

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Thursday, February 23, 2006 at 7:33 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	Eric R. MacDougall
	Tracy G. Cole	R. Bud Miller
	Bernard S. Currie	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Sharon J. Gehret	Victor M. Verbeke
	Mark D. Leer	

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Brad Clemens, Frank Gallagher, Ellen Jamison, Meghan McAllister, Steve Pollack, Laurie Reynolds, Kyle Robertson, Jack Silva, Paige Warbrick, representatives from The Intelligencer, The Reporter, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

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 9-0, it was

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

CRAIG EVANS District Psychologist	Association for School Psychologists in Pennsylvania Spring Conference
DR. W. STANTON HOLLOWAY District Psychologist	Harrisburg, PA
	March 8 & 9, 2006 (Wed. & Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$599.00 (combined)
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$599.00 (combined)

Report of the Superintendent

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)

PAUL R. BARBADORO English, Senior High School	Advanced Placement Training Wayne, NJ March 14, 2006 (Tues.)
DONA ITALIANO English, Senior High School	Est. Expenses: \$ 717.90 (combined)
JOHN MCLAUGHLIN English, Senior High School	Sub. Expenses: <u>400.00</u> (combined)
NATHAN WAMBOLD English, Senior High School	Total Expenses: \$1,117.90 (combined)
MARGARET GRADEL Special Education, Indian Valley M. S.	Co-Teaching That Works Seminar Philadelphia, PA March 17, 2006 (Fri.)
DOUGLAS R. HENNING Science, Indian Valley M. S.	Est. Expenses: \$621.76 (combined)
VALERIE YAMBRICK Special Education, Indian Valley M. S.	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$621.76 (combined)
LYNDELL AUCHENBACH Family Consumer Science Indian Valley M. S.	ESL Academy for Classroom Teachers in Grades 6-12 Norristown, PA March 22, 2006 (Wed.) April 11, 2006 (Tues.)
Paid with Title III funds.	Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$200.00
ARLENE BUCHMAN Spanish, Indian Crest Jr. High	Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages New York, NY March 31, 2006 (Fri.)
MARCY FARMER French, Indian Crest Jr. High	Est. Expenses: \$ 850.00 (combined)
	Sub. Expenses: <u>200.00</u> (combined)
	Total Expenses: \$1,050.00 (combined)
RENAI CARDILLO District Planning/Operations Secretary	Elements of Transportation Seminar Kulpsville, PA April 4, 2006 (Tues.)
	Est. Expenses: \$150.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$150.00

Report of the Superintendent

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)

SARA SCHWED District Psychologist	Childhood Bi-Polar Disorders Conference Lancaster, PA April 24 & 25, 2006 (Mon. & Tues.) Est. Expenses: \$281.75 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$281.75
GRACE EVES District Assistant Business Manager	Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials – Elements of Taxation Lansdale, PA May 2, 2006 (Tues.) Est. Expenses: \$125.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$125.00
JOYCE MUNDY Assistant Principal, Indian Crest Jr. High	Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators Women’s Leadership Conference Hershey, PA May 4 & 5, 2006 (Thurs. & Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$295.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$295.00
PATRICIA MATHUES CARS, Oak Ridge Elem.	Reciprocal Teaching with Lori Oczkus for Grades 2-8 Downingtown, PA May 31, 2006 (Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$206.70 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$206.70
PATRICIA MATHUES CARS, Oak Ridge Elem.	Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project Celebrate Literacy VII Conference West Chester, PA June 27 & 28, 2006 (Tues. & Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$185.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$185.00

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Brenda Jones Bray

School Board Minutes

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Dr. Parry.

Mr. Miller indicated that there were two corrections to the Minutes of February 9, 2006. One correction was that Mr. Brong should be listed as representative to the North Montco Technical Career Center and not Mr. Miller. The other correction is the proper name of LIBOR – London Interbank Offer Rate.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2006 School Board meeting as corrected.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session of the Board was held on February 9, 2006 to discuss litigation and negotiation issues. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

An Executive Session of the Board was held on February 15, 2006 to discuss real estate. The meeting lasted 30 minutes.

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

Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

Meghan McAllister, Paige Warbrick, and Kyle Robertson spoke about the recent and upcoming events, and the success of the winter sports teams at the high school.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listing for January 2006

Mrs. Bray presented the treasurer's report in the absence of Mrs. Eves.

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

Mr. Miller commented about the earned interest that has been received to date.

Dr. Parry questioned how Mr. Breslin, architect for the new high school project, is paid.

Mr. Sultanik responded that Mr. Breslin's contract had varied phases of payment throughout the project. The greatest amount paid was during the design phase.

Report of the Treasurer

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listing for January 2006 (continued)

Dr. Parry then questioned if the District was being charged for extra costs.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that the district business office is responsible for checking the invoices prepared by Mr. Breslin's office.

Mr. Pollack indicated that Mr. Breslin is to receive 5% of the estimated construction cost. However, when the bids are opened and the final construction costs are determined, the Mr. Breslin's payment would be adjusted.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the Board would receive information regarding this matter.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the financial statements and check listing for January 2006 as presented. **EXHIBIT A**

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Mr. Leer indicated that as of February 21, 2006, agenda items to be discussed, but not limited to at the March 1, 2006 Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be:

- €# The Multicultural Foods Planned Course.
- €# The Bullying Prevention Initiative.

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Third Reading and Final Approval of Planned Courses

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Program of Studies – 8th Grade for 2006-2007 as presented.

Requests for Out-of-State and Overnight Field Trips

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the out-of-state and overnight field trip requests as presented:

Education-Personnel Committee

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Requests for Out-of-State and Overnight Field Trips (continued)

- a. Souderton Area High School – Class of 2008 Student Council
Date: April 4-12, 2006 (Sunday-Wednesday)
Destination: State College, PA
Purpose of Trip: Leadership Institute for leadership training for student council.
Number of Students: 5
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 1 – Teacher
Teacher in Charge: Amanda Miller
Trip financed by students.

- b. Souderton Area High School – Future Business Leaders of America
Date: April 19-21, 2006 (Wednesday-Friday)
Destination: Hershey, PA
Purpose of Trip: Future Business Leaders of America Competition
Number of Students: 2
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 1 – Teacher
Teacher in Charge: Maria Halteman
Trip financed by students.

- c. Souderton Area High School – SAVE Organization
Date: April 19-21, 2006 (Wednesday-Friday)
Destination: Washington, D.C.
Purpose of Trip: To accept the Presidential Environmental Youth Award
Number of Students: 7
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 1 – Teacher
Teacher in Charge: Ken Hamilton
Trip financed by students.

- d. Franconia Elementary School – Fifth Grade Classes
Date: June 1, 2006 (Thursday)
Destination: New York City, NY
Purpose of Trip: Curriculum enrichment – Visit the Natural History Museum and the Bronx Zoo.
Number of Students: 79
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 6 – Teachers/Staff; 56 – Parents
Teachers in Charge: Tammy Lelii, Lauren Canning, Joe Pallozzi, Betty Shoemaker and Heather Hiester.
Trip financed by students and Home and School Association.

Education-Personnel Committee

OTHER ITEMS

Recommendation to Accept Montgomery County Special Needs Children’s Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1,006.95.

Dr. Amuso indicated that this grant will provide opportunities for the autistic students at Vernfield Elementary School.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that from reports at the last Board meeting, the District would need to find grants to fund programs. He expressed his delight that Souderton is receiving grant money.

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the Montgomery County Special Needs Children’s Foundation Grant in the amount of \$1,006.95. **EXHIBIT B**

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

There was a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Professional Staff request for childrearing leave; the Support Staff resignations and recommendation for employment; supplemental contract for supervisory position for 2005-2006; Community Education additional classes and instructors for the Winter/Spring 2006 session, and the additions to the 2005-2006 substitute teacher list as presented:

Request for Childrearing Leave

REBECCA DERSTINE Third Grade, West Broad Street Elem.
Leave to begin approximately October 2, 2006 through the first semester of the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Derstine is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year.

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignations

DEBBIE HAUCK Learning Support Aide, Indian Crest
Effective: February 13, 2006

KRISTIN MILOSEK Food Service Substitute
Effective: February 10, 2006

LORI SNYDER Cafeteria Aide, Indian Valley M. S.
Effective: February 24, 2006

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Recommendation for Employment

THERESA PEARSON Food Service Substitute
Beginning: February 27, 2006
Hourly Rate: \$8.51
Hours: as needed

Supplemental Contract for Supervisory Positions - 2005-2006

ADAM TUCKER Pep Band – High School \$ 400.00

Community Education – Additional Classes/Instructors for Winter/Spring 2006 Session

CHRISTINE WORSTALL	Italian Creations	\$ 60.00
IRENE SIVAR	Light and Simple Dishes	80.00
IRENE SIVAR	Appetizers and Snack Foods	80.00
WILL LAPP	Volleyball Supervisor – League	450.00
TOM MOYER	Volleyball Supervisor – League	150.00
BRAD GARRETT	Volleyball Supervisor – League	150.00
(Brad Garrett is a SASD Employee)		
ADELINE W. GEHMAN	Pop, Rock & Folk Guitar	400.00
ADELINE W. GEHMAN	P/C – Guitar for You and Your Child	275.00
(Replaces Robert Gordon for these Guitar courses)		
JUDY BRNDJAR	Conversational French	275.00
(Replaces Robert Gordon for this course)		

Additions to the 2005-2006 Substitute Teacher Listing

EXHIBIT C

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

Mr. Brong presented a report from the last Joint Operating Committee meeting. The Penn State Report will be completed by April or May. This report will show that North Montco is reaching its student capacity and concerns about the age of the building. He also reported that the first negotiation session took place between the teachers and administration. North Montco has also received a \$58,000 Tutoring Grant to help students who are not proficient.

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Monday, March 20, 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

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Mr. Miller indicated that items discussed at the February 15, 2006 Operations Committee meeting were as follows:

- €# High School Project Update
- €# Proposed Operations Budget for 2006-2007

Requests for Use of School Facilities

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

Big Red Band Boosters, Inc.

High School – Auditorium, Lobby, Band Room
Friday, February 3, 2006 – 6:00pm – 10:00pm
Battle of the Bands
Insurance Certificate on file

Indian Crest Parent Meeting

Indian Crest – Library
Wednesday, March 8th, 2006 – 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Disney Trip Planning Meeting

Beechwood Homeowner’s Association

Indian Valley Middle School – Auditorium
Tuesday, March 14, 2006 – 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Annual Homeowner’s Association Meeting
Insurance Certificate on file

Bux-Mont Baseball Instruction

Indian Valley Middle School – Gym
Saturday, March 25, 2006 – 9:00am – 12:00pm
Pitching Clinic Fundraiser
Insurance Certificate on file

Harleysville Baseball

Lower Salford Elementary School – Cafeteria
Thursday, February 2, 2006 – 6:00pm – 9:00pm
Umpires Clinic
Insurance Certificate on file

Harleysville Swim Team

Lower Salford Elementary School – Cafeteria/Lobby
Wednesday, April 19, 2006 – 6:30pm – 9:00pm
Friday, April 21, 2006 – 6:30 – 9:00pm
Swim Team Registration
Insurance Certificate on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Oak Ridge Home & School Association

Oak Ridge Elementary School – Computer Lab

Monday, January 23, 30, February 27, 2006 – 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Planning Yearbook Production

Insurance Certificate on file

Oak Ridge Home & School Association

Oak Ridge Elementary School – L Pod and Playground

Wednesday, February 1, 2006

After School Recreation Program

Insurance Certificate on file

Oak Ridge Home & School Association

Oak Ridge Elementary School – Cafeteria, Gym, L Pod,

G Pod, Library, H Pod, Bathrooms and Hallways

Friday & Saturday, March 3 – 4, 2006 – 4:30pm – 9:00am

Prime Time Reading – 5th Grade Sleepover

Insurance Certificate on file

Oak Ridge Home & School Association

Oak Ridge Elementary School – L Pod, Cafeteria, Gym,

Library, Bathrooms and Hallways

Friday, March 24, 2006 – 4:30pm – 8:00pm

Insurance Certificate on file

West Broad Street Home & School Association

High School – Pool

Thursday, March 16th, 2006 – 7:30pm – 9:00pm

Family Swim Night

Insurance Certificate on file

Souderton Area Soccer Association (EPYSA)

Franconia Elementary – Soccer Fields

Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., July 17 – Nov. 30, 2006

6:15pm – 7:46pm

Community Youth Soccer

Insurance Certificate on file

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Souderton Area School District Community Education Program

Franconia Elementary – Various parts of the building

Summer Adventure 2006

Mon – Fri, June 19 – Aug 18, 2006

7:00am – 6:00pm

Souderton Area School District Community Education Program

Indian Valley Middle School – Room B-10

Driver's Ed Class – July and August

Various Dates - 8:30am – 11:30am

High School Project Update

Mr. Miller indicated that the bids have gone out for the new high school project.

Mr. Brong asked for an update on bidders for the high school project.

Mr. Pollack responded that presently, there are four general contractors, two pool contractors, and seven or eight specialty contractors, such as HVAC, data, electrical, plumbing, etc. A few of the specialty contractors are overlapping services. Bids will be opened on March 22nd.

Kelly Murphy, from Souderton, asked if something could be done about the water problem on the West Broad Street Elementary fields.

TRANSPORTATION

No report

FOOD SERVICE

No report

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Dr. Parry indicated that as of February 21, 2006, agenda items to be discussed, but not limited to at the March 1, 2006 Finance Committee meeting will be:

- €# 2006-2007 Budget Discussion – Functions 2600 (Operations)
- Functions 2700 (Transportation)

Discussion of SWAP Options.

Dr. Parry indicated that the administration will make a presentation at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Miller asked about the timeline for making a decision on the SWAP option.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the topic will be discussed at the March 1st Finance Committee meeting and then put on the March 9th Board agenda for action.

Mr. Currie suggested that the Board wait until bids are opened to make a final decision.

Dr. Parry agreed that the Board should wait until bids are opened.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 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 February 15, 2006 Policy Committee meeting, the following policies were discussed:

First Reading of Policies

Mrs. Cole indicated that the committee reviewed and discussed Policy #702 – Gifts, Grants, Donations. The changes made were mostly adding definitions and updating the present policy. There was some wording that was moved to other more appropriate policies.

Mrs. Cole indicated that the committee did not have enough time to look at Policy #011 – Board of Governance Standards/Code of Conduct at the last meeting. She shared that this policy was received from PSBA (Pennsylvania School Boards Association). The policy mainly deals with how the Board conducts themselves. More than 200 school districts in Pennsylvania have already adopted the policy in its entirety. Mrs. Cole shared that there is a bill in the legislature that would require board members to attend a minimum of 40 hours of training and take an exam at the end of the training.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that this legislation includes penalties to school districts if a board member does not adhere to the provisions of the bill.

Policy Committee

Second Reading of Policy

Mrs. Cole presented Policy #913.1 – Commercialism in Schools, for a second reading. She reviewed the history of the policy and highlighted some of the changes and additions to the policy.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification of the highlighted areas and strikeout areas on the policies in the Board packet.

Mrs. Cole explained that the highlighted areas indicate additions or reordering of language to present policy. The strikeout areas indicated removal of language from the present policy.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 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 reported that the new IU Board member orientation took place on February 16, 2006. Topics discussed during the meeting were the purchase of the IU's present facility. Up to now, they have been leasing the facility. The IU plans to purchase something more centrally located in the county. Also introduced to the IU Board were the members of the Cabinet and an explanation of the nine divisions of the IU. Mrs. Cole shared that the Intermediate Unit is a vital resource and we need to tap into it and use the resources to the fullest extent.

Mrs. Cole indicated that at the IU Board meeting on February 22nd, the four operating budgets for 2006-2007 were approved. Souderton will be voting on these budgets sometime in April. The budgets show a 3.59% increase in Souderton's portion of IU funding.

Mr. Miller questioned if there was any opposition to the budget from any of the sending school districts.

Mrs. Cole responded that the IU Board voted unanimously to approve the operating budgets.

Mrs. Cole also mentioned that the IU Board discussed their role in Senate Bill #30 and House Bill #1 regarding property tax legislation. Dr. Lori Stout, from the IU, will be putting together a position paper relating to the IU's position on the legislation.

Mrs. Cole reported that the IU is running at a deficit for early intervention programs. Dr. Shively, executive director, reported on what the IU is doing to cut costs. It is very possible that some programs may be discontinued before the end of this school year.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole indicated that she had received information regarding the impact of President Bush's 2007 budget. There is a \$12.3 billion shortfall, which calls for the elimination of 42 different programs.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Sharon Gehret, Representative

Mrs. Gehret encouraged Board members to attend the March 5-6, 2006 PSBA Legislative Leadership Conference in Hershey. Several gubernatorial candidates and local legislators will be attending the conference.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Tim Howe, from Telford, asked when the Board meetings would be recorded for TV.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the question would need to be addressed by both the Policy Committee and Finance Committee at future meetings.

Mr. MacDougall announced that there would be an Executive Session following tonight's Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mrs. Gehret, and on a vote of 9-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary