

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 7:39 PM at the District Administrative Office in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order by President Eric MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	William J. Brong Tracy G. Cole Bernard S. Currie Mark D. Leer	Eric R. MacDougall R. Bud Miller Dr. Jack A. Parry
ABSENT:	Sharon J. Gehret	Victor M. Verbeke (Arrived at 8:30 PM)
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Karen Frazier, Frank Gallagher, Nancy Greshock, Ellen Jamison, Karen Manno, Meghan McAllister, Michael Olenick, Jeff Pammer, Steve Pollack, Dave Ramage, Kyle Robertson, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, Paige Warbrick, representatives from The Souderton Independent, The Intelligencer, The Reporter, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

SCHOOL/STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Dr. Amuso introduced Sam Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, who recognized the following students for their service to the Souderton Area School District and the community. **KYLE ROBERTSON**, a junior, and **PAIGE WARBRICK**, a senior at Souderton Area High School, were recognized for their outstanding voluntary service by being awarded a state-level Certificate of Excellence from the 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. The state-level award is given to the top 10 percent of students from across the state who are nominated. This award is presented annually by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary Principals and honors young people across America for their community service activities.

Report of the Superintendent

SCHOOL/STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS (continued)

Prudential Spirit of Community Award (continued)

Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Kyle Robertson and Paige Warbrick for their award. **EXHIBIT A**

Dr. Amuso recognized Kyle and Paige's parents for their support.

PA State Computer Fair Competition

Dr. Amuso introduced Michael Olenick, high school faculty advisor, who introduced the computer fair students who were in attendance. The PA State Computer Fair is a competition that showcases computer talent. There are two levels of the competition; the first level is regional competition where our students compete against other public and private high schools in Montgomery County. The second level allows first place winners in the regional competition to go to the state competition where they compete against students from around the state.

MICHAEL KATZ – First Place in Multimedia Presentation Category –
SeniorLand CD-ROM created by last year's Advanced Multimedia Class

JACOB NICHOLS – First Place in Graphic Design Category – The Seventh Sense
Second Place in Digital Movie Category – When the Wind Sighs

CHRISTINA RULE and **CHARLES PENNOCK** – First Place in Animation – Frames

RICHARD SACKS – Third Place in Logo Category – Computer Fair Logo

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize these students and their advisor for their achievements in the PA State Computer Fair Competition. **EXHIBIT B**

Dr. Amuso asked the parents of these students to stand and be recognized, and thanked them for their support.

United Nations Club

Dr. Amuso called on Karen Manno, high school faculty advisor, who spoke about the very successful achievements of our students. She presented the following United Nations Club members who have won awards this year:

ASHLEY ALDERFER
Best Delegate, Social Humanitarian Committee – Dickinson College Conference
Best Delegate, Security Council II – Methacton High School Conference

Report of the Superintendent

SCHOOL/STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS (continued)

United Nations Club (continued)

DANIEL CURZON

Honorable Mention, Security Council IV – West Catholic High School Conference
Outstanding Delegate, Disarmament Committee – Dickinson College Conference
Outstanding Delegate, Security Council I – Methacton High School Conference
Best Delegate, United States National Security Council - George Washington University
Conference

ROBERT DAVIDE

Outstanding Delegate, African Union – Methacton High School Conference

DAVID KRATZ

Honorable Mention, Special Political and Decolonization Committee – George Washington
University Conference

PAIGE WARBRICK

Honorable Mention, Security Council IV – West Catholic High School Conference
Honorable Mention, Social Humanitarian Committee – Dickinson College Conference

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the United Nations Club students and their
advisor for their achievements. **EXHIBIT C**

Dr. Amuso asked the parents of these students to stand and be recognized, and thanked them for their support.

Mrs. Cole shared that there is hope for our country with these students involved in social concerns.

Science Fair Winners for 2006

Dr. Amuso introduced Karen Frazier and Nancy Greshock, science teachers at Indian Crest, who introduced this year's Science Fair winners. Mrs. Frazier indicated that these students had designed, researched, and drawn conclusions for their projects. Faculty advisors are Nancy Greshock (IC), Karen Frazier (IC), and Peter Spizzirri (HS).

PJAS – Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition
MCSRC – Montgomery County Science Research Competition
DVSF – Delaware Valley Science Fair

INDIAN CREST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

GAVIN ATKINSON – Regional PJAS – Second Place - Physics

ALEXANDER BRACCIO – Regional PJAS – First Place - Biology
State PJAS – Second Place - Biology

Report of the Superintendent

SCHOOL/STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS (continued)

Science Fair Winners for 2006 (continued)

ZACHARY BRONG – Regional PJAS – First Place - Chemistry
State PJAS – First Place - Chemistry

JOSEPH DILLE – Regional PJAS – First Place - Physics
State PJAS – First Place - Physics
MCSRC – Third Place - Physics
DVSF – Honorable Mention - Physics

CHRISTOPHER HINK – Regional PJAS – First Place - Botany
State PJAS – First Place - Botany
MCSRC – First Place - Botany
DVSF – Special Award from the U. S. Department of Agriculture

BRANDON JAMES – Regional PJAS – Third Place - Environmental Science

JOSEPH KIM – Regional PJAS – First Place - Botany
MCSRC – First Place - Botany
State PJAS – First Place – Botany

KELSEY ROWE – MCSRC – First Place – Behavioral and Social Science

Upon a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Indian Crest Science Fair winners and their advisors for there achievements. **EXHIBIT D**

SOUDERTON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Varano introduced the high school Science Fair winners.

KIRSTIN EDWARDS – Regional PJAS – First Place - Human Behavior
State PJAS – Second Place - Human Behavior

JACLYN HELD – Regional PJAS – Second Place - Chemistry

JOSHUA JACOBS – Regional PJAS – Second Place – Human Behavior

RYAN MANSLEY – Regional PJAS – First Place - Physics
State PJAS – Second Place - Physics

COURTNEY MELANSON – Regional PJAS – First Place - Microbiology
State PJAS – Second Place - Microbiology

Report of the Superintendent

SCHOOL/STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS (continued)

Science Fair Winners for 2006 (continued)

MICHAEL NELSON – Regional PJAS – Second Place - Biochemistry
MCSRC – First Place – Disorder to Order Transitions in Protein Crystallizations

LINDSEY SCHULTZ – Regional PJAS – First Place - Biology
State PJAS – Second Place - Biology

ERIC STROM – Regional PJAS – First Place - Physics
State PJAS – Second Place - Physics

EMILY THUDIUM – Regional PJAS – First Place - Biochemistry
State PJAS – Second Place - Biochemistry
MCSRC – First Place – Imaging Immunoassays
MCSRC - Human and Veterinary Medicine Award from the Society of Biomedical Research

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the High School Science Fair winners and their advisors for their achievements. **EXHIBIT E**

Mr. MacDougall commented on their very impressive record.

Dr. Amuso asked the parents of these students to stand and be recognized, and thanked them for their support.

2005-2006 Senior Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors

Dr. Amuso called on **MEGHAN McALLISTER** and **PAIGE WARBRICK**, seniors at Souderton Area High School, who served as student representatives to the Board of School Directors for the 2005-2006 school year. The Board extends their best wishes and thanks to Meghan and Paige for a job well done.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Dr. Parry, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Meghan McAllister and Paige Warbrick for their excellent service to the Souderton Area Board of School Directors. **EXHIBIT F**

Mr. MacDougall thanked the girls for their excellent reports each month and wished them good luck as they go off to college.

Report of the Superintendent

Request to Attend Conference/Workshop

Dr. Amuso presented the request to attend a conference/workshop, stating that it conformed to district administrative policy.

ELIZABETH STONE
CARS, West Broad Street Elem.

Celebrate Literacy Conference
West Chester, PA
June 27, 28, 2006 (Tues.-Wed.)
Est. Expenses: \$237.37
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Expenses: \$237.37

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the request to attend a conference/workshop as listed.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Brenda Jones Bray

Action on School Board Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2006

Mrs. Bray presented the minutes of the May 11, 2006 Board meeting for approval.

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

Dr. Parry indicated that there should be an addition to his comments regarding the Technology Report under the Finance Committee report. He noted that he had asked for a long-range plan of the Technology Department and also a clearer presentation of the budget numbers for the technology plan for this year's budget.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2006 Board meeting with the addition noted by Dr. Parry.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session of the Board was held on Thursday, May 11, 2006 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

An Executive Session of the Board was held this evening, prior to the Board meeting, to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 35 minutes.

Report of the President

Nomination and Election of Board Treasurer

The nomination and election of a Board Treasurer will take place this evening. The Board Treasurer's term is a one year term that runs from July 2006 to June 2007.

Mr. MacDougall asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Board Treasurer.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the administration recommended that Grace Eves be nominated for the position.

There was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie to nominate Grace Eves for the position of Board Treasurer and to close the nominations. The vote was taken and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board close the nominations and cast the vote for Grace Eves as Board Treasurer for a one year term that runs from July 2006 to June 2007.

Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

Meghan McAllister – Senior Class Rep., Paige Warbrick – Senior Class Rep., and Kyle Robertson – Junior Class Rep.

The three students reported on recent and future activities/events at the high school, which included: Shifting of the Classes, finals, Senior Prom, Senior Class Awards Night, Senior Class Get Together, graduation, sports reports, Scholars Banquet, Club Rush at Indian Crest, and the National Student Council Conference.

Following their report, the student representatives presented a Certificate of Achievement to Ellen Jamison on the announcement of her retirement from Souderton Area School District. Ellen thanked the students for the surprise recognition.

Miss McAllister and Miss Warbrick once again thanked the Board for the experience of representing the student body.

Mr. MacDougall announced that Sharon Gehret, Board member, had submitted her resignation from the Board, effective June 9, 2006.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Parry, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the resignation of Mrs. Gehret from the Board as of June 9, 2006.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that information regarding filling the vacancy would be announced in the near future.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

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

Mrs. Eves presented the financial statements and check listing for April 2006.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the financial statements and check listings
for April 2006 as presented.

EXHIBIT G

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

Tentative agenda items to be discussed, but not limited to, at the May 31, 2006 Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be:

- Social Studies Scope and Sequence
- Accelerated Word Processing and Spreadsheets – New Course and Textbook
- Desktop Publishing – New Course
- Television Production – Revised Planned Course
- New Program List – Summer Development
- Pre-Algebra Textbook
- High Quality Professional Development
- Program Evaluation – Overview and Discussion

NOTE: Mr. Verbeke arrived at this point in the meeting.

CURRICULUM ITEMS

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

Mr. Leer presented the following planned courses/textbooks/materials for a third reading:

- a. Rocks and Minerals Kit for Instruction of Grade 3 Science
- b. Planned Course Revisions and New Textbooks: Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B
- c. Revision of Planned Courses: Academic English – A Two-Year Program for
Grade 6 and Grade 7
- d. Reading of Advanced Placement Literature Textbook
- e. Textbook for Multicultural Foods

Mr. Miller asked if the next Education-Personnel Committee meeting on May 31st could be changed to 6:30 PM.

Dr. Amuso indicated that we would need to advertise the change.

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses/Textbooks/Materials (continued)

Mr. Brong asked why the Algebra 1A and 1B planned course revisions and new textbooks were not held back for discussion.

Mr. Currie indicated that after discussion with the administration, it was decided to move Algebra 1A and 1B for a third reading and approval and discuss program evaluation techniques at a future Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

Wolf Lackler, from Upper Salford Township, asked if changes are ever made.

Dr. Amuso responded that the Board and administration make changes when necessary.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the following planned courses/textbooks and materials as listed:

- a. Rocks and Minerals Kit for Instruction of Grade 3 Science
- b. Planned Course Revisions and New Textbooks: Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B
- c. Revision of Planned Courses: Academic English – A Two-Year Program for Grade 6 and Grade 7
- d. Reading of Advanced Placement Literature Textbook
- e. Textbook for Multicultural Foods

PERSONNEL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mr. Leer mentioned that Ellen Jamison would be retiring from the district. He talked about Ellen's career and regretted to hear that she was retiring.

Mrs. Cole indicated that the students expect to see Ellen at all functions in the schools. She goes above and beyond the call of duty. Ellen has established the Hands Across the District Program, a program that is very unique and gives parents and senior citizens a chance to volunteer throughout the district.

Mr. MacDougall mentioned that Ellen's leaving would be a great loss to the district. She will be very hard to replace. Not everyone can handle the work load.

Dr. Amuso shared that Ellen has created high expectations. Not only does Ellen report on the volumes of activities within the district, but she also represents the school district in many civic organizations.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve, with regret, the retirement of Ellen Jamison as noted:

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Retirement

ELLEN JAMISON

District Coordinator of Community Relations
Effective: August 4, 2006
Employed by SASD: 17.5 years

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Professional Staff resignations, retirement and request for childrearing leave; Support Staff resignation, transfers, recommendations for employment, and additions to substitute teacher listing for 2005-2006 as listed:

Resignation

MELISA BENFIELD

Fourth Grade, Franconia Elem.
Effective: June 16, 2006

Retirement

FRANK C. PAUL

Language Arts, Grade 8, Indian Crest Jr. High
Effective: End of 2005-2006 school year
Employed by SASD: 40 years

Request for Childrearing Leave

SHERRI WILLENBECHER

Guidance Counselor, Salford Hills Elem.
Leave to begin November 20, 2006 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year.
Mrs. Willenbecher is planning to return to work for the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignation

MATTHEW JEININGS

Part-Time Custodian, Lower Salford Elem.
Effective: May 26, 2006

Transfers

ANITA BROWN

Replacement for
Amy Harclerode (resigned)

From: District Substitute Secretary
To: Title I Language Arts Assistant, West Broad St.
Beginning: May 24, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$12.55
Hours: 6 per day

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Transfers (continued)

DEBORAH COLL

Replacement for
Carol Granieri (retired)

From: Food Service Manager, Indian Crest Jr. High
To: Food Service Manager, Franconia Elem.
Beginning: 2006-2007 school year
Hourly Rate: \$12.99
Hours: 7.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

KEVIN ESCHBACH

Summer Custodial Substitute
Beginning: May 30, 2006
(Changed from June 16, 2006)
Hourly Rate: \$8.96
Hours: 8 per day

MICHELLE KELLNER

Replacement for
Cafeteria Substitute

Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide
Vernfield Elem.
Beginning: May 26, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$9.05
Hours: as needed

BRAD KOLB

Summer Custodial Substitute
Beginning: May 30, 2006
(Changed from June 16, 2006)
Hourly Rate: \$8.96 per hour
Hours: 8 per day

PHILLIP ZIEGLER

Replacement for
Matthew Cody (resigned)

Part-Time Custodian, Franconia Elem.
Beginning: May 26, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$8.96
Hours: 4 per day

Additions to Substitute Teacher Listing for 2005-2006

JUSTIN ZIEGLER

JOHN GEHRET

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER

Sharon J. Gehret and William J. Brong, Representatives

Mr. Brong reported that the Joint Operating Committee will be creating a finance committee that will meet before each JOC meeting at 6:30 PM. The group will include one member from each of the sending districts.

Mr. Brong reported that 32 Souderton students were in the top 3% of the school's students at North Montco.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Board would need to replace Sharon Gehret on the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee. He mentioned that there are a lot of issues at North Montco right now, and asked Board members to consider the Career Center position.

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Monday, June 1, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Administrative Conference Room at the North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R. "Bud" Miller, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

At their May 17, 2006 meeting the Operations Committee discussed the following:

- Review Bids for Indian Crest Mechanical Equipment
- High School Project Update

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

HIGH SCHOOL

Lower Salford Home and School Association
Auditorium, Cafeteria
Friday, February 9, 2007
5:30PM – 9:30PM
Lower Salford Lip Sync
Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN CREST

Disability Ministries Associates
Volleyball Fields
Saturday, July 22, 2006
8:00AM – 4:00PM
Volleyball Fundraiser
Certificate of Insurance pending

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

INDIAN CREST

Souderton Area Girls Lacrosse Association
Lacrosse & Hockey Fields
Monday - Friday, August 7 – 11, 2006
9:00AM – 5:00PM
Lacrosse Camp
Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN VALLEY

ACT Test Administration
Library & C-Wing
Saturday, January 27, 2007
8:00AM – 12:00PM
Explore Math Testing
Certificate of Insurance on file

LOWER SALFORD

Lower Salford Home & School Association
Lower Salford Auditorium
January 11, 17, 18, 2007
Lip Sync Rehearsals
3:30PM – 5:00PM
Certificate of Insurance on file

Lower Salford Home & School Association
Lower Salford Cafeteria
April 13, 2007
5:00PM – 9:00PM
Prime Time Primary
Certificate of Insurance on file

Lower Salford Home & School Association
Lower Salford Cafeteria
November 15, 2006
3:45PM – 7:00PM
Fundraiser Pick Up
Certificate of Insurance on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

OAK RIDGE

Salford Meadows Community Association

Cafeteria

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

7:00PM – 9:00PM

Homeowner's Association Meeting

Certificate of Insurance on file

VERNFIELD

The Montgomery Defenders

Gym

May 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 30, 31, 2006

6:30PM – 8:30PM

Basketball Practice

Certificate of Insurance on file

Franconia Township

Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, May 24

6:30PM – 9:30PM

Community Meeting

Certificate of Insurance on file

Recommendation to Award Bid for Indian Crest Mechanical Equipment

Mr. Miller indicated that the committee recommended that the Board reject all bids because they were over budget. We will rebid the project early in 2007.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board reject all bids for Indian Crest mechanical equipment projects.

High School Project Update

Acknowledgement of PlanCon F Approval Letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Board needs to formally acknowledge receipt of PlanCon F from the Department of Education for the high school project. Mr. Miller explained what PlanCon F represents.

Operations Committee

High School Project Update (continued)

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

RESOLVED, That the Board acknowledge receipt of PlanCon F from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the new high school project. **EXHIBIT H**

Mr. Miller also mentioned that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 11:00 AM.

TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Miller indicated that the committee reviewed the Final State Subsidy Accounting for the 2004-2005 Program Year as an informational item at the last meeting.

FOOD SERVICE

No report

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

At their May 17, 2006 meeting the Finance Committee discussed the items listed:

2005-2006 Budgetary Transfers

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

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

Technology Budget Questions

Dr. Parry indicated that there were questions after the first presentation of the technology budget. Mrs. Bray did an excellent job explaining the 2005-2006 technology budget, and Tim Roberts explained the technology plan for this year. Dr. Parry reported that the technology plan will expire by the end of the 2006-2007 school year. We will be spending roughly \$1 million for the hardware and software needed for that year.

Mr. Lackler questioned if the new high school would be wired or wireless since he is concerned about both Comcast and Verizon as companies.

Finance Committee

Technology Budget Questions (continued)

Mr. Pollack responded that it will be a combination of both and we have designed an integrated system which will run on a common backbone.

Mr. Leer asked if our current internet line is fiber optic.

Mr. Pollack responded that Mr. Roberts would have that information.

2006-2007 Budget Discussions

Dr. Parry reported that the Finance Committee and the administration will be working through the budget again at the next committee meeting, which will be on May 31st at 7:30 PM. If SSB 39 passes, it will fix the index for the 2007-2008.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the next Finance meeting will focus on giving the administration a percentage limit.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on when the budget would be approved.

Mr. MacDougall responded that the budget is slated for approval at the June 22 Board meeting.

Dr. Parry indicated that some people would like the budget number lower, but coming into referendum, it might not be prudent. He is concerned about voter referendum in the future.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

At their May 17, 2006 Policy Committee meeting the committee discussed the following:

First Reading of Policy #113.2 – Behavior Support Plan

Mrs. Cole indicated that Souderton has had this policy, but it was mis-coded by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. We also needed to replicate Chapter 14 regulations. This policy now includes definitions, which is something that the Policy Committee is trying to include when updating policies. Mrs. Cole indicated that the wording was validated by the solicitor.

Mr. Joseph Racz, from Souderton, asked for clarification regarding the coding error.

Mrs. Cole again explained the error in coding.

Mr. Gallagher responded that he and Mrs. Berk had been doing some research and discovered the error during that time. This took place in 2003.

Policy Committee

First Reading of Policy #113.2 – Behavior Support Plan (continued)

Mr. Racz indicated that he had reviewed Board minutes and Policy minutes and there was no mention that the District was not in compliance.

Mr. MacDougall explained that this type of issue would not be part of public record.

Mr. Racz indicated that any error should have been caught. He mentioned that he and his wife met with Mrs. Berk and talked about this issue last year. He mentioned that Mrs. Berk had decided that Policy 218 would be acceptable, but it does not address the problem of restraint.

Mr. Sultanik asked Mr. Racz what his major concern was with the current policy.

Mr. Racz indicated that he is very concerned about the physical restraint of students and shared information about the issue.

Dr. Parry asked where children were being restrained.

Mr. Racz explained that restraints are being used in schools, hospitals, etc. He shared a story about a student who was restrained and then died.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that there are provisions in the School Code regarding restraint, but to say that district will be held liable for millions of dollars is incorrect. The use of restraints is a very serious issue and should be discussed at the committee level. Souderton is not unique in this issue. Mr. Sultanik recommended that Mr. Racz make recommendations on options to the Policy Committee and administration to be discussed at a future Policy meeting.

Mr. Racz shared that he could not attend a Policy meeting. He distributed information to the Board members about options to restraining students.

Mrs. Cole reiterated that changes were made to the Policy to reflect Chapter 14 regulations. She acknowledged that there is a procedure that must be followed when restraining students.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that being a major employer, we face a risk if there is an unrestrained child. The district tries to use the least restraint possible.

Mrs. Berk indicated that the only time a student is restrained is when the student is at risk of hurting himself or hurting another student. The staff members are trained yearly on how and when to restrain students.

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Racz for sharing his concern and indicated that this issue will be brought to the Policy Committee's attention.

Policy Committee

Third Reading and Final Approval of Policy #246 - Student Wellness

Mrs. Cole thanked the committee for their work. She asked that the committee members receive a thank you for their time and input, and be informed of tonight's result.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve Policy #246 – Student Wellness as presented.

EXHIBIT J

Mr. Miller questioned if breakfast was always available in the schools.

Mr. Gallagher indicated that the breakfast program was originally instituted with the Kids Care program. He mentioned that the district is looking to expand the program next year.

Mr. Miller shared his concern about the time constraints within the program.

Mr. Gallagher explained the program and currently there are time frames already provided for the students.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14, 2006 at 5:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole indicated that the IU Board meetings were approved and will be placed on the district's monthly meeting calendar.

Mrs. Cole reported that the IU Board approved the budget for the Non-Public Services Division for 2006-2007 with a 4.25% increase. Services are provided for non-public school students in K-12, representing approximately 180 schools and 32,513 students. The majority of the services are funded through the State Act 89 program.

Mrs. Cole indicated that the first review of the Special Education Budget for 2006-2007 was held, which includes Early Intervention for 3-5 year olds, through school age programs for 5-21 year olds and at overall increase of 3.86%.

The IU also accepted trash and audio/visual bids as part of the Joint Purchasing Board. Mrs. Cole explained the savings that are realized by being part of the Joint Purchasing Board.

The Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Divisions offer, among other things, a series of workshops on school improvement planning and are reporting a drastic increase in the number of districts that are in some form of corrective action or warning under NCLB. In 2004-2005, six schools fell into that category. In 2006-2007, twenty-three districts are expected to fall into this category with 16 being newly designated.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Mrs. Cole reported on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit retreat and shared the mission, values, a vivid description of the next five years, and the audacious goals of the IU. She shared that values and goals will be used in hiring personnel at the IU and also in the evaluation of the Executive Director.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole reported that the House narrowly passed the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution. The vote was 218-210. The House approved a resolution sponsored by Rep. Mike Castle (R-AL-DE), expressing a sense of the House that \$7.1 billion should be added to the FY07 budget for labor, education and healthcare. However, this resolution is non-binding; so the addition of \$7.1 billion in spending is uncertain.

She also reported on a Bill that prohibits student access to social networking sites at most schools and libraries. Souderton already has a policy in place that prohibits students for accessing such sites.

Mrs. Cole shared that the National School Boards Association released the findings of a new national poll on federal education funding. Key findings are that voters think Congress' spending priorities are out of place, that Congress should restore education funding for NCLB/Title I and special education to the authorized levels for FY 07 and that K-12 education should receive a much greater share of the federal budget. Support for educational funding crossed political lines.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Jack Parry, Representative

Dr. Parry indicated that the Pennsylvania State Employee Retirement System will be increasing their employer rates. This money will be coming from the taxpayers.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cole indicated that she and a few other Board members, along with Dr. Amuso, had attended the Montgomery County Legislative Breakfast on Thursday morning. Representative Robert Godshall spoke with our delegation about education issues and funding.

Mrs. Cole also distributed a letter that was sent to Governor Rendell from the Southeastern Pennsylvania School Districts' Education Coalition regarding the Coalition's opposition to Back-End Referenda. She asked the Board if they were interesting in lending their support to the Coalition.

Dr. Parry indicated that he needed to read and digest the letter and see if we want to get on board. He agrees with property tax relief, but wants to make sure the state does their part.

Dr. Amuso indicated that he and Rep. Robert Godshall had testified in Harrisburg on schools with increasing enrollments.

Mr. Miller agreed with Dr. Parry. The Board needs to discuss this issue and make a decision.

Mrs. Cole indicated that this letter has come and gone. The Coalition has opened up public discussion on the affects on schools. Their focus is to have public discussion and report back to legislators. There is power in numbers.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that he was not sure what the Coalition is all about.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that back-end referendum is their focus.

Dr. Baumgartner, from Telford, spoke about an editorial on costs of public schools. He urged the Board to become more pro-active with legislators about educational issues and asked the Board to be in communication with our local legislators.

Mr. Verbeke apologized for being late, but explained that he had attended the ninth grade Living History Night at Indian Crest. Mr. Verbeke indicated that he had taken a friend, and the friend was very impressed with the evening's event.

Mr. Dave Ramage added that it is very hard to quantify the learning that took place tonight at Indian Crest.

Mr. MacDougall announced that a short Executive Session would take place after the Board meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:51 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary