

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 24, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by Vice President Dr. Jack Parry, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

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

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Louisa Abney-Babcock, Brigitte Bagocius, Dan Bitner, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Sal Graci, Justin Kreft, Van Le, Steve Pollack, Kyle Robertson, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Souderton Independent*, *The Reporter*, and the public.

RECOGNITIONS

Earthwatch

Dr. Amuso called upon Louisa Abney-Babcock to introduce **VICTORIA PICCONE**, a student at Souderton Area High School, who was chosen to attend this year's Earthwatch Institute. The goal of this summer program is to stimulate the minds of students interested in the sciences by funding fellowships for students to participate in scientific research expeditions. Award recipients will work alongside professional scientists, interact with talented peers and mentors and discover how science and technology can advance our understanding of the world. Only 75 students are picked from across the United States. Victoria will be going to St. John, Virgin Islands for coral reef and fish observation.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner, and with a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Victoria Piccone for her accomplishment.

EXHIBIT A

Dr. Amuso called on Victoria's parents to recognize them for their encouragement and support.

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

Governor's School Recipients

Mrs. Abney-Babcock spoke about the Souderton Area High School students listed below who have been chosen to participate in this year's Pennsylvania Governor's Schools of Excellence. The Governor's Schools offer talented students a living/learning community in which they may pursue their areas of interest in depth with master teachers who are practitioners in their fields. Only 752 students are accepted from across the state.

ANDREW ESPENLAUB – Alternate – Science
MICHELE FEINDLER – Alternate – Health Care
CLAIRE FISHER – International Studies
ERIC STROM – Science

There was a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Governor's School recipients for their accomplishment. **EXHIBIT B**

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

Presidential Classroom Scholarship Winners

Mrs. Abney-Babcock spoke about the one week Presidential Classroom experience in Washington, D.C. for student leaders to explore the American political process on a first-hand basis. Students have the opportunity to meet and question the country's political leaders in Congress, the White House, in government offices and in foreign embassies, as well as participate in lively discussions with their peers about current issues. The following Souderton Area High School students have been selected to participate in this year's program:

LEAH HARRELL - Sponsored by Business and Professional Women's Club of Indian Valley
MEGUMI WOLTERMANN – Sponsored by Univest
MELISSA ZIRKEL – Sponsored by Souderton/Telford Rotary Club

Mrs. Abney-Babcock then introduced the Presidential Classroom honorees who were selected by a process of essays and interviews.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Presidential Classroom winners for their accomplishment. **EXHIBIT C**

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

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

2007 Drexel Sea Perch Challenge – Souderton Area High School Robotics Club

Mrs. Abney-Babcock continued by introducing the Drexel Sea Perch winners. During the 2007 Drexel University Sea Perch Challenge, which included 35 schools from around the Greater Philadelphia Area, the Souderton Area High School Robotics Club received first place in Team Spirit and Sportsmanship, first place in Team Presentation, first place in Innovative Design, third place in Teamwork Summary Notebook, and first place as Overall Greater Philadelphia Sea Perch Winner. This team also received the 2007 Navy Contract Award. Justin Kreft is the team's advisor.

**DANIEL BEVIL
ZACHARY CROSS
ROBERT DAVIDE**

**ZACHARY HUSSONG
JONATHAN KISER
JULIE MOKRZYCKI
ERIC STROM**

Mrs. Abney-Babcock spoke about the two grants that have been received for next year through the efforts of two local legislators and how the team swept all of the awards this year. She also recognized and thanked Justin Kreft, who is the technical advisor.

There was a motion by Mr. Verbeke, second by Mr. Currie.

Mrs. Cole mentioned a community function that was held at Harleysville Books and how the Robotics Club caught the attention of all who attended.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Robotics Club for their accomplishments.

EXHIBIT D

Again, Dr. Amuso called on the parents of these students to be recognized for their support and encouragement.

Mrs. Abney-Babcock thanked the Board for their support over the years and mentioned that it was an honor and a privilege to have worked with the Souderton students. Mrs. Abney-Babcock will be retiring at the end of the school year.

Mr. Varano said a few words about the life and career of Louisa Abney-Babcock and how she has shaped the future of many students throughout her career.

2006-2007 Student Representatives to the Board

Mr. Varano called on **DANIEL BITNER** and **KYLE ROBERTSON**, seniors at Souderton Area High School, who have served as Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors for the 2006-2007 school year. He spoke about their leadership and how they shared their talents at the high school with students and staff. Mr. Varano thanked the boys for what they have done for the Board and the high school this year.

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

2006-2007 Student Representatives to the Board (Continued)

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

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Senior 2006-2007 Student Representatives to the Board for their services. **EXHIBIT E**

Dr. Amuso asked the parents of Kyle and Dan to stand and be recognized for their encouragement and support.

Dr. Amuso also recognized Louisa Abney-Babcock for her many years of dedicated service to the school district.

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

All three students reported on activities and events, along with a sports update from the Souderton Area High School.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

The president's report was given by Dr. Parry in Mr. MacDougall's absence.

An Executive Session was held on May 10, 2007 following the Board meeting to discuss a personnel issue. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education-Personnel Committee – Mr. Mark Leer, Chairperson
Mr. Currie reported on behalf of Mr. Leer.

Mr. Currie indicated that the committee discussed the introduction of new and replacement textbooks. The majority of the meeting was focused on a presentation by Jack Silva, Tom Ferlick, Dale Burkhard and Jeff Pammer regarding the Secondary Reorganization Plan – Middle Level Transition. The creation of two grade 6, 7, 8 middle schools will pose a challenge for the two schools to operate identically. The presentation showed how the schools will operate in a team concept, along with the transition of various programs. Also discussed at the meeting was a field trip request that is placed on the consent agenda for approval.

Operations Committee – Mr. R. “Bud” Miller, Chairperson
Mr. Brong reported on behalf of Mr. Miller and mentioned that there was no meeting since the last Board meeting.

Finance Committee – Dr. Jack Parry, Chairperson
Dr. Parry noted that there was no report since there was no Finance Committee meeting.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Tracy Cole, Chairperson
Mrs. Cole also noted that there was no report for the Policy Committee.

Dr. Parry announced that all four Board committees will be meeting on June 6, 2007, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Tinner Board Room.

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS

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

With a motion from Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

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

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 2007 School Board Meeting.
EXHIBIT F
2. Approval of Minutes from the May 16, 2007 Special School Board Meeting.
EXHIBIT G
3. Approval of Financial Statements and Check Listings for April 2007.
EXHIBIT H

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

4. Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

BARBARA SCOTT Celebrate Literacy VIII Conference
CARS, E. M. Crouthamel Elem. West Chester, PA
June 26-27, 2007 (Tues.-Wed.)
Partially Paid by Title I Funds Est. Expenses: \$185.00
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$185.00

CHRISTINE JACKSON Modeling Physics Institute
AP Physics, Senior High School Folsom, PA
July 9-26, 2007 (approximately 3 weeks)
Paid from 2007-2008 Budget Est. Expenses: \$550.00
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$550.00

5. Request for Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trip

a. Indian Crest Junior High School – Yearbook/Honors Classes – Grade 8
Date: March 19-22, 2008 (Wed.-Sat.)
Destination: Disney World, Orlando, Florida
Purpose: Attend the Youth Education Series that Disney World sponsors.
The leadership conference is related to career and life management.
Number of Students: 35
Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 5 Professional Staff
Requesting Staff Member: Joyce Kupec
Trip financed by students.

6. PROFESSIONAL STAFF

a. Resignation
REBECCA DERSTINE Third Grade, West Broad St. Elem.
Effective: End of 2006-2007 School Year

b. Retirements
GREGORY CLEMENS Science Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School
Effective: End of 2006-2007 school year
Employed by SASD: 35 years

SHARON LUDT First Grade Teacher, Salford Hills Elem.
Effective: End of 2006-2007 school year
Employed by SASD: 23 years

THOMAS MUSSELMAN Mathematics Teacher, Senior High School
Effective: End of 2006-2007 school year
Employed by SASD: 35 years

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

6. PROFESSIONAL STAFF (CONTINUED)

c. Request for Childrearing Leave

ROSEMARIE OSADA Special Education Teacher – Learning Support,
E. M. Crouthamel Elementary
Effective November 20, 2007 through the first semester of the 2007-2008
school year following Family Medical Leave. Mrs. Osada is planning to
return to work for the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year.

d. Recommendation for Employment

MATTHEW MONTAGNA Special Education Teacher – Autistic Support,
New Position Souderton Area High School
(Pending final adoption of the 2007-2008 budget) **TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL**
Beginning: 2007-2008 school year

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <u>Education</u> | <u>Experience</u> |
| Temple University (BS) 2004 | Dec. 2006-June 2007, SASD, Senior High, Special Education-Learning Support (LTS) Sept.-Nov. 2006, SASD, Indian Crest, Special Education-Autistic Support (LTS) April-June 2006, SASD, Indian Crest, Special Education-Learning Support (per-diem extended substitute) Dec. 2005-March 2006, SASD Substitute Teacher March-June 2005, Centennial S.D., D. Henry Alternative School. Social Studies (LTS) |

Recommended Salary

\$37,815 – B (2)

7. SUPPORT STAFF

a. Transfers

BENJAMIN DELP From: Part-Time Custodian, West Broad St.
To: Part-Time Substitute Custodian
Beginning: May 1, 2007

CARMEN SCHREFFLER From: Food Service Asst., Indian Valley
Replacement for 4 hours per day
Sally Rutko (retired) To: Food Service Assistant, Indian Valley
5.5 hours per day
Beginning: September 4, 2007
Wage: \$9.85 per hour

CONSENT AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

7. SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)
 - b. Resignation
MARYANN HOERMANN Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Vernfield Elem.
Effective: June 1, 2007
8. Summer 2007 Sports Camp – Recommendations for Employment and Salaries/
Hourly Rates. **EXHIBIT I**
9. Recommendation to approve the hourly rates for the positions of lead security,
security guard, and substitute security guard for the following school years:
2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010. **EXHIBIT J**
10. Additions and Deletions to Substitute Teacher Listing:

| <u>Additions</u> | <u>Deletions</u> |
|------------------|------------------|
| Dolores Slater | Amanda Amarotico |
| Scott Williamson | Barbara Jope |
| | Gary Sinacore |

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Notification of Grants Recently Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education:

1. Accountability Block Grant - \$441,489 – 2007-2008 school year
2. Classrooms for the Future Grant - \$823,537 – 2007-2008 school year
3. Project 720 Grant - \$80,000 – 2007-2008 school year

Dr. Amuso presented these three grants to the Board as information. Dr. Amuso mentioned that the Accountability Block Grant will continue programs funded by the ABG during 2006-2007. The Classrooms for the Future Grant is a new grant that is very specific and targeted for technology. The Project 720 Grant is targeted for high school restructuring.

Mr. Gallagher explained each of the three grants and how Souderton has or will use the money from each of the grants. The Accountability Block Grant will fund the continuation of the elementary technology teachers, the literacy coach in the primary grades, and social work services. The same amount of funding as the 2006-2007 school year is expected for 2007-2008; a level-funding grant to support the program. The Classrooms for the Future Grant is a new grant for Souderton this year and will fund “smart classrooms” for the high school. The Project 720 Grant is part of the Project 4 program that will be discussed at the next Education-Personnel Committee meeting. Funds from this grant will pay for staff development and other programs for the new high school building. Mr. Gallagher added that specific amounts will not be known until Governor Rendell’s budget is formally adopted.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Notification of Grants Recently Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Continued)

Mr. Currie raised a question regarding the Accountability Block Grant and integration of technology in elementary grades. He mentioned that he recently read an article about a study by the federal government about the effectiveness of 15 different software programs in elementary classrooms for Math. There seemed to be no advantage in the elementary classrooms. He shared his concern about continuing to expand the program, and if the government funding stops, where will the funding come from, and also the questionable value of the program. Mr. Currie asked if the District wants to engage in this project after reading recent study findings.

Mr. Gallagher responded that the study refers to school-wide software programs that were introduced over nine years ago. However, Souderton had decided not to use this type of software programs.

Nominations and Election of Board Treasurer

Nominations were accepted for the office of Board Treasurer. The term of office is for one year, starting July 1, 2007 and concluding June 30, 2008.

Dr. Amuso recommended Grace Eves to continue as Board Treasurer.

There was a motion from Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Brong to nominate Grace Eves and close the nominations for Board Treasurer. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0 it was

RESOLVED, That the Board elect Grace Eves as Board Treasurer for a term of one year, starting July 1, 2007 and concluding June 30, 2008.

Dr. Parry thanked Mrs. Eves for her service and attention to detail.

Second Reading Review of New/Updated Textbooks:

1. German I – *Komm mit!*
2. Forensics – *Forensic Science: An Introduction*
3. Everyday Mathematics – *Everyday Mathematics* – Third Edition
4. Pennsylvania History (Grade 4) – *Pennsylvania: My Home*

Dr. Amuso presented the listed new and revised textbooks for a second reading and mentioned that the third and final reading would take place on June 20th.

Recommendation to Award Bids for Floor Tile (VCT) Installation at Lower Salford Elementary School and Indian Crest Junior High School to Wright Flooring:

Lower Salford Elementary Bid – \$21,482
Indian Crest Junior High Bid - \$12,992

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if the quote included the removal of carpet.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Award Bids for Floor Tile (VCT) Installation at Lower Salford Elementary School and Indian Crest Junior High School to Wright Flooring (Continued)

Mr. Pollack responded that the carpet at Lower Salford was included. However, it was discovered that the Indian Crest project will need asbestos removal. The additional amount will be determined sometime this summer.

Mr. Brong asked for the budgeted amount for the project.

Mr. Pollack responded that \$70,000 was budgeted.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board award the bids for floor tile installation at Lower Salford and Indian Crest to Wright Flooring as presented. **EXHIBIT K**

INFORMATIONAL

A workshop meeting for all Board Committees is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will take place in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

The School Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2007 has been canceled due to the Souderton Area High School Graduation Ceremony.

Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:30 PM will be the next **North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting** in the Administrative Conference Room, of the North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

A School Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 beginning at 7:30 PM. A portion of the agenda will be devoted to the adoption of the 2007-2008 Final Budget. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

Wednesday, June 27, 2007 will be the next **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Meeting** beginning at 7:45 PM in Conference Rooms B3/B4, at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Brong mentioned that he had attended the spring band concert at Indian Crest and complimented Mr. Haggerty, the band director, and the wonderful music program.

Dr. Baumgartner and Mr. Currie commented on their attendance at the recent Scholars' Banquet. They both spoke about the events of the evening and the great food.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Leer reported on the recent North Montco Technical Career Center meeting where a presentation was shared from the architect about possible renovations at North Montco. The Joint Operating Committee is looking to create storefronts for a few of the programs so the classes can operate a business for the community. The JOC heard a preliminary report on the funding needed for the project. Mr. Leer indicated that financing for technical schools is different from public schools. Costs could be passed on to all the sending schools as a lump sum.

Mr. Sultanik indicated that floating a bond is an option. However, during the last renovation at North Montco, the sending schools were in a position to do a cash payment for the project. He explained that there are several different options for funding now that we are in a post-Act 1 environment. However, the first step would be to decide the scope of the project and then determine funding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donna Schueren, from Lower Salford, cited a topic from the February 22nd Board Minutes, and asked for clarification on surplus and fund balance.

Mrs. Bray responded that the particular item Mrs. Schueren was addressing was comparing revenue and expenditure budget amounts for the last fiscal year. Overall the fund balance increased by \$4.2M in 2005-2006.

Mrs. Schueren then asked how the Board would be voting on the use of the current fund balance.

Dr. Parry responded that this topic was already addressed by the Board adopting the preliminary final budget at the last Board meeting. This item will continue to be discussed at the next workshop meeting.

Mrs. Schueren also questioned the funding shortage for the high school project. She asked if there was somewhere where residents could review the funding for the project.

Dr. Parry explained that the Board does not have a shortfall in funding for the new high school. The Board has known all along through the financial planning process that \$10M would need to be funded through by either cash on hand or other accounts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (COMMENTS)

Dr. Amuso added that this type of information is distributed to the Board and public at committee meetings.

Mr. Sultanik also indicated that the Act 34 Minutes would address the information that Mrs. Schueren is seeking.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Currie, second by Dr. Baumgartner to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 7 to 0 it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary