additions to substitute teacher listing for 2005-2006.

EXHIBIT D

Recommendations for Coaching Positions – 2005-2006

Supplemental Contracts

RICK HESS	Head Girls Basketball Coach (IC)	\$2,523.00
MIKE CHILDS	Head Girls Basketball Coach (IC)	2,251.00
RICK HESS	Head Boys Basketball Coach (IC)	2,523.00
MIKE CHILDS	Head Boys Basketball Coach (IC)	2,251.00
MARA ROONEY	Head Cheerleading Coach – Winter only (IC)	1,562.00
JOSEPH HAY [^]	Assistant Boys Swimming Coach (HS)	2,496.00

[^] *New to Coaching at SASD*

Contracted Services

JAMES SWIGGARD [^]	Assistant Wrestling Coach (HS)	\$2,605.00
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[^] *New to Coaching at SASD.*

Education-Personnel Committee

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 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

Sharon Gehret and Ralph “Bud” Miller, Representatives

Mrs. Gehret indicated that December 19th at 5:30 PM the Technical Career Center would be holding their annual Holiday Dinner Banquet and all board members are invited to attend. She also indicated that the Technical Career Center now has articulation agreements for all of their clusters.

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Monday, December 19, 2005 at 7:30 PM in the Administrative Conference Room at the North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sunneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R. “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Mr. Miller indicated that the requests for use of school facilities conform to prevailing rates and present policy.

Congressman Charles W. Dent

Indian Crest Junior High School

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

Town Hall Meeting

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate - (1) table, sound system

Souderton-Telford Main Streets

Indian Crest Junior High School

Saturday, December 3, 2005

Staging area for annual Holiday Parade

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

SAGLA

Indian Crest Junior High School

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays, April 4, 2006 thru June 25, 2006

Youth Lacrosse

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate - lacrosse nets

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Harleysville Girls Softball

Lower Salford Elementary School
Sundays thru Saturdays, March 13, 2006 thru October 31, 2006
Community Softball Practices & Games
Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Souderton Baseball League

Indian Crest Junior High School
Sundays thru Saturdays, April 1, 2006 thru July 31, 2006
Baseball Practice & Games
Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Souderton Field Hockey

Senior High School
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Field Hockey Banquet
Class 3 - Insurance Certificate - (5) tables, podium

Teamsters Local #384

Senior High School
Saturday, December 3, 2005
Union meeting for custodians/maintenance staff
Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Mr. Miller indicated that at the last Operations Committee meeting, updates were given on the non-recurring budget categories, the status of the SAVE Project Connections and also an update on the high school project.

TRANSPORTATION

2004-2005 Pupil Transportation Report

Mr. Miller indicated that the 2004-2005 pupil transportation statistics were reviewed at the last Operations Committee meeting.

FOOD SERVICE

No report

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 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

Eric MacDougall, Chairperson

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 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 Cole, Chairperson

First Reading of Policies

Mrs. Cole reviewed the changes to the policies that are listed for a first reading. She indicated that they will be sent back to the committee for a second reading.

- a. Policy #815.2 – Web Site Development
- b. Policy #913.1 – Commercialism in Schools
- c. Policy #218.3 – Terroristic Threats/Acts

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 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

No report.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Thompson, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole recounted the activities that Dr. Amuso, Congressman Dent and herself were involved in during the day that Congressman Dent spent visiting the district.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Sharon Gehret, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Sultanik reported that the House of Representatives Commonwealth Caucus plan has been put on hold. He also indicated that there is a bill pending that would prohibit the adoption of an earned income tax after December 31, 2007.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Miller announced that the Board Reorganization meeting is December 1st and that he will not be seeking reappointment to the Technical Career Center Board. He offered the appointment to other board members. He also indicated that we would need to replace the representative to the Indian Valley Public Library. Mr. Miller then indicated that he is seeking support as Board vice president.

Mr. Swartley announced that there would be no executive session after tonight's meeting.

Mr. Swartley also shared that he forgot to thank his wife and daughters who were in attendance earlier. He indicated that he has appreciated their support while he has served on the board.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Mr. Thompson, second by Mrs. Gehret and on a vote of 6-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Stan Wisler
Board Secretary