

Souderton Area School District
760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

President Richard Swartley called the meeting of the Souderton Area School Board to order on Thursday evening, November 10, 2005 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	Tracy Cole	Eric MacDougall
	Sharon Gehret	Dr. Jack Parry
	Mark Leer	Richard Swartley
ABSENT:	R. Bud Miller (Arrived at 8:50 PM) Richard Thompson	
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were Dr. Charles D. Amuso, Karen Berk, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Ellen Jamison, Steve Pollack, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, Stan Wisler; Board members elect: William Brong, Bernard Currie, and Victor Verbeke; representatives from The Reporter, The Souderton Independent, Radio Station WNPV and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Charles D. Amuso, Ed.D.

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION

Souderton Area High School Commended Students

Dr. Amuso introduced Mr. Varano, who introduced the Souderton Area High School Commended students who were in attendance. The following Souderton Area High School seniors are among the 36,000 students nationwide to be named Commended students by the National Merit Corporation. These students demonstrated their academic prowess by their high score of the PSAT test, which was taken in their junior year.

NICHOLAS BARONE
MICHAEL CRAVEN

ALISON GOTWALS
JENNIFER HEAVENER

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize these students for their accomplishment.

EXHIBIT A

Report of the Superintendent

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITION (continued)

2005 Exemplary Teacher of Science Award

Mr. Varano also introduced Ken Hamilton and spoke about his accomplishment and his work with students at the high school. **KEN HAMILTON**, a Souderton Area High School science teacher and the founder/director of Students Against Violating the Earth (SAVE) organization, has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 Exemplary Teachers of Science Award (Grades 9-12) presented by the Montgomery County Science Teachers Association.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Ken Hamilton for his accomplishment.

EXHIBIT B

Recognition of Heidi M. Johnson

Dr. Amuso thanked Heidi Johnson for her years of service on the Board. **HEIDI M. JOHNSON** has served as a member of the Board of School Directors from her appointment in July 2002 to October 2005. Mrs. Johnson served as vice president from December 2004 to October 2005.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Heidi Johnson for her service to the Souderton Area Board of School Directors.

Board members offered their comments in appreciation to Mrs. Johnson's service to the Board.

Mr. Swartley thanked Mrs. Johnson for her efforts and hard work as a Board member.

Mrs. Johnson also addressed the Board and public and indicated that she had appreciated the opportunity to serve this community. She encouraged the Board to continue their hard work and to strive for continued excellence and improvement in the district. Mrs. Johnson acknowledged the many hours that Board members put in to provide this service to the community and district.

Requests for Conferences/Workshops

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

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

AMY FELICIANI	Wilson Foundations Reading Workshop
Special Education, Lower Salford Elem.	West Norriton, PA
	November 11, 2005
	Est. Expenses: \$ 3.53
Paid by IDEA funds.	Sub. Expenses: <u>100.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$103.53

Report of the Superintendent

Requests for Conferences/Workshops (continued)

GAIL RYAN
Director of Elem. Ed.

Paid by Title I funds.

National Council of Teachers of English
Pittsburgh, PA
November 17-18, 2005 (Thurs.-Fri.)
Est. Expenses: \$872.00
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Expenses: \$872.00

CATHERINE BALZER
Technology, Oak Ridge Elem.

Podcasting in Education Workshop
Norristown, PA
December 7, 2005 (Wed.)
Est. Expenses: \$ 20.00
Sub. Expenses: 100.00
Total Expenses: \$120.00

AMY GLOVER
Third Grade LS, Franconia Elem.

Progress Monitoring and Instructional
Interventions in Written Expression Research Project
Harrisburg, PA/King of Prussia, PA
February 1, 2006 (Wed.)
May 9, 2006 (Tues.)
Paid by IDEA funds.

Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
Sub. Expenses: 300.00
Total Expenses: \$300.00

COLLEEN A. WEGIMONT
Health/Phys. Ed., Oak Ridge Elem.

Health/Physical Education Eastern District Convention
Hartford, CT
March 1-3, 2006 (Wed.-Fri.)
Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
Sub. Expenses: 300.00
Total Expenses: \$300.00

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Stan Wisler

School Board Minutes

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the School Board Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2005 as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Richard Swartley

An executive session was held October 27, 2005 to discuss personnel and collective bargaining. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

An executive session was held on November 2, 2005 to discuss personnel and collective bargaining. The meeting lasted two hours.

Mr. Swartley indicated that there was an executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

American Education Week Proclamation – November 13-19, 2005

Mr. Swartley read a proclamation regarding American Education Week.

EXHIBIT C

Appointment of a Board Member to Serve the Remainder of the Term of Former Board Member Heidi Johnson. The new Board member will serve until November 30, 2007.

Mr. Swartley indicated that due to the fact that there would be another Board member arriving later tonight, this action item would be deferred until later in the meeting.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Financial Statements for October 2005

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

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Richard Thompson, Chairperson

Mrs. Gehret gave the report in the absence of Mr. Thompson.

CURRICULUM

Executive Summary on Secondary PSSA Test Scores

Mr. Silva gave an update regarding the secondary PSSA test scores.

Program of Studies – Grades 9-12

Mrs. Gehret indicated that the Program of Studies for grades 9-12 will be discussed at the next Education-Personnel Committee meeting and urged community members to attend the meeting.

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the administrative staff transfer and the professional staff requests for compensated leave as listed:

Transfer

DONNA HUFF
Replacement for
Frank Gallagher (transfer)

From: District Staff Development Coach
To: Principal, Lower Salford Elem.

ACT 93 GROUP

Beginning: November 16, 2005

Education

West Chester Univ. (BS) 1974
Lehigh Univ. (M.Ed.) 1977

Experience

1999-Present-SASD-Staff Development Coach
1990-1999-SASD-Lower Salford Elem.-First and
Second Grade Teacher
1989-1990-Quakertown Community S. D.-First Grade
Teacher
1983-1988-Pennridge Community-Reading Tutor
Grades 1-6
1974-1980-SASD-E. M. Crouthamel Elem.-Kindergarten,
Transitional First and Third Grade Teacher

Recommended Salary

\$92,474 (Pro-rated)

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Requests for Compensated Leave

DEBRA ESCHBACH
Health/Physical Education
High School

Time Period: Second semester, 2005-2006 school year
Purpose: Professional Development

JENNIFER K. KLING
Technology, Vernfield Elem.

Time Period: Second semester, 2005-2006 school year
Purpose: Professional Development

Mrs. Huff thanked the Board for the opportunity and indicated that she is anxious to return "home" to Lower Salford Elementary School.

SUPPORT STAFF

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

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

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

SUPPORT STAFF (continued)

Resignations

SANDRA SCHURY

Study Hall Aide, Senior High School
Effective: October 20, 2005

INGRID SMITH

Special Education Aide, Indian Crest Jr. High
Effective: November 18, 2005

Recommendations for Employment

RICHARD BOUCHEY

Replacement for
Steve Gehringer (resigned)

Part-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Jr. High
Beginning: November 9, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$8.96 per hour
Hours: 4 per day

ALICIA CROSSGROVE

Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Lower Salford
Beginning: November 11, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$8.50 per hour
Hours: as needed

KAREN GANA

Replacement for
Shawn Warmkessel (resigned)

Title I Math Assistant, Oak Ridge Elem.
Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Oak Ridge Elem.
Beginning: November 3, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$12.00 per hour – Title I
\$8.50 per hour – Cafeteria/Playground
Hours: 6 per day – Title I
1 per day – Cafeteria/Playground

DINA GERHARD

Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Lower Salford
Beginning: November 11, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$8.50 per hour
Hours: as needed

LINDA THOMPSON

Replacement for
Terry Freeman (transfer)

Cafeteria/Playground Aide, West Broad Elem.
Beginning: November 7, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$8.50 per hour
Hours: 1.5 per day/2 days per week

Transfer

RENAI CARDILLO

Replacement for
Judith Gerhart (retiring)

From: Secretary, Main Office, High School
To: Secretary to the Supervisor of Planning & Operations
Beginning: December 6, 2005
Hourly Rate: \$13.24 per hour
Hours: 7.5 per day

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the additional supplemental contracts for mentor positions 2005-2006, supplemental contracts for services and coaching positions 2005-2006, and contracted services for coaching positions 2005-2006 as listed:

Additional Supplemental Contracts for Mentor Positions – 2005-2006

JENNIFER SINKINSON	Mentor for Suzanne Pfister (FR) Replacement for Kathleen Benner.	\$ 600.00 pro-rated
AMY FELICIANI & MELINDA GROSSO	Mentor for Megan Gordon (LS) Change from only Amy Feliciani as mentor.	300.00 300.00
LYNN ROBINSON	Mentor for Laurie Mazurek (VF) Change from sharing the position with Deb Derro.	300.00

Supplemental Contracts for Services and Coaching Positions – 2005-2006

DANIEL BARBER	Master Schedule Development and Grade Maintenance (HS)	\$5,700.00
PERRY ENGARD	Head Boys Basketball Coach (HS)	5,053.00
WILLIAM CODDINGTON	Assistant Freshman Boys Basketball Coach (HS)	3,662.00
LYNN CARROLL	Head Girls Basketball Coach (HS)	4,112.00
THOMAS WELCH	Assistant Freshman Girls Basketball Coach (HS)	2,795.00
KATIE MULLEN	Assistant JV Girls Basketball Coach (HS)	2,879.00
ROBERT FACCENDA	Head Boys Swimming Coach (HS)	4,812.00
STANLEY SMITH	Head Wrestling Coach (HS)	5,173.00
JOHN ROWE	Head Girls Winter Track Coach (HS)	3,470.00
JOHN DONAHUE	Head Boys Winter Track Coach (HS)	3,115.00

Contracted Services for Coaching Positions – 2005-2006

MICHAEL STADNYCKI	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (HS)	\$2,936.00
LARRY HILL	Assistant JV Boys Basketball Coach (HS)	3,083.00
STEVE CHAPMAN ^	Assistant Girls Basketball Coach (HS)	3,572.00
TERRENCE NESENHOHN	Head Girls Swimming Coach (HS)	4,092.00
TRISHA SWANSON	Assistant Girls Swimming Coach (HS)	2,496.00
WILLIAM HENCE	Assistant Diving Coach (HS)	3,191.00
TIMOTHY ALDERFER	Assistant Wrestling Coach (HS)	2,763.00

^ *New to Coaching at SASD.*

Addition to Substitute Teacher Listing for 2005-2006

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the additions to the substitute teacher listing for 2005-2006 as presented.

EXHIBIT D

Education-Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Community Education – Aquatic Recommendation for Employment

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Community Education recommendation as listed:

INGRID SMITH	Supervisor	\$12.00 per hour
	Instructor	10.00 per hour
	Guard	9.00 per hour

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 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 Monday, November 21, 2005 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. Leer presented the report in the absence of Mr. Miller.

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

S/H Youth Basketball

Salford Hills Elementary School

Friday, November 18, 2005

Referee Clinic

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Harleysville Soccer

Senior High School

Sundays, December 4, 2005 - March 26, 2006

Soccer Practice

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate - custodial overtime \$32/hour

Lower Salford Home & School Association

Lower Salford Elementary School

Thursday, January 12; Wednesday & Thursday, January 18 & 19, 2006

Lip Sync Rehearsal

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Denise Gucwa School of Dance

Indian Crest Junior High School

Friday & Saturday, June 2 & 3, 2006

Dance Recital

Class 6 - Insurance Certificate - custodial overtime \$24/hour, auditorium rental \$800, classroom rental \$75/each, light & sound tech, \$10/each (if used), air conditioning, \$25/hour (if used), sound system, light system

Harleysville Girls Softball

Oak Ridge Elementary School

Sunday thru Saturday, March 13, 2006 thru October 31, 2006

Softball Games & Practices

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Harleysville Girls Softball

Indian Valley Middle School

Sunday thru Saturday, March 13, 2006 thru October 31, 2006

Softball Games & Practices

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Cub Scout Pack #137

Lower Salford Elementary School

Fridays, November 11, December 2, 9, 2005

Cub Scout Den Meeting

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

Operations Committee

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

Cub Scout Pack #137

Lower Salford Elementary School

Friday, December 16, 2005

Cub Scout Pack Meeting

Class 3 - Insurance Certificate

New High School Project Update

Mr. Leer talked about the recent developments with the new high school, including the Memorandum of Understanding with Franconia Township, the finalized contract with D'Huy, and the fact that D'Huy will begin their work to review the construction documents.

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 7:30 PM in the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices, Lowell A. Tinner Board Room, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Eric MacDougall, Chairperson

Recommendation to Approve 2005-2006 Budgetary Transfers

Upon a motion by Mr. MacDougall, second by Dr. Parry, and on a vote of 6-0, it was

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

EXHIBIT E

Review of Public Financial Management Future Financing Options

Mr. MacDougall reviewed the options that were presented by PFM (Public Financial Management) at the last Finance Committee meeting. He also briefly reviewed the swap option that was reviewed as a possibility for the balance of the new high school financing.

Mr. MacDougall introduced Jamie Doyle, from PFM, who reviewed the November 10th handout, which is the same as the handout reviewed at the Finance Committee.

Finance Committee

Review of Public Financial Management Future Financing Options (continued)

There was discussion among the Board members regarding the swap option. The Board indicated their intent to move forward.

There was a motion by Mr. MacDougall, second by Dr. Parry to authorize PFM to move forward with Option #2 - BMA Forward Swap, and that further documentation be provided to the Finance Committee at the next Finance meeting.

Mr. Swartley asked for an explanation of the timeline in process, since this is a different type of financing than the Board has done in the past. He asked if this action was more preliminary than the normal action for a typical bond issue.

Jamie Doyle indicated that this is a little different and it is more preliminary than the normal action.

Mr. Currie asked if the swap option fixes the dollar amount.

Mrs. Doyle indicated that it would fix the dollar amount at the time the Board action is taken.

Mr. Lackler asked if this is a new or existing bond issue.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that this would be a new issue.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board authorize PFM to move forward with Option #2 - BMA Forward Swap, and that further documentation be provided to the Finance Committee at the next Finance meeting. **EXHIBIT F**

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

Policies Currently Under Review

Mrs. Cole indicated that the three policies listed would be reviewed at the next Policy Committee meeting.

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

Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 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

No report.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Richard Thompson, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy Cole, Representative

Mrs. Cole reviewed the attempt at the federal level to place private school vouchers in recent legislation.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Sharon Gehret, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

Dr. John Eells, Coordinator

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Sultanik reported on the status of contract negotiations and reviewed the process and progress to date as listed in the attached exhibit. **EXHIBIT G**

(NOTE: Mr. Miller arrived during Mr. Sultanik's review – 8:50 PM)

Mrs. Cole then indicated that she was relaying information from Terry May, who had called her, and expressed her concern with the current status. Mrs. May indicated that the District must come up with a plan to provide aide coverage in the buildings.

Report of the Solicitor

Mary McGee, from Harleysville, read a statement on behalf of the support association. That statement is included as part of these minutes.

EXHIBIT H

Wayne Keller, a resident of the district, indicated the aides are not new to the position, so the fact that the contract is new should have no bearing on negotiations. (This was in reference to the Fact-Finder's statement that this is a first contract and should be accepted.)

Cliff Buetikofer, from Harleysville, indicated his support of the aides, especially the aides in the autistic classroom at Vernfield. He urged the Board to resolve the issue now.

Pat Hunter, a resident of the district and parent of a special needs student at the high school, indicated her desire that the aides receive benefits.

Terry Kleckner, who also has a special needs student at the high school, challenged the Board to go into these special needs classrooms, indicating that the IEP requirements are not being met.

Nicole Spiese, from Telford, indicated that she comes from a different point of view and mentioned that the big issue is really money. The district's community and Board need to lobby Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. for additional funding, especially as it relates to No Child Left Behind. Mrs. Spiese indicated that there are bigger issues, and the concerns of the entire community must be addressed.

Mr. Miller indicated that the Board's silence is not an indication that we don't care, but urged the support staff in attendance to get different leadership. Send people to the table who are able to negotiate with the Board.

Mrs. Gehret reiterated what she stated at a prior meeting, that 5.5 hours is not full-time, and she will not approve a contract that indicates that 5.5 hours is full-time.

Rosemary Brooke spoke in support of the aides and how hard they work.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that the Board is not saying that the aides don't work hard.

Mrs. Cole indicated that she is not speaking for other Board members, but has seen the aides work in the schools, and many have started as volunteer parents who moved into a paid position. She does respect the job that they do.

Sandy Thierer, Lower Salford Elementary aide for 19 years, indicated that her feeling is that kids and teachers respect the aides, but the Board does not.

Sheri Welsh indicated that she is new to the teacher's aide group since September, and that surrounding districts offer benefits. The Board wants parity themselves, but doesn't budge for the aides.

Report of the Solicitor

Mr. Swartley indicated that the Board will not negotiate in public, but urged the union to appoint leadership that can get a settlement. He indicated that there will be future chances to negotiate contract issues.

Dr. Parry indicated that there are a lot of emotions tied to this issue. Many of the accusations are inaccurate and inappropriate. He indicated that he knows first-hand what aides do, since he has experienced doing that job. He objects to what is being proposed and being called full-time.

Rosemary Brooke indicated that 6 hours and more is not part-time.

Wayne Walton spoke and urged the Board to come to an agreement. He indicated that the schools cannot run without the aides.

Mr. Sultanik expressed his frustration with the way the leadership has not gone to the membership to sell any agreements, informal and tentative, that have been agreed. They are not bargaining in good faith.

Mr. Miller indicated again that the Board does not want to negotiate the contract in the public.

Mr. Walton expressed his concern that the fact-finder report was only there because the fact-finder knew there was a tentative agreement.

Mr. Swartley indicated that the Board would like to get this settled.

Mr. Walton indicated that he felt it could be settled in a half hour.

Kelly Murphy spoke to the aides and indicated that they deserve more, but was disappointed that they had no representation at the last meeting. The leadership and the Board need to get together.

Mark Gonyay indicated that his sense is that there is mistrust among the aides that they won't get benefits with the next contract.

Mr. Miller expressed that we are not allowed to negotiate with the union. It must be with union leadership and again urged the union to send leadership to meet with the Board that could bargain in good faith.

Mike Cahill, teacher at the high school, indicated that he will be covering a special needs class at the high school and he is not good at it. He urged the Board to consider offering a minimal health plan and also investigate what other districts are doing.

Mrs. Capaldi indicated that she works at Pennridge School District, but as a parent in the District, urged the Board to offer benefits to aides on a sliding scale. She expressed her opinion that things are not going well in the schools.

Report of the Solicitor

Andrea Hearn indicated that she is a parent of a learning support child, and her child is not getting the individual attention that he needs. She urged the Board to respect the aides.

Patty Watson, parent of a child at Oak Ridge, expressed her opinion that the Board doesn't respect the aides. The students are not getting the attention they need.

Mr. Swartley indicated at this point that the next item would be discussion regarding the replacement for Mrs. Johnson's Board seat. He indicated that three applicants have come forward, Barbara May, Stephen Nelson and Tracy Cole. Each person would be interviewed by the Board tonight and asked to make a statement as to the reason why they want to be on the Board and then asked a series of questions. Mr. Swartley indicated that the Board would take a break prior to conducting the interviews, which will be done in alphabetical order.

The break was taken at 10:00 PM.

The Board reconvened at 10:17 PM.

Mr. Swartley again reviewed the process and indicated that six Board members would be voting, Mrs. Cole would not be voting.

A member of the public asked if there would be an opportunity for comments from the public.

Mr. Swartley responded yes, comments could be addressed to the Board prior to the vote.

Interviews were then conducted – Tracy Cole, Barbara May, and then Stephen Nelson.

Mr. Swartley thanked the applicants and indicated that all three are strong. The Board would be entertaining action to appoint one of them.

Paul Baumgartner, from Franconia, indicated that he wanted to talk about the process that was used to appoint a Board member and that applications should have been asked for. The Board should have indicated that there would be interviews. He also shared his concerns about the process of the possibly of appointing an individual who did not get enough votes in the election. Mr. Baumgartner urged the Board to make the right decision.

Betsy Whitman, from Harleysville, indicated her support Tracy Cole and shared that Mrs. Cole has shown her commitment to the District. The decision must be made in the best interest of the students of the District and urged the Board not to give in to partisan politics.

Wayne Keller expressed that the voters have spoken and they do not want Mrs. Cole.

Mark Gonyay commended the Board for doing this and urged them to do the right thing.

Report of the Solicitor

Ernie Rosato indicated that the electorate has spoken, and that right should not be taken away from the voters. They indicated that they do not want Mrs. Cole on the Board. He expressed his opinion that it is not the Board's decision to cast a vote against what the electorate wanted.

Elise Bowers indicated that she voted for one person in the election. With the huge issues facing the District, she is in support of Mrs. Cole.

Greg Robertson indicated that these are three good candidates, but by far the best qualified is Mrs. Cole. The goal is educating students, not politics.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that the Board could vote by roll call for whom they wanted or it could be a nomination process.

Mr. Swartley urged all candidates to stay involved, even if they are not appointed to this position.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out and expressed that the Board appreciates their interest in the District.

Mr. Leer indicated that this is a good group of candidates and thanked them. He indicated that it is good to have diverse backgrounds, and it is important to allow for diversity on the Board.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that there will be opportunities in the future, as there will be five seats up in the next election in two years. He indicated that based on the recent election, we will already have three new people and we need some continuity on the Board. Mr. MacDougall expressed his appreciation to those who came out.

Mr. Swartley indicated that Mrs. Cole intended to resign her current position immediately if this action was approved.

The vote was taken with Mr. Sultanik explaining that by roll call each member would indicate who they are voting for.

The roll call was taken and all six Board members, Mrs. Gerhart, Mr. Leer, Mr. MacDougall, Mr. Miller, Dr. Parry and Mr. Swartley voted for Mrs. Cole.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board appoint Tracy Cole to the unexpired term of Mrs. Heidi Johnson and also approve her intent to resign her current position immediately. Mrs. Cole will serve until the end of November 2007.

President Richard Swartley then swore in Mrs. Cole.

Mr. Swartley announced that there would be an executive session after tonight's meeting for personnel issues.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. MacDougall, and on a vote of 7-0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the adjournment of the meeting at 11:45 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Stan Wisler
Secretary