

**Souderton Area School District**

760 Lower Road  
Souderton, PA 18964

A regular public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held Thursday, March 29, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Eric MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

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

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Molly Dugan, Megan Duryea (Fox Rothschild), Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Lisa Gurgick, Dan Kujala, Laurie Reynolds, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Steve Straka, Sam Varano, Teresa Washam, Glenn Williard (PFM), representatives from *The Arrowhead*, *The Souderton Independent*, *The Reporter*, and the public.

RECOGNITION

Recognition of Choral, Band and Orchestra Students

Dr. Amuso introduced Sam Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, who recognized the achievements of this group of students and called on Dan Kujala, Steve Straka, and Teresa Washam to introduce the student musicians.

Dan Kujala, orchestra director, Steve Straka, band director, and Teresa Washam, vocal music director each introduced their music students and talked about their accomplishments. Following the recognition, the choral students performed a brief musical selection for the Board and audience.

The following students have obtained District, Regional or State recognition in music during the 2006-2007 school year:

**ERICA CHERRY** – Clarinet - District & Regional Band  
**MATTHEW PIATEK** – Trumpet - District & Regional Band  
**GEORGEANNE PILIGIAN** – Clarinet - District Band  
**KYLE ROBERTSON** – Clarinet - District & Regional Band

**ANNIE ZAGORSKI** – Viola - District Orchestra & Regional VI Orchestra  
(Sr. Violist)

RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

Recognition of Choral, Band and Orchestra Students (continued)

**BENJAMIN BRUEN** – Bass 1 – District, Regional & All-State Chorus  
**LYDIA CONVEY** – Alto 2 - District, Regional & All-State Chorus  
**REBECCA GRAFTON** – Alto 1 – District & Regional Chorus  
**CASSANDRA McCLOUD** – Soprano 2 – District & Regional Chorus  
**MICHAEL NELSON** – Bass 1 – District, Regional & All-State Chorus  
**BRIAN PEDDIE** – Tenor 2 – District & Regional Chorus  
**SARAH THOMPSON** – Alto 1 – District, Regional & All-State Chorus  
**JOSHUA WASHAM** – Bass 1 – District Chorus

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Brong to recognize these outstanding music students. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0 it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize these music students for their outstanding achievements. **EXHIBIT A**

Dr. Amuso thanked the parents in attendance for their support. He also encouraged everyone to attend the remaining performances of *Peter Pan* and all of the schools' spring concerts.

Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

**KYLE ROBERTSON** – Senior – Class of 2007  
**DAN BITNER** – Senior – Class of 2007  
**VAN LE** – Junior – Class of 2008

Van Le spoke about the SAVE recycling project that will be held in the spring, the Junior Prom, and a college sneak preview for juniors sponsored by the Guidance Department.

Kyle Robertson reported that FBLA did very well in at their regional competition; the Key Club is collecting G-Rated DVD's for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; the Sophomore Class will be sponsoring a "Movie Night" in September; National Honor Society's "Sleep Out for the Homeless," and Student Council's Easter Egg Hunt, Red & White Nights, Career Day, and Senior Luncheon.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments from the public.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held on March 15, 2007 for a Board debriefing meeting. The meeting lasted 15 minutes.

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

A Board workshop was held on March 22, 2007 for the purpose of discussing Board governance. That workshop lasted three hours.

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

### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Education-Personnel Committee – Mr. Mark Leer, Chairperson

Mr. Currie reported in Mr. Leer's absence. He explained the function of the Education-Personnel Committee and how Board committee meetings are structured. These meetings are mostly informational, with discussion on important topics. The last meeting focused on integration of technology in the elementary levels – past, present, and future.

At the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, Gail Ryan presented a report and PowerPoint presentation aimed to address the Board's questions about technology integration. Mr. Currie spoke about current technology in place at all levels including technology skills required for graduation. The administration will be forthcoming with a strategic plan for technology.

#### Operations Committee – Mr. R. "Bud" Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Miller spoke about the progress on the new high school. The project is still on schedule and going well.

#### Finance Committee – Dr. Jack Parry, Chairperson

Dr. Parry reported that the Finance Committee discussed the 2007-2008 Technology Budget at the last committee meeting. The administration has reduced the technology budget by \$304,000. Discussion was based and centered around money toward technology for this year and next year. A long-term plan needs to be developed and put in place for technology.

PlanCon H documents for General Obligation Bonds were also discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and will be accepted by Board action later this evening. Dr. Parry spoke about the rates for the 2003 and 2005 series of General Obligation Bonds and PDE exceptions. PDE approved \$2,755,000 in exceptions for the 2007-2008 budget.

#### Policy Committee – Mrs. Tracy Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole reviewed policies related to administrative and professional growth guidelines and also job related expenses. The committee also looked at an Admission of Beginners policy which addresses the Souderton's age requirements for kindergarten and first graders. This policy combines two prior policies and makes the information much more straight forward.

The new policy will address those students who move in from outside of the United States or other parts of the country who may have started school at an earlier age than Souderton.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Indian Valley Public Library – Mr. Victor Verbeke, Board Representative

Mr. Verbeke reported on a research program that is used by students at the Indian Valley Middle School. This research program can only be accessed through the Indian Valley Public Library and is the main tool for middle school students' research. Mrs. Beck, director of the Public Library has worked with Kevin Paull, librarian at Indian Valley M. S., to issue library cards to those students who did not have cards and access to this research tool. Mr. Paull and Mrs. Beck are to be thanked for this cooperative project.

Mr. Verbeke added that Mrs. Beck and staff will be visiting the first and second graders in the near future to issue library cards to those students who are interested. Also, the student art show is still in progress at the Indian Valley Public Library.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the action items/consent agenda for approval.

There was a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Miller to approve the consent agenda items as listed. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the consent agenda items as listed:

- A. Approval of Minutes from the March 15, 2007 School Board Meeting.
- B. Approval of Financial Statements and Check Listings for February 2007.

**EXHIBIT B**

C. Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

<b>ANDREW JOHNSON</b>	Mathematics Rangefinding Meeting for the
Mathematics	PSSA's with PA Department of Education
Indian Valley M. S.	Harrisburg, PA
	April 10-12, 2007 (Tues.-Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>309.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$309.00

<b>EDWARD GALLAGHER</b>	Penn State Annual Football Coaches Clinic
Mathematics/Football Coach	State College, PA
Senior High School	April 13-14, 2007 (Fri.-Sat.)
	Est. Expenses: \$240.96
	Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$343.96

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

- C. Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)
- JOSEPH GUNN** Lehigh University Middle Level Conference  
Social Studies, Indian Crest Bethlehem, PA  
**KATHI HUSSAR** April 13, 2007 (Fri.)  
Mathematics, Indian Crest Est. Expenses: \$ 739.40 (combined)  
**JOYCE KUPEC** Sub. Expenses: 515.00 (combined)  
English, Indian Crest Total Est. Expenses: \$1,254.40 (combined)  
**JEFF PAMMER**  
Principal, Indian Crest Jr. High  
**LINDA ROBINSON**  
Language Arts, Indian Crest  
**NAHEED SNYDER**  
ESL, Indian Crest Jr. High
- TERESA WASHAM** Pennsylvania Music Educators Association  
Music, Senior High School Spring Conference  
Hershey, PA  
April 19-21, 2007 (Thurs.-Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$563.79  
Sub. Expenses: 206.00  
Total Est. Expenses: \$769.79
- CHRIS NENSTIEL** Athletic Performance and Sport Nutrition  
Phys. Ed., High School Symposium  
Ewing, NJ  
April 21, 2007 (Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$121.71  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Est. Expenses: \$121.71
- DAVE RAMAGE** Presenting Data and Information  
Coordinator of Technology Philadelphia, PA  
Staff Development April 23, 2007 (Mon.)  
Est. Expenses: \$415.21  
*Paid with Accountability* Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
*Block Grant funds.* Total Est. Expenses: \$415.21
- BRIGITTE BAGOCIUS** K-12 Webmasters Spring Conference  
District Web Development Rockville, MD  
Specialist April 26, 2007 (Thurs.)  
Est. Expenses: \$113.24  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Est. Expenses: \$113.24

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

- C. Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)  
**DR. CHARLES D. AMUSO** Montgomery County Intermediate Unit  
Superintendent Superintendent's Workshop  
Rehoboth, DE  
April 27-28, 2007 (Fri.-Sat.)  
Est. Expenses: \$640.00  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Est. Expenses: \$640.00
- D. Requests for Out-of-State Field Trips
1. Vernfield Elementary School – Fifth Grade Students  
Date: May 14, 2007 (Monday)  
Destination: Baltimore Aquarium, Camden Yard, Fort McHenry,  
Baltimore, MD  
Purpose: To study the inner workings of a baseball stadium and visit other  
attractions related to the curriculum.  
Number of Students: 78  
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 55 parents/8 teachers or staff  
Requesting Teacher: Amy Welsh, Bonnie Gehman, Joe Mraz, and  
Susan Goelz.  
Students and proceeds from fundraising activities will finance the trip.
  2. Souderton Area High School – Arrowhead Students  
Date: April 11-16, 2007 (Wednesday-Monday)  
Destination: JEA/NSPA Journalism Convention, Denver, Colorado  
Purpose: Senior Abbey Kramer is nominated for National Journalism  
“Student of the Year and students will attend seminars related to  
improving writing, layout, and design of the school newspaper.  
Number of Students: 2  
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 1 teacher  
Requesting Teacher: Dr. Stacey Aronow  
Students and *Arrowhead* funds will finance the trip.
- E. Personnel Items
1. Professional Staff
    - a. Request for Compensated Professional Leave  
**KARAH ZIFF** Third Grade Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem.  
Effective: Entire 2007-2008 school year

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

E. Personnel Items (continued)

2. Support Staff

a. Resignations

**BRIGITTE FLUEHR**

Special Education Aide,  
Salford Hills Elem.  
Effective: March 15, 2007

**JENNIFER GRAHAM**

Special Education Aide,  
Salford Hills Elem.  
Effective: March 30, 2007

**ZACHARY HEINRICH**

Part-Time Custodian,  
E. M. Crouthamel Elem.  
Effective: March 23, 2007

b. Transfers

**JOSEPHINE DeSANTO**

Replacement for  
Vicki Freed (Transfer)

From: Substitute Cafeteria/Playground  
Aide  
To: 2 day/week Cafeteria/Playground  
Aide, Franconia Elementary  
Beginning: April 10, 2007  
Hourly Wage: \$9.20 per hour  
Hours: 1.5/day, 2 days/week

**VICKI FREED**

From: Cafeteria/Playground Aide  
5 days/week  
To: Cafeteria/Playground Aide  
3 days/week  
Franconia Elementary  
Beginning: April 10, 2007  
Hourly Wage: \$9.45 per hour  
Hours: 1.5/ day, 3 days/week

**CONSTANCE MEYERS**

Replacement for  
Jean Chrastina (resigned)

From: Substitute Teacher  
To: Title I Aide, Franconia Elementary  
Beginning: March 30, 2007  
Hourly Wage: \$12.65 per hour  
Hours: 6 per day

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

E. Personnel Items (continued)

2. Support Staff (continued)

c. Recommendations for Employment

**ROBERT GLOSE**

Part-Time Custodial Substitute  
Beginning: March 22, 2007  
Hourly Wage: \$9.21 per hour  
Hours: 4 per day

**NATHAN HICKS**

Replacement for  
Jordan Bartos (resigned)

Part-Time Custodian, Franconia Elem.  
Beginning: March 22, 2007  
Hourly Wage: \$9.21 per hour  
Hours: 4 per day

**CHRISTINE MARTIN**

New position due to  
increased enrollment.

Classroom Aide, Oak Ridge Elem.  
Beginning: March 26, 2007 through the  
End of the 2006-2007 school year  
Hourly Wage: \$9.40 per hour  
Hours: 3 per day

**BRIAN THUDIUM**

New position due to  
increased enrollment

Classroom Aide, Oak Ridge Elementary  
Beginning: March 22, 2007 through the  
end of the 2006-2007 school year  
Hourly Wage: \$9.40 per hour  
Hours: 3 per day

F. Supplemental Contracts for Coaching Positions - 2006-2007 School Year

**JOSHUA KLIMOVICH**<sup>^</sup> Asst. Girls Lacrosse Coach (HS) \$ 2,521.00

**DANIEL ROBBINS** Developmental Track Coach (IC) \$25/hour, 6 weeks,

<sup>^</sup>New to coaching at SASD 6 hours per week

G. Additions/Deletions to Substitute Teacher Listing for 2006-2007

Additions

**CHARLOTTE COLLINS**  
**ANDREA DRESSNANDT**  
**JUSTIN HANGE**  
**BROOKE MOORE**  
**KELLY RICE**  
**THAI TRAN**

Deletions

**IVETT ALMAGUER**



ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Requests for Approval of Grant Applications

Dr. Amuso indicated that the administration has applied for the two grants listed below to help fund after school programs for underachieving sixth and seventh grade students.

Nelson Foundation Grant – To create an after school PSSA Recovery Program where underachieving sixth and seventh grade students can build relationships with staff while strengthening core academic skills in the areas of math and/or reading. Amount - \$4,200 – duration of Grant – one year. Applicant Dale Burkhard - Indian Valley Middle School

Chester County Regional Educational Services Grant – To create an after school PSSA Recovery Program where underachieving sixth and seventh grade students can build relationships with staff while strengthening core academic skills in the areas of math and/or reading. Amount - \$4,200 - duration of Grant – one year. Applicant Dale Burkhard – Indian Valley Middle School

Third Reading and Recommendation for Approval of Curriculum Revisions

On a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Currie, and with a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board grant final approval to the curriculum revisions as listed:  
Clay Studio 3  
Printmaking

Acknowledgement of Receipt of PlanCon H – 2003 and 2005 Bond Series

Dr. Amuso called on Mrs. Bray to present PlanCon H.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Parry to acknowledge receipt of PlanCon H.

Mrs. Bray spoke about the PlanCon process and the requirements for reimbursement from the state for debt from the construction project.

A question was raised about the approximate amount of reimbursement and what the percentage of reimbursement would be.

Mrs. Bray responded to the questions.

Mr. Miller calculated that the reimbursement would be approximately \$9 Million.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board acknowledge receipt of PlanCon H from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2003 and 2005 Bond Series. **EXHIBIT C**

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Variable Rate Bond Issue Update

Mrs. Bray introduced Glenn Williard, managing director of Public Financial Management (PFM), who presented a status update on the \$46,920,000 Variable Rate Demand Bonds for the High School Completion Project Series of 2007. The District's financing team has been preparing documents and working with the rating agency to close the \$46,920,000 on or about April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Williard presented an overview, mentioning that DEPFA Bank had been selected as the Liquidity Bank to provide the Standby Bond Purchase Agreement for the Variable Rate Demand Bonds. He spoke about the synchronization of all prior documents and the estimated schedule of the costs, rates and settlement of the bonds. The LIBOR fixed payor swap will begin on or about September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Also addressed in Mr. Willard's presentation were alternate Bond Modes that could be considered for the future and the Cost of Issuance.

Ms. Megan Duryea, from Fox Rothschild, was also present to answer questions from the Board.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on what the fixed swap rate would be.

Mr. Williard responded that the fixed rate would be 3.75%.

Dr. Baumgartner questioned Souderton's current bond rate.

Mr. Williard indicated that Souderton is rated Aa3 and is in the top 5% of Pennsylvania school districts.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the Board took action on this issue on February 22, 2007.

Recommendation for Third Reading and Approval of Policies

Dr. Amuso presented the four policies for action.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the policies as presented for the third reading. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0 it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board grant final approval to the policies as listed:

Policy #333 – Professional Growth Guidelines (Administrative Employees)	<b>EXHIBIT D</b>
Policy #433 – Professional Growth Guidelines (Professional Employees)	<b>EXHIBIT E</b>
Policy #331 – Job Related Expenses (Administrative Employees)	<b>EXHIBIT F</b>
Policy #431 – Job Related Expenses (Professional Employees)	<b>EXHIBIT G</b>

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

First Reading of Policy #201.2 – Admission of Beginners

Dr. Amuso indicated that this policy was presented for a first reading. The policy combines two current policies into one and establishes the age requirements for the admission of beginners (kindergarten and first grade students). This policy also addresses students who relocate to the Souderton Area School District from a school outside the United States.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on the current policy.

Mr. Gallagher explained the current policy and the differences between the current policy and the new policy. He indicated that the changes were made to address what is best for students.

Nomination of Candidate for Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors

Dr. Amuso explained that this position is for a three term and runs July 1 to June 30. The District's current representative is Tracy Cole.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner to close the nominations and cast the vote for Tracy Cole. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the nomination of Tracy Cole as Souderton's representative as candidate for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

Mr. MacDougall thanked Mrs. Cole for her time and the hard work that she puts in at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

INFORMATIONAL

**Operations Committee Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM. The **Finance Committee Meeting** will start immediately following the 6:30 PM Operations Committee Meeting in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

Monday, April 16, 2007 at 7:30 PM **North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting** in the Administrative Conference Room, North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

**Policy Committee Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM. The **Education-Personnel Committee Meeting** will start immediately following the 6:30 PM Policy Committee meeting, with the **Finance Committee Meeting** immediately following Education-Personnel. All meetings will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

INFORMATIONAL (CONTINUED)

Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at 7:45 PM **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Meeting** in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

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

Dr. Amuso indicated that the next vote will take place in May when the Board will vote on the proposed final budget for 2007-2008. The final vote on the final budget will be in June.

There was discussion by the Board on the budget timeline and final percentages for the tax rate.

Mr. MacDougall indicated the Finance Committee had discussed technology at the last meeting and will need to address the final numbers and timeline at the next meeting. He also mentioned the PDE exceptions that were approved.

Again there was discussion by the Board regarding final budget numbers.

Dr. Parry stressed to the Board the importance of giving the administration specific direction in the technology budget.

Dr. Baumgartner mentioned the need for a technology plan that addresses how the plan will be implemented, and what are the outcomes and objectives of the plan.

Mrs. Cole also indicated that the Board needs to give the administration specific direction on how to finalize the budget.

Mr. Miller asked if it would be possible for the administration to give recommendations on where to use the reserve.

Dr. Amuso indicated that there are a lot of unknowns right now. The current budget figures are based on information the won't be approved by the state until June. He mentioned that the administration continues to get information from the state on several areas of the budget.

Mrs. Cole shared information regarding her participation in the PSBA School Construction Conference that took place today.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Miller mentioned that the *Philadelphia Inquirer* recently published their report card on Philadelphia area schools. Souderton's cost per pupil rate is twentieth out of twenty-one school districts in Montgomery County and commended that administration for this achievement.

Mr. Verbeke indicated that Souderton was setting a milestone this evening by broadcasting its first Board meeting. He thanked everyone involved in the planning and execution of this task. The broadcasting of the meetings will help the Board communicate important information to the residents of our local communities.

Mr. Gallagher informed the Board and public that the video taped broadcast of the School Board meetings would take place on Comcast Channel 27 – SATV on the following schedule:

Mondays – Wednesdays – Fridays – 10:00 AM  
Tuesdays – Thursdays – Saturdays – Sundays – 2:00 PM  
Mondays through Fridays – 10:00 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

Mr. MacDougall announced an Executive Session following the Board meeting to discuss the sale of the old high school and Board governance.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 8 to 0 it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray  
Board Secretary