

**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, May 10, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by President Eric MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

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

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Deb Doebler, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Michael Olenick, Steve Pollack, Laurie Reynolds, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Dave Thayres, Sam Varano, representatives from The Arrowhead, The Reporter, The Souderton Independent, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

RECOGNITION

Souderton Area High School Computer Fair Winners

Dr. Amuso introduced Mike Olenick, who then introduced the members of the high school computer team and spoke about their participation in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit’s Regional Computer Fair. The students were well prepared for competition and known as the “Super Team.” Michael Olenick is a computer instructor at the high school. The following Souderton Area High School students were place winners.

First Place – **JAMES SIMPSON**  
Category: Digital Movie  
Entry: It’s Skateboarding

First Place – **CHRISTOPHER HOWE**  
**JORDAN GREEN**  
**ZACHARY LONG**  
**KENTON BURCKHART**  
Category: Multimedia Presentation  
Entry: Senior Cinema

Second Place – **JEFFREY CASSEL**  
Category: Graphic Design  
Entry: Sling Blade Poster

Second Place – **BRITTANY ROGER**  
Category: Animation  
Entry: The Almost Bad Christmas

RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

Souderton Area High School Computer Fair Winners (Continued)

Second Place – **MATTHEW CODY**  
Category: Information Based Web  
Page Design  
Entry: Josh Washam Website

Second Place – **KEITH HARTENBAUER**  
**RYAN WISMER**  
Category: Digital Movie  
Entry: A Trip to KFC

Third Place – **DANIELLE CESSNA**  
Category: Computer Fair Logo  
Entry: Logo

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the Computer Fair winners for their accomplishments.  
**EXHIBIT A**

Dr. Amuso also recognized the parents of these students and thanked them for their support and encouragement.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM

Review of 2007-2008 Use of Fund Balance

Dr. Parry opened the discussion by explaining that at the beginning of the budget process, the Board had given the administration a goal of not to exceed the 3.4% index with exceptions. He reviewed the budget process and where the Board is now on discussions regarding the fund balance. The Board has asked the administration to prepare several scenarios using different millage rate increases resulting from varying uses of fund balance.

Dr. Amuso explained the process to get approval on a proposed final budget in May, with the final budget being voted on in June. The expenditure side of the proposed budget is at \$96,342,794.

Mrs. Bray presented a Powerpoint on several scenarios by using a 3.5%, 4.0%, 4.5%, and 5.0% millage increases. Mrs. Bray also spoke about the 2007-2008 projected fund balance and how the four scenarios would be affected by the fund balance. She emphasized that at the end of the year, the fund balance must be less than 8% of unrestricted balance.

Mr. Leer questioned the use of the fund balance to bring down the tax rate.

Dr. Parry asked about the movement of fund balance monies into the capital reserve and bring down high school funding.

Mr. Currie spoke about how the fund balance was used last year. At the end of the year, the district had a \$6.6M fund balance over and above the budget. Mr. Currie asked if the fund balance was repaid last

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM (CONTINUED)

Review of 2007-2008 Use of Fund Balance (Continued)

year. He talked about the placement of the budgetary reserve in the budget, and if the funds are not needed the move to the fund balance. Mr. Currie had mentioned at a previous meeting that the

budgetary reserve should be lowered, if not needed, thus saving tax dollars. He talked about decreasing the budgetary reserve and eliminating tax increases.

Mrs. Bray commented that due to the high school project being ahead of schedule, some of the reserve was used for construction costs and debt payment.

Mr. Currie questioned if unspent funds occurred in line items other than the debt issue.

Dr. Parry asked for clarification about budgetary reserves.

Dr. Baumgartner stated that he would like to see only a 3.5% tax increase.

Mrs. Bray mentioned the high school, Indian Valley and Indian Crest projects scheduled for this summer and the money needed for these projects. She indicated that the Board had been up front all along on how to fund the high school project.

Jeff Sultanik added that if the district borrowed more money for the high school, the money would have to be approved under the referendum process under Act 1, if the real estate tax increase exceeds the index.

Dr. Parry questioned funds needed between now and Sept. 2009.

Mr. Currie spoke about the money that will be needed to complete the stadium and maintenance building.

Dr. Amuso indicated the estimate of the stadium building and maintenance building is estimated at \$1.5M, which includes design costs, contingencies, and all the fees associated with the contract. Dr. Amuso added that by law we were not allowed to include this area in with the basic high school project.

Mr. Brong indicated that the Board continues to use the PlanCon cost number of \$114M and the final amount could be less.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the \$114M is the actual signed contract costs.

Mr. MacDougall stated that the Board will continue to discuss this issue. He mentioned that the Board will vote on May 16<sup>th</sup> on the 2007-2008 expenditure budget. He asked Board members to think about the scenario of a 3.5% increase. With this number, it looks like the Board could put money toward the project and also have money in the fund balance.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM (CONTINUED)

Mr. Sultanik clarified that the Board would be voting May 16<sup>th</sup> on the expenditure portion of the 2007-2008 budget under Act 1. Revisions to the budget can be a continual process. However, the discussion ends on June 20<sup>th</sup>, when the final budget is voted on.

Mrs. Bray mentioned that Pennsylvania Department of Education form #2028 must to filed so the community can review the final budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comment.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held on April 26, 2007 following the Board meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted 35 minutes.

Mr. MacDougall reminded the public that next Tuesday is Election Day and that they should vote on the Act 1 question.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education-Personnel Committee – Mr. Mark Leer, Chairperson

Mr. Leer indicated that the Committee will be meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed the agenda for the next meeting.

Operations Committee – Mr. R. “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Brong reported for Mr. Miller. At the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the committee reviewed the Bus Conduct Monthly Summary, the monthly construction report, discussed the lease agreement with North Penn Water Authority, and the Vernfield boiler situation.

Finance Committee – Dr. Jack Parry, Chairperson

Dr. Parry indicated that the committee discussed the fund balance and a request from the local tax collectors for reimbursement for software that was needed for the new tax requirements.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Tracy Cole, Chairperson

No meeting.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the consent agenda items for action.

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

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

A. Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the April 26, 2007 School Board Meeting.

B. Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

<b>CHRISTOPHER HEY</b> Assistant Principal Souderton Area High School	Student Assistance Program Training Quakertown, PA June 19-21, 2007 (Tues.-Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$375.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$375.00
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<b>BRENDA KRUPP</b> Professional Development Coach  <i>Paid from 2007-2008 Budget</i>	National Staff Development Council and Academy Summer Session Denver, CO July 18-20, 2007 (Wed.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$450.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$450.00
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<b>DR. STACEY ARONOW</b> English, Senior High School  <i>Paid from 2007-2008 Budget</i>	Advanced Placement Summer Institute Abington, PA August 6-10, 2007 (Mon.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$823.05 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$823.05
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C. Request for District participation in ESEA Title I, Title II, Title III and Title V Programs during the 2007-2008 school year. Dr. John Eells will serve as the official representative to file the appropriate applications.

D. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

<u>Resignation</u> <b>JESSICA LANDIS</b>	Third Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem. Effective: End of 2006-2007 School Year
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ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

D. PROFESSIONAL STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendations for Professional Sabbatical

**JANET GRIPPI** Mathematics, Indian Crest Junior High  
2007-2008 school year

**CAROL LUCIANI** Second Grade, Lower Salford Elem.  
First semester of the 2007-2008 school year

**STACEY ZANINE** Elementary Gifted Support, Oak Ridge &  
Lower Salford Elem. Schools  
2007-2008 school year

Request for Childrearing Leave

**NORA PAAR** Special Education Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem.  
Beginning November 20, 2007 through the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year,  
following Family/Medical Leave. Mrs. Paar is planning to return to work for the second  
semester of the 2007-2008 school year.

E. SUPPORT STAFF

Retirement

**SALLY RUTKO** Food Service Assistant, Indian Valley M. S.  
Effective: June 14, 2007  
Years of Service with SASD: 38 years

Resignation

**ROBERT SELLERS** Part-Time Custodian, Indian Crest Jr. High  
Effective: May 5, 2007

Recommendations for Employment

**BERNARDO CARMONA** Custodian, Full-Time, Second Shift,  
Replacement for School: To be determined  
Custodial Transfer Beginning: May 14, 2007  
Wage: \$17.04 per hour  
Hours: 8 per day

**PHYLLIS HICKS** Attendance Clerk, Senior High School  
Replacement for Beginning: May 8, 2007  
Barbara Behe (resigned) Wage: \$10.77 per hour  
Hours: 7.5 per day

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

E. SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

**ALLISON LITOSKY** Special Education Aide, Learning Support  
Replacement for Indian Crest Junior High  
Amanda Weber (transfer) Effective: May 8, 2007 through the end of the  
2006-2007 school year  
Wage: \$9.40 per hour  
Hours: 6.5 per day

F. Recommendation to Approve a Maximum of \$250 per Elected Tax Collector for Reimbursement of Administrative Expenses Incurred Due to Act 1.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Amuso presented the following items for either discussion or action:

Financial Statements for the Month Ending April 30, 2007

The financial statements for the month ending April 30, 2007 were presented as an information item.

Review of Letter to Legislators Regarding Accountability Block Grants

Dr. Amuso talked about the Accountability Block Grant program and the letter that has been authored to be sent to local legislators. Souderton can not take advantage of additional funds from this grant due to the fact that we do not have the classroom space required to start up a pre-kindergarten or full day kindergarten program.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the submission of this letter to local legislators regarding Souderton's displeasure with the new Accountability Block Grant program.

**EXHIBIT B**

Mr. Currie asked for clarification on the intent of the letter.

Dr. Parry asked if the letter would be sent to all local legislators.

Third Reading Review and Recommendation to Approve Revised Grade 6 Art Planned Course

There was a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the third reading and recommend approval of the revised Grade 6 Art Planned Course. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Third Reading and recommend final approval of the Grade 6 Art Planned Course as presented.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Easement Agreement with North Penn Water Authority for New High School Project

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the easement agreement with North Penn Water Authority for the new high school project. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the easement agreement with North Penn Water Authority as presented. **EXHIBIT C**

INFORMATIONAL

On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, there will be no Policy Committee Meeting. However, the Education-Personnel Committee will meet on this date at 6:30 PM, with a **Special School Board Meeting**, to begin at 7:30 PM. The purpose of the Special School Board meeting is to vote on the Proposed 2007-2008 Final Budget. All meetings will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

On Monday, May 21, 2007 at 7:30 PM there will be a meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee in the Administrative Conference Room, North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 7:45 PM a meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 24, 2007 beginning at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

All Board committees will be meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 in a workshop format beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Mr. Jeffrey Sultanic, Esq.

No report.



UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Cole encouraged taxpayers, who are registered as independent voters, to vote in this important primary election.

Dr. Baumgartner mentioned that the public is asking questions about Board issues now that they can view Board meetings on SATV.

Mr. Verbeke also mentioned the primary election coming up next week, and talked about voter turnout at primary elections in the past. He presented statistics on voter turnout in the local municipalities and challenged the public to come out and vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM.

Souderton Area School District

Brenda Jones Bray  
Board Secretary