

**SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

760 Lower Road  
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 7:35 PM at the District Administrative Office in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dr. Jack A. Parry, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	William J. Brong	Mark D. Leer
	Tracy G. Cole	R. Bud Miller
	Bernard S. Currie	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Sharon J. Gehret	Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Eric R. MacDougall	
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanic, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Tamara Callahan, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Dan Glatts, Ellen Jamison, Dr. Linda Larson, Meghan McAllister, Steve Pollack, Laurie Reynolds, Kyle Robertson, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Paige Warbrick, Stacey Zanine, representatives from The Souderton Independent, The Reporter, The Intelligencer, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

**School/Student/Board Recognition**

**Introduction of 2005-2006 Foreign Exchange Students from Souderton Area High School**

Dr. Amuso introduced Dan Glatts, who spoke about the foreign exchange students who are attending Souderton Area High School for this school year. Mr. Glatts introduced each student and asked them to tell a little bit about themselves and their experiences here in the United States. He also acknowledged the host families that were in attendance. Mr. Glatts is the Foreign Exchange Club advisor.

**ISABEL BRAUN** – Germany  
**TIM FINKE** – Germany  
**KRISTINA HILFANOVA** – Ukraine  
**KATE KALINICHENKO** – Ukraine  
**ANGELICA MAIMONE** – Venezuela  
**SOFIYA PROTASOVA** – Russia  
**MIROSLAVA SVABOVA** – Slovakia

Report of the Superintendent

School/Student/Board Recognition (continued)

Introduction of 2005-2006 Foreign Exchange Students from Souderton Area High School (continued)

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the foreign exchange students.

**EXHIBIT A**

Fall 2005 Stock Market Game Winners

Dr. Amuso introduced Stacy Zanine and Tamara Callahan, District Challenge teachers, who spoke about the Stock Market Game and the student winners. The Stock Market Game is a trademark of the Foundation for Investor Education, a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and providing learning resources for investors of all ages. Souderton elementary Challenge classes entered their fifth grade students into the competition. The Vernfield Elementary Challenge team of **ELIZABETH WETZLER** and **RIDGLEY SCHULTZ** closed the competition in first place, out of 69 teams, making a total of \$24,973.25 in just 10 weeks. Souderton also had a winning third place team, **MEAGHAN GEATENS** and **STEFAN BERGMAN**, from Oak Ridge Elementary.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the Stock Market Game winners for their accomplishment.

**EXHIBIT B**

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approved the requests to attend conferences and workshops as listed:

**DIANE KNECHEL**  
Special Ed. Aide, West Broad Elem.  
**PAULA STRELECKI**  
Special Ed. Aide, West Broad Elem.

The Paraeducator's Role in the IEP Process  
King of Prussia, PA  
January 24, 2006 (Tues.)  
Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Expenses: \$ 0.00

**EDWARD GALLAGHER**  
Mathematics/Football Coach, High School

Pennsylvania State Football Coaches Kickoff  
Clinic  
Hershey, PA  
February 3, 4, 2006 (Fri., Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$271.08  
Sub. Expenses: 100.00  
Total Expenses: \$371.08

Report of the Superintendent

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)

<b>KATHLEEN MANCINI</b> Special Education, Indian Valley M. S.	Students With Disabilities Conference Allentown, PA February 9, 2006 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$185.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>100.00</u> Total Expenses: \$285.00
<b>LISA GURGICK</b> District Data Support Specialist <b>LISA REINER</b> Food Service Bookkeeper	Weidenhammer Systems Point-of-Sale Demonstration and Information Session King of Prussia, PA February 22, 2006 (Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$ 0.00
<b>LAUREL PLANK</b> Student Support Teacher Lower Salford Elem.	Designing Effective Math Instruction for Struggling Students Workshop Norristown, PA February 24, 2006 (Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$ 0.00
<b>CINDY APPELBAUM</b> Transition Coordinator, High School	Focusing on Quality in Education and Workforce Development Conference Hershey, PA March 2-3, 2006 (Thurs.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$414.33 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$414.33
<b>PAM MARTINO</b> Librarian, Vernfield Elem.	What's New in Children's Literature and How to Use It in Your Program Drexel Hill, PA March 7, 2006 (Tues.) Est. Expenses: \$179.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>100.00</u> Total Expenses: \$279.00
<b>LISA KNORR</b> Music, Vernfield Elem. <b>JOANNE REIGNER</b> Music, Lower Salford Elem. and Franconia Elem.	Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Conference Valley Forge, PA March 30, 2006 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$100.00 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (combined) Total Expenses: \$300.00 (combined)

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Amuso reported on the status of the air quality at West Broad Street Elementary School. He highlighted the procedures that have taken place and the findings of the tests that have been done to date. A comparison of absenteeism was done in all schools, with no significant sightings for any of the schools. He indicated that reports from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency should arrive next week.

A parent meeting will be scheduled to share information with the parents at West Broad Street Elementary School when the reports from the DOH and EPA are complete. When the final reports are received, the information will also be placed on the District's Web page.

Dr. Parry asked for clarification of the current situation.

Dr. Amuso indicated that there is no current problem; all preliminary reports show no concern at West Broad Street Elementary School.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Brenda Jones Bray

Dr. Parry welcomed Mrs. Bray to the Board.

School Board Minutes

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Minutes of the January 12, 2006 School Board meeting as presented.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

Eric R. MacDougall

Dr. Parry presented the President's Report in Mr. MacDougall's absence.

An Executive Session of the Board was held on January 12, 2006 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

An informational and non-deliberative Executive Session and workshop on policy and governance was held on January 20 and 21, 2006.

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

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

Report of the President

Student Expulsion

Pursuant to the laws of Pennsylvania, that the Board approve the expulsion of Student I. D. #250491 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.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the student expulsion of Student I. D. #250491 as presented.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Grace Eves

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listing for December 2005

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

Mrs. Cole questioned the difference in percentages for expenditures from 2004-2005 (42%) to this time in 2005-2006 (51%).

Mrs. Eves explained that the difference was due to the receipt of ordered items from vendors this year compared to last year.

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

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

**EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses

Mr. Leer indicated that the two planned courses were read and discussed at previous Education-Personnel Committee meetings.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board grant final approval of the planned courses as listed:

- a. Technology – Grade 6
- b. School Store/Retail Management – Grades 10-12

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Requests for Overnight Field Trip

Dr. Amuso indicated that the request for the second field trip was due to misinformation at the Board meeting in October when the trip was first presented. The Indian Crest/Souderton Area High School field trip to the western section of the United States will not be for credit as originally noted.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification about the credit component of the trip.

Dr. Amuso again indicated that no credit will be given for the Indian Crest/Senior High School field trip.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the overnight field trip requests as presented:

- a. Souderton Area High School – Life Guarding/Adventure/Water Safety Instruction  
Date: May 6-7, 2006 (Saturday-Sunday)  
Destination: Jim Thorpe, PA and Hickory Run State Park, Poconos, PA  
Purpose of Trip: This trip will give hands-on skills for assessment in lifeguarding, kayaking, canoeing, camping, orienteering and first aid.  
Number of Students: 45  
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 5  
Teachers in Charge: Jim Schulte, Bob Tybring, Sherry Burke, Chris Nenstiel, and Nicole Harner  
Trip financed by students.
  
- b. Indian Crest Junior High School and Souderton Area High School – Grades 9-11  
Date: Saturday-Saturday, July 1-8, 2006  
Destination: Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park, Caves State Park, Little Big Horn, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial located in Montana, South Dakota and Wyoming.  
Purpose of Trip: History of some of the most important national parks in the United States.  
Teacher Advisor: Joyce Kupec  
Number of Chaperones: 6-13 – Teachers  
Number of Students: 40-80  
Financing of Trip: Paid by students

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole to take all of the professional staff personnel items, support staff items, mentor contracts, supplemental contracts, contracted services, and additions to the substitute teacher listing as one motion, with the change of Alison Todd from temporary professional to professional staff. The voted was taken, and on a vote of 8-0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the professional staff personnel items, support staff items, mentor contracts, supplemental contracts, contracted services, and additions to the substitute teacher listing as one motion, with the change of Alison Todd from a temporary professional to professional staff as listed:

Request for Childrearing Leave

**MICHELLE RUCH**

English Teacher, Senior High School

Leave to begin approximately June 6, 2006 through the first semester of the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Ruch is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year.

Recommendations for Employment

**BRENDA CLARK**

Third Grade Teacher, Franconia Elem.

Replacement for

**LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**

Brenda Krupp (transfer)

Effective: Second semester, 2005-2006 school year

Education

Experience

Temple Univ. (B.S.) 1991

Sept. 2005-Present-SASD-Franconia Elem.-Fourth Grade  
(Long-Term Sub.)

Oct. 2004-June 2005-SASD-Franconia Elem.-Title I  
Language Arts Aide

2002-2003-SASD-E. M. Crouthamel Elem. and  
Franconia Elem.-Title V Math Aide

Recommended Salary

\$18,025 – B (1)

**ALISON TODD**

Spanish Teacher, Indian Crest Jr. High

Replacement for

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE**

Maureen Krum (retired)

Beginning: Second semester, 2005-2006 school year

Education

Experience

West Chester Univ. (B.S.) 1992

Sept. 2005-Present-SASD-Indian Crest Jr. High-Spanish  
(Long-Term Substitute)

2003-2005-Masters Academy of Fine Arts, Quakertown,  
PA-Spanish teacher for home schooled students

1998-2000-Central Bucks SD-Tamanend Middle  
School-Spanish

1993-1998-Norristown SD-Colonial Middle School-  
Spanish

Recommended Salary

\$47,060 (pro-rated) – M (5)

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

<b>NICKOLE TROUT</b>	Guidance Counselor, Indian Crest Jr. High
Replacement for	<b>LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE</b>
Michael Rucinski (medical leave)	Effective: Second semester, 2005-2006 school year
<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Shippensburg Univ. (BA) 1999	Sept. 2005-Jan. 2006-SASD-Indian Crest Jr. High
Eastern Univ. (MA) 2003	Guidance (Long-Term Sub.)
	2003-2005-Lakeside Educational Network-North Penn
	S.D.-Mainstay Counselor
	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
	\$19,823 – M (1)

SUPPORT STAFF

Transfer

<b>SUSAN CLAUS</b>	From: Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Franconia Elem.
Replacement for	To: Autistic Support Aide, Indian Crest Jr. High
Ingrid Smith (resigned)	Beginning: January 30, 2006
	Hourly Rate: \$9.83
	Hours: 5.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

<b>JENNIFER AUCHENBACH</b>	Autistic Support Aide, Vernfield Elem.
Replacement for	Beginning: January 27, 2006
Michelle Mason (resigned)	Hourly Rate: \$9.83
	Hours: 6.5 per day
<b>DEBBIE HAUCK</b>	Learning Support Aide, Indian Crest Jr. High
Replacement for	Beginning: January 27, 2006
Sabrina Mathues (resigned)	Hourly Rate: \$9.08
	Hours: 5.5 per day
<b>NOBUHLE MPOFU</b>	Learning Support Aide, Indian Valley M. S.
Replacement for	Beginning: January 27, 2006
Darla Nagy (resigned)	Hourly Rate: \$9.08
	Hours: 5.5 per day



Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

**MATT NAGEL** Part-Time Custodian, West Broad Street Elem.  
Replacement for Beginning: January 27, 2006  
Mark Ritter (resigned) Hourly Rate: \$8.96  
Hours: 4 per day

**LORI SNYDER** Cafeteria Aide, Indian Valley Middle School  
Replacement for Beginning: January 27, 2006  
Lisa Lacomba (resigned) Hourly Rate: \$9.05  
Hours: 3 per day

**MAUREEN UNGER** Receptionist, Indian Crest Jr. High  
Replacement for Beginning: January 27, 2006  
Nancy DiGiannantonio (transfer) Hourly Rate: \$10.51  
Hours: 7.5 per day

Mentor Contracts for Second Semester of 2005-2006 Induction

<b>STACY ZANINE</b> mentor for Tamara Callahan (second semester)	\$ 300.00
<b>JANET GRIPPI</b> mentor for Phil Matilla (second semester)	300.00
<b>SUSAN MARKLEY</b> mentor for Amanda Weber (second semester)	300.00
<b>ALISON FITZPATRICK</b> mentor for Carmen DeMaria (second semester)	300.00
<b>SHERRY BURKE</b> mentor for Bob Henes (second semester)	300.00
<b>PAT MATHUES</b> mentor for Stephanie MacBain (second semester)	300.00
<b>PAT HUGHES</b> mentor for Lauren Huff	300.00
<b>MELISSA MOELLER</b> mentor for Lynne Ferretti	300.00
<b>RAMONA DIAZ</b> co-mentor for Jessica Miles	300.00
<b>LUCY BUCHANAN</b> co-mentor for Jessica Miles	300.00
<b>JOEL BERGER</b> mentor for Josh Pennington	300.00
<b>CAROL RAMSEY</b> mentor for Emily Hunsicker (second semester)	300.00
<b>DINA PALSKI</b> mentor for Amanda Johnson (LTS)	300.00
<b>LINDA SCHECKENBACH</b> mentor for Nickole Trout (second semester)	300.00
<b>ARLENE BUCHMAN</b> co-mentor for Alison Todd (second semester)	150.00
<b>REBECCA BEEMER</b> co-mentor for Alison Todd (second semester)	150.00
<b>EILEEN SHANER</b> mentor for Brenda Clark (second semester)	300.00
<b>SARA SCHWED</b> mentor for Nicole Puzano	300.00

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Supplemental Contracts for Supervisory and Coaching Positions - 2005-2006

<b>EDWARD GALLAGHER</b>	Weight Room Supervisor – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (HS) (Replacement for Nathaniel Bender)	\$1,000.00
<b>NATHANIEL BENDER</b>	Assistant Baseball (JV) Coach (HS)	2,418.00
<b>BRIAN REIMERS</b>	Assistant Baseball (Fresh.) Coach (HS)	2,236.00
<b>ROBERT TYBRING II</b>	Assistant Softball Coach (HS)	2,418.00
<b>TAMI WENGER<sup>^</sup></b>	Head Lacrosse (Girls) Coach (HS)	3,973.00
<b>WILLIAM GROSS</b>	Assistant Lacrosse (Boys) Coach (HS)	2,694.00
<b>ANTHONY COLELLI</b>	Assistant Lacrosse (Boys) Coach (HS)	2,279.00
<b>ANDREW McCLINTOCK</b>	Assistant Soccer (Girls) Coach (HS)	2,774.00
<b>JEFFREY WALKER</b>	Assistant Soccer (Girls) Coach (HS)	2,694.00
<b>JAMES O'NEILL</b>	Head Track (Girls) Coach (HS)	4,588.00
<b>RICHARD HESS</b>	Assistant Track (Girls) Coach (HS)	3,088.00
<b>JOHN ROWE</b>	Assistant Track (Girls) Coach (HS)	3,213.00
<b>BILL CODDINGTON</b>	Head Track (Boys) Coach (HS)	4,588.00
<b>JOHN DONAHUE</b>	Assistant Track (Boys) Coach (HS)	3,072.00
<b>DANIEL STOVER</b>	Assistant Volleyball (Boys) Coach, (HS) (1/2 position)	1,387.00
<b>BRAD GARRETT</b>	Assistant Volleyball (Boys) Coach, (HS) (1/2 position)	1,209.00

<sup>^</sup> Indicates new to coaching at SASD

Contracted Services for Coaching Positions – 2005-2006

<b>DAVID MYERS</b>	Assistant Baseball (Var.) Coach (HS)	\$2,858.00
<b>JOSEPH HALLAR</b>	Head Softball Coach (HS)	3,848.00
<b>DANALYNN TUROK</b>	Assistant Softball (JV) Coach (HS)	2,236.00
<b>ROBERT PEPKOWSKI</b>	Assistant Softball (Fresh.) Coach (HS)	2,871.00
<b>TERRY UNDERKOFFLER</b>	Head Soccer (Girls) Coach (HS)	4,184.00
<b>NANCY KIMBEL</b>	Head Tennis (Boys) Coach (HS)	2,505.00
<b>BRADLEY KULL</b>	Assistant Track (Boys) Coach (HS)	2,758.00
<b>WILL LAPP</b>	Head Volleyball (Boys) Coach (HS)	4,268.00

Additions to the 2005-2006 Substitute Teacher Listing.

**EXHIBIT D**

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

**NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER**

Sharon Gehret and William Brong, Representatives

Mrs. Gehret reported that North Montco has added a new assistant principal to the administrative staff. Also, there are two sending school districts that will not be sending their students to all three daily sessions beginning next year.

North Montco Technical Career Center

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 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.

**Souderton Area Baseball League (Girls Softball)**

West Broad Street Elementary School – Gym

Thursdays – 6:00pm – 9:00pm

February 2<sup>nd</sup> thru March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006 (9x)

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Souderton Area Girls Lacrosse Association**

Salford Hills Elementary School – Gym Hallway

Saturdays – 10:00am – 11:30pm

January 21, 28, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Salford Pond Homeowners Association**

Oak Ridge Elementary School – Cafeteria

Monday – 7:00pm – 9:00pm

March 27, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Lower Salford Yearbook Committee (Home & School Association)**

Lower Salford Elementary School – Library

Monday – 7:15pm – 9:15pm

January 23, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Souderton Area Boys Lacrosse Association**

Indian Valley Middle School – Lobby

Thursday – 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Saturday – 10:00am – 12:00pm

January 26, 28, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

**Lower Salford Township Police Department**

Indian Crest Junior High School – Auditorium

Wednesday – 6:30pm – 9:00pm

February 6, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Lower Salford Elementary Home & School Association**

Lower Salford Elem School – Cafeteria

Wednesday – 3:45pm – 7:15pm

February 1, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

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

E. M. Crouthamel – All Purpose Room

Wednesday – 6:00pm – 9:00pm

February 1, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

**Vernfield Home & School Association**

Vernfield – Gym, Library, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

Friday – 5:00pm – 9:00pm

February 10, 2006

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

High School Project Update

Recommendation to Approve Final Estimate of Construction Costs from Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects

Mr. Miller indicated that the district had received notice from Franconia Township on the approval of conditional preliminary land development. He also indicated that the high school bids will be sent to the printer tomorrow. At this point, Mr. Miller went over the project timeline, mentioning that February 13<sup>th</sup> the bids will be released to the bidders; March 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date that bidders can ask questions and clarify bids; March 22<sup>nd</sup> bids will be received; April 4<sup>th</sup> the Operations Committee will review bids; April 11<sup>th</sup> bids will be awarded and May 1<sup>st</sup> the project should begin.

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

Mr. Miller indicated that we really do not know what the final cost will be until the bids are received.

Mr. Miller also mentioned the Operations Committee has discussed the technology plans for the new building along with future needs and capacity of the building. Cost estimates have been discussed with both the architect and the construction manager.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

High School Project Update (continued)

Recommendation to Approve Final Estimate of Construction Costs from Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects (continued)

The final estimate of total project cost from Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects is \$122,000,000, which is an 8% increase over the \$113,000,000 estimate. Mr. Miller indicated that the increase is due to a rise in construction costs.

Mr. Miller mentioned that \$80,000,000 was approved at the Act 34 Hearing. We should not exceed the percentage of increase allowed under Act 34 regulations. The construction manager has tightened up the specifications, and with the news articles about the project that have been circulating in the area, we should receive competitive bids.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Board has talked about delays in the project. This time of year is good for construction companies to take this time and concentrate on a firm bid. A delay in the project could cost us a year and possibly \$6,000,000.

Mr. Miller clarified that the vote was on the updated estimate from Breslin.

Mr. Currie indicated that he felt some of the extra expense could have been foreseen and alleviated. He asked the Board to consider resizing the project and eliminate the excess capacity.

Dr. Parry indicated that he was also concerned about the rising cost of the project. However, he does not believe that it could have been foreseen or prevented.

Mr. Verbeke indicated that he is not in favor of higher costs, but it is time to move on. To go back now and redesign the project would cause a delay and cost more money. He indicated that he has asked questions and believes the building will meet our educational needs.

Wolf Lackler, from Upper Salford, questioned what cost was submitted to the state.

Dr. Amuso referred the question to Mr. Pollack.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the prior PlanCon D was an estimate and the next submission, PlanCon G, after bids are opened, will reflect the actual costs. Site costs are not included in the state's maximum statutory thresholds. At the time of the Act 34 public hearing in July 2005, the estimated building construction was slightly less than \$80,000,000. If building construction costs to be awarded exceed the Act 34 public hearing limit by more than 8%, or approximately \$85,000,000, then a second public hearing is required. Due to a legislative change, subsequent to the first Act 34 hearing, the referendum threshold is now approximately \$90,000,000. Our architect estimated this revised threshold based upon applying the new per pupil expenditure limits.

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

High School Project Update (continued)

Recommendation to Approve Final Estimate of Construction Costs from Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects (continued)

Mr. Lord, from Telford, asked if the state will make any changes to the project.

Mr. Miller indicated that due to the changes in legislation, we should be getting more reimbursement for the project.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 6-2, with Mr. Currie and Mr. Brong voting no, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the final estimate of construction costs from Breslin Ridyard Fadero Architects as presented. **EXHIBIT E**

Recommendation to Approve Franconia Township Board of Supervisors Resolution Granting Conditional Preliminary Land Development Approval for the “New Souderton Area High School” Project

There was a motion by Mrs. Gehret, second by Mr. Brong.

Mr. Currie questioned if there was a reference to sewer inspection.

Dr. Amuso responded, yes.

Mr. Miller reiterated the timeline of the high school project.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Franconia Township Board of Supervisors Resolution granting conditional preliminary land development approval for the new Souderton Area High School project as presented. **EXHIBIT F**

TRANSPORTATION

No report

FOOD SERVICE

No report

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Dr. Parry indicated that at the next Finance Committee meeting, Public Financial Management would be returning for further explanation of funding options for the high school project.

Mr. Miller indicated that he would not be present at the Finance Committee meeting, but would make a recommendation to the committee on his preference of funding options.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

**POLICY COMMITTEE**

Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole reported that at the last meeting, the Policy Committee discussed commercialism and reviewed a few articles regarding commercialism and partnerships. The committee will continue the discussion at the next Policy Committee meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT**

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole indicated that her first meeting at the Intermediate Unit was last evening. The IU Board had its first look at the 2006-2007 preliminary budget. Souderton's share will be a 3.59% increase over this year's amount.

Mrs. Cole also shared that the Intermediate Unit is spotlighting different divisions within the IU to help Board members understand their services and create better communications with the sending schools.

Mrs. Cole indicated that costs for early intervention are rising faster than the amount of state funding. The IU is waiting to see how the governor's budget will affect their funding. There may be a need to cut the early intervention program for 3 to 5 year olds as early as 2006-2007. There may be other providers for funding of this program.

Another topic that the IU Board discussed was the PSBA Code of Board Conduct. The code explained how boards should function. Mrs. Cole explained that the IU will be asking sending school districts to adopt the Board Governance Policy.

Lastly, Mrs. Cole mentioned that the IU celebrated "School Director's Recognition Month" at their meeting last night. Each Board member received a gift from the IU.

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Mr. Miller indicated that he would like to understand the cost/benefit of the Intermediate Unit programs.

Dr. Parry questioned where other funding would come from early intervention.

Mrs. Cole indicated that the state would provide additional funds, but not enough to ease the problem.

Dr. Parry asked what would be the appropriate venue to discuss the impact to the school district if the IU drops the early intervention program.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that there would not be a direct financial impact on the school district.

Dr. Amuso indicated that he will monitor the situation and report at a later date.

**INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

Mr. Verbeke reported that the Indian Valley Public Library has just finished recarpeting and painting the library. He welcomed the public to come and see the new look.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

No report.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Sharon Gehret, Representative

No report.

**FEDERAL PROJECTS**

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

**REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR**

No report.



**UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Verbeke indicated that the Board should consider televising board meetings.

Dr. Parry questioned where and when this topic could be discussed. The Policy Committee would need to discuss the logistics and the Finance Committee would need to budget money for the program.

Mr. Verbeke mentioned that he had a listing of school districts that presently televise their meetings.

On a different subject, Mr. Lord indicated that he had received a letter regarding PSSA testing and results. He questioned the new guidelines regarding graduation requirements.

Mr. Silva responded by sharing Souderton's program and how assessment and intervention are structured to obtain the required number of proficient students.

Mrs. Cole shared that at a Parent Forum meeting at the high school this morning, Mr. Varano indicated that there are some students who are not proficient, but have the capability. There are some students who will not make proficient due to IEPs.

Mr. Silva indicated there are a number of students who are not motivated to do their best on PSSAs.

Mr. Wolf questioned the need for budgeting for the televising of board meetings.

Dr. Parry indicated that a process and policy must be discussed and put in place first.

Mr. Miller indicated that he was not in favor of televising board meetings.

Mr. Lord shared that he was concerned about a homework assignment given to his daughter, that required computer assistance. He was concerned because the same exact unit review and answers to the questions were provided on the web site that the class was given.

Mr. Silva and Dr. Amuso responded that the administration will review the situation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Brenda Jones Bray  
Board Secretary