

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

President Eric R. MacDougall called the meeting of the Souderton Area School Board to order on Thursday evening, January 12, 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	R. Bud Miller
	Bernard S. Currie	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Mark D. Leer	Victor M. Verbeke

ABSENT: Sharon J. Gehret

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Charles D. Amuso, Brenda Bray, R. Bradley Clemens, Lynn Connery-Orcutt, Naomi Donovan, Grace Eves, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Glenn Keller, Karen Manno, Karen Planinshek, Michelle Ruch, Gail Ryan, Joan Shellenberger, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, and Stan Wisler, representatives from The Reporter, Radio Station WNPV and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Souderton Area High School Yearbook Staff

Dr. Amuso introduced Michelle Ruch, who spoke about the yearbook accomplishments and also introduced the staff who were in attendance. The Souderton Area High School yearbook, "The Unaliyi," is one of five high school yearbooks from across the Commonwealth to be selected to receive an All-State Keystone Award at the Pennsylvania School Press Association's annual conference. This award is the highest honor PSPA presents to member publications. Yearbook advisor is Michelle Ruch. The 2005 staff members are:

KATLYN DAVIS - Editor
MEGAN BEAN - Student Life
KATHLEEN WAGNER – Organization
CATHERINE BLUM – Academics
AMANDA FRENCH – Sports
SHARON KULP – People

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION (continued)

Souderton Area High School Yearbook Staff (continued)

KERI PHILLIPS – Ads
ALEXANDRA HORVATH – Photography
JULIE LOCKWOOD – Photography
PAUL FISCHER – Editor-at-Large

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School Yearbook Staff, and their advisor, for their accomplishment. **EXHIBIT A**

Souderton Area High School United Nations Club

Dr. Amuso introduced Karen Manno, who spoke about the United Nations Club and their accomplishments. Ms. Manno also introduced the students who were in attendance. The United Nations Club recently participated in a Model United Nations High School Competition at Dickinson College with three students earning awards. Six high schools competed in the two-day event. Advisor is Karen Manno.

DANIEL CURZON – Outstanding Delegate Award
Disarmament Group

ASHLEY ALDERFER – Best Delegate Award
Social and Humanitarian Group

PAIGE WARBRICK – Honorable Mention Award
Social and Humanitarian Group

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Souderton Area High School United Nations Club, and their advisor, for their accomplishments. **EXHIBIT B**

National Board Certified Teachers

Dr. Amuso introduced Gail Ryan, Director of Elementary Education, who spoke about the National Board Certified Teacher program and the process that these teachers were successful in completing. The following teachers have achieved National Board Certification, which is a demonstration of a candidate's teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards. It is a symbol of commitment to excellence in teaching.

LYNN CONNERY-ORCUTT
NAOMI DONOVAN
KAREN PLANINSHEK
JOAN SHELLENBERGER

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION (continued)

National Board Certified Teachers (continued)

Mr. MacDougall indicated that it was a great honor for each teacher and the district.

Mrs. Cole indicated that she is excited to recognize these teachers, and that they exemplify what teaching is all about.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the National Board Certified Teachers for their accomplishment.

School Directors Recognition Month – Proclamation

Dr. Amuso read a proclamation recognizing School Board members and their service to the District.

EXHIBIT C

The Souderton Area School District would like to recognize the members of the School Board during the month of January 2006. This year's theme is "*School Directors for Student Achievement.*"

ERIC R. MacDOUGALL – Pres.

DR. JACK A. PARRY – Vice Pres.

WILLIAM J. BRONG
TRACY G. COLE
BERNARD S. CURRIE
SHARON J. GEHRET

MARK D. LEER
RALPH "BUD" MILLER
VICTOR M. VERBEKE

Requests for Conferences/Workshops

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

Mr. Miller asked about the NSBA Conference for Mrs. Cole.

Mrs. Cole indicated that it is an opportunity for professional development and also brings visibility and connection with federal legislators. She also explained the expenses involved in attending the conference.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7-1, with Mr. Miller voting no, it was

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

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

BONNIE ALGEO Special Education, High School	Pennsylvania Alternative System of Assessment Update King of Prussia, PA January 19, 2006 (Thurs.)
REBECCA FOGLE Supervisor of Secondary Special Ed.	Est. Expenses: \$ 18.69 (combined)
PATRICIA HEDRICK Special Education, Oak Ridge Elem.	Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (Algeo & Hedrick)
	Total Expenses: \$218.69 (combined)
BETSY RITCHIE Guidance, Indian Valley M. S.	Embracing Fear – Finding Courage Workshop King of Prussia, PA January 19, 2006 (Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$165.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$165.00
TRACY COLE School Board Member	National School Board Association Federal Relations Network Conference Washington, D.C. February 5-7, 2006 (Sun.-Tues.)
	Est. Expenses: \$1,112.40
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$1,112.40
KATHY RAMSPACHER Speech, Oak Ridge Elem.	Vocabulary for Students with Communication Devices Norristown, PA February 9, 2006 (Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$ 0.00
CASSIE BALZER Elem. Technology, Oak Ridge Elem.	Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference Hershey, PA February 20-21, 2006 (Mon.-Tues.)
DAVE RAMAGE Coord. of Technology Staff Development	Est. Expenses: \$1,301.88 (combined)
BRAD WENGER Elem. Technology, Salford Hills Elem. (Funds from Accountability Block Grant)	Sub. Expenses: <u>400.00</u> (combined)
	Total Expenses: \$1,701.88 (combined)
ROMY TRESSLER Home and School Visitor	Depression and Suicide Conference Bethlehem, PA February 21, 2006 (Tues.)
	Est. Expenses: \$111.15
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$111.15

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

BRENDA KRUPP Elem. Staff Development Coach	Mini-Institute on the Teaching of Reading New York, NY February 21-24, 2006 (Tues.-Fri.)
GAIL RYAN Director of Elem. Education	Est. Expenses: \$1,282.00 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$1,282.00 (combined)

KAREN GANA Title I Math Aide, Oak Ridge Elem.	Designing Effective Math Instruction for Struggling Students Norristown, PA February 24, 2006 (Fri.)
(Paid by Title I funds)	Est. Expenses: \$15.58 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$15.58

ROMY TRESSLER Home and School Visitor	Cyberbullying: Free Speech or On-Line Abuse Conf. Bethlehem, PA March 14, 2006 (Tues.)
	Est. Expenses: \$111.15 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$111.15

KATHY RAMSPACHER Speech, Oak Ridge Elem.	Assistive Technology Core Team Update Norristown, PA April 18, 2006 (Tues.)
	Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$ 0.00

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Stan Wisler

School Board Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the School Board Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2005 as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

Mr. MacDougall then recognized Mr. Wisler and presented a plaque and a “PowerPoint for Dummies” book in recognition for his years of service as Director of Business Affairs and Board Secretary to the Souderton Area School District.

Mr. Wisler thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity to work and grow in the Souderton Area School District for the past 13 years.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that there was an Executive Session held December 20, 2005 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

An Executive Session was held on January 4, 2006 to discuss a real estate tax appeal. The meeting lasted 15 minutes.

An Executive Session was held on January 4, 2006 to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2006 the Board held an information only session regarding the high school project with its architect and construction management firm. The meeting lasted 195 minutes.

Appointment of Board Secretary to Serve Remainder of Stan Wisler’s Term

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

RESOLVED, That the Board appoint Brenda Bray as Board Secretary to serve the remainder of Stan Wisler’s term, which ends June 30, 2009.

Mr. MacDougall also indicated that Mrs. Bray’s first official day will be January 23, 2006.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Financial Statements for December 2005

Mrs. Eves presented the financial report for December 2005 as an information item.

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

CURRICULUM

Second Reading of Planned Courses

Mr. Leer indicated that Technology – Grade 6 and School Store/Retail Management – Grades 10-12 planned courses are presented as a second reading and were reviewed at the last Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses

Mr. Leer then indicated that the next two items would be taken as separate motions.

a. **Photography – Grades 10-12**

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

Mr. Currie indicated that the Board has the responsibility to oversee curriculum and the allocation of resources. He does not feel that it is appropriate to offer a black and white photography course. It is not career relevant, and he felt that it should not be included in the Program of Studies catalog.

Mr. Miller indicated that in the new school, this course will be digital, based on his conversation with the high school teacher.

Mr. Silva explained the rationale and indicated that there are a myriad of reasons to include black and white photography at this point in the course of studies.

Mr. Currie also indicated that black and white content is already part of a Communications I class.

Dr. Parry asked how much overlap there is with the two courses.

Mr. Silva indicated that there is more of a focus in the black and white photography course as opposed to being covered just as one content area in the Communications class.

Mrs. Cole indicated that her sense is that students have demanded the program, since 100 have signed up for it. She believes that we need to expose students to a variety of issues, and that the black and white photography course seems to be popular.

Mr. Currie indicated that courses are popular for a variety of reasons; sometimes it is just because it is an easy credit.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that electives are to expose students to a variety of subject areas.

Phillip Rice, from Lower Salford Township, indicated that he has information that Nikon will stop making film cameras in the near future.

Mrs. Cole indicated that there are many courses where there are overlaps of topics covered. Our students are top caliber and not just looking for easy credits.

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses (continued)

a. Photography – Grades 10-12 (continued)

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 grant final approval of the Photography-Grades 10-12 course as presented.

b. Elementary Social Studies Program – Grades 2, 4, 5 Revision

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

RESOLVED, That the Board grant final approval of the Elementary Social Studies Program – Grades 2, 4, and 5 revision as presented.

Request for Out-of-State Field Trip

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

Dr. Parry asked which Broadway musical they would be attending.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the principal always approves all out-of-state field trips first. He added that he will include the title of the Broadway play that will be seen on future agendas.

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

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

Indian Crest Junior High School – Choir – Grades 8 and 9

Date: March 11, 2006 (Saturday)

Destination: New York City, NY

Purpose of Trip: See a Broadway musical, Sony Technical Museum, and Planet Hollywood.

Number of Students: 40

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 1 Parent Chaperones: 6

Teacher in Charge: Kimberly Brennan

Trip financed by students.

Recommendation to Approve the 2006-2007 School Calendar

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

Mr. Miller asked for clarification regarding the logistical problems that caused the one final adjustment at the Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

Mr. Leer explained and Dr. Amuso also clarified the issue.

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM

Recommendation to Approve the 2006-2007 School Calendar (continued)

The motion was amended to include the changes by Mr. Leer, second by Dr. Parry.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the amended 2006-2007 School Year Calendar as presented. **EXHIBIT D**

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the professional staff retirement, transfer and recommendations for employment as listed:

Retirement

MAUREEN R. KRUM

Spanish, Indian Crest Jr. High
Effective: January 27, 2006
Employed by SASD: 29 years

Transfer

BRENDA KRUPP

Replacement for
Donna Huff (transfer)

From: Third Grade, Franconia Elem.
To: Elementary Staff Development Coach
Effective: Second semester of 2005-2006 school year and also the 2006-2007 school year

Education

Temple Univ. (BS) 1979
Penn State Univ. (M.Ed.) 2001

Experience

1993-Present-SASD-Franconia Elem.-Second and Third Grades
1989-1993-SASD-Lower Salford Elem.-Third Grade

Recommendations for Employment

EMILY HUNSICKER

Replacement for
Anne Fitch (sabbatical leave)

French, Souderton Area High School
LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
Effective: Second semester 2005-2006 school year

Education

College of William and Mary
(BBA) 1978
Chestnut Hill College (Certif.)
2006

Experience

2003-Present-French Tutor
Jan. 2005-Present-Germantown Academy
Substitute Teacher
2003-2004-School District of Springfield Township
Enfield Elem.-Math Aide
Feb. 2001-Jarrettown Elem.-French After-School Program

Recommended Salary

\$18,282.50 – B+12 (1)
Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

JOSHUA PENNINGTON

Replacement for
Jennifer Forrest (resigned)

Education

California Univ. of PA (BS) 2005

Technology Education, Grade 6, Indian Valley

TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL

Beginning: January 2, 2006

Experience

Fall 2005-North Allegheny S. D.-Intermediate
and High School Technology Education
Student Teaching

Fall 2005-Fox Chapel Area High School-
Technology Systems Manufacturing –
Student Teaching

Recommended Salary

\$36,050 (pro-rated) – B (1)

SUPPORT STAFF

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the support staff resignations, transfer and recommendations for employment as listed:

Resignations

PAUL DALESSANDRO

Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Effective: December 22, 2005

EDDIE FERRITER

Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Effective: December 22, 2005

JOSH INSOGNA

Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Effective: January 4, 2006

MARK RITTER

Part-Time Custodian, West Broad Street Elem.
Effective: December 20, 2005

Transfer

NANCY DiGIANNANTONIO

Replacement for
Linda Landis (transfer)

From: Receptionist, Indian Crest Jr. High
To: Building Secretary, Oak Ridge Elem.
Beginning: To be determined
Hourly Rate: \$13.24
Hours: 7.5 per day

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment

LYNDA BROCK

Replacement for
Amanda Johnson (transfer)

Title V Aide, Lower Salford Elem.

Beginning: January 9, 2006

Hourly Rate: \$12.55

Hours: 6 per day

ANN MARIE PIERCE

Replacement for
Martha Moyer (resigned)

Learning Support Aide, Lower Salford Elem.

Beginning: January 9, 2006

Hourly Rate: \$9.08

Hours: 5.5 per day

Supplemental Contract for 2005-2006

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the supplemental contract for 2005-2006 as listed:

SUSAN MARKLEY

(replacing Lori Graf and Karen Yerk – childrearing)

Second Semester – Subject Area Advocate - Special Education

\$500.00

Souderton Area Community Education – Proposed Classes, Workshops, and Instructor Rates for Winter/Spring 2006 Session

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Community Education proposed classes, workshops and instructor rates for the Winter/Spring 2006 session as presented.

EXHIBIT E

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 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 Ralph “Bud” Miller, Representatives

No report.

The next Joint Operating Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 7:30 PM at the North Montco Technical Career Center, Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ralph "Bud" Miller, Chairperson

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Mr. Miller presented the report for use of facilities as listed:

Souderton Community Aquatic Club

Indian Crest Junior High School

February 23, 2006

End of Year Meeting

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Big Red Marching Band Boosters

Souderton Area High School - Cafeteria

December 30, 2005

Send off dinner prior to Sugar Bowl departure

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate - (4) Tables

Indian Creek Foundation

Franconia Elementary School – Parking Lot

June 17, 2006

Parking lot only for event participants in 'Roll & Stroll'

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Souderton Soccer Club

Indian Crest Junior High School – Gym

January 22, 2006 - March 26, 2006 – Sunday Eves Only – 6:30pm – 9:30pm

Soccer Practice

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Cub Scout Pack 137

Lower Salford Elementary – Cafeteria

January 6, 20; February 3, 10; March 3, 10, 2006 – 7:00pm – 8:00pm

Den Meetings

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Cub Scout Pack 137

Lower Salford Elementary – Cafeteria

March 24, 2006 – 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Pine Wood Derby

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

New High School Update

Mr. Miller gave an update on the high school construction project.

Dr. Parry asked if the schedule has been updated.

Mr. Miller indicated that it is more detailed now, but in general, the schedule is basically what we had anticipated, which is for the project to start around May 1st, 2006.

Dr. Parry indicated that he felt it would be a benefit to begin prioritizing alternates now; not when the bids come in.

Mr. Miller indicated that this will be discussed at the next Operations Committee meeting. He also gave an overview as to what would be covered at the Operations Committee meeting on January 18th. The construction manager will be at the meeting, and a review of the general time frame will be covered. He indicated that the district anticipates the release of bids on February 13th. Bids will be received on March 22nd, and reviewed on April 4th.

Mr. Miller also summarized an article regarding construction cost increases as published in a PSBA article.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 7:30 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

2004-2005 Financial Review - Informational

Dr. Parry indicated that the district is currently completing the management discussion and analysis which puts in layman's terms the financial statements that have already been reviewed. He indicated that when that report is completed, it would be submitted to the Board for approval.

Finance Committee

Recommendation to Authorize Solicitor's Office to Intervene in Tax Exempt Assessment Appeals for Lower Salford Township

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

RESOLVED, That the Board authorize the solicitor's office to intervene in the Tax Exempt Assessment Appeals for Lower Salford Township. **EXHIBIT F**

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole indicated that the Commercialization and Gifts Policy would be reviewed at the next Policy Committee meeting which will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 6:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

No report.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole reviewed what will happen at the conference and also indicated that they will be lobbying for increased federal funding.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Sharon J. Gehret, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL PROJECTS
Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Amuso read a statement regarding the issue that was raised at the December 20, 2005 Board meeting with regards to the environmental situation at West Broad Street Elementary School.

EXHIBIT G

Mr. MacDougall thanked Dr. Amuso and the administration for their diligent handling of the situation.

Phillip Rice asked if anyone is following up on the money for disabilities – IDEIA.

Mrs. Cole indicated that the history of IDEA goes back to the 1970's, and the retro amount certainly will not go back that far. She indicated that the appropriation of money for IDEA is a fraction of what they know it takes to run the program. She also explained the difference between what is authorized and what is appropriated. The two do not normally match.

Mr. Lord questioned a summer trip for ninth grade students. He indicated that the students can get elective credit for the trip. He also indicated that it was voted on by the Board in October, and the minutes indicated that credit would be given. Mr. Lord felt students should not be able to get credit for going on a "vacation."

Wolf Lackler, from Upper Salford Township, asked for clarification regarding the clean-up at West Broad and asked if we have someone that looks at these issues.

Dr. Amuso clarified the issue and reiterated some of the items already spoken about in his statement.

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 9:10 PM.

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stan Wisler
Secretary