

Souderton Area School District
760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A special meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held Wednesday, May 16, 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	Eric R. MacDougall
	William J. Brong	R. Bud Miller
	Tracy G. Cole	Victor M. Verbeke
	Bernard S. Currie	
ABSENT:	Mark D. Leer	Dr. Jack A. Parry
SOLICITOR:	Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Sal Graci, Lisa Gurgick, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Wayne Walton, Representative Robert W. Godshall, representatives from The Reporter, The Souderton Independent, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Final Budget for the Souderton Area School District

This Proposed Final Budget for 2007-2008 includes the proposed final expenditures and revenue as required by the School Code, and will be available for public inspection and placed on the Souderton Area School District Website.

The adoption of the final budget and setting of the tax rates is scheduled for the regular meeting of the Board of School Directors on June 20, 2007.

Dr. Amuso and Mrs. Bray presented an overview of the final budget. The final budget includes the maintaining of all current academic programs and current services, reflects six professional staff

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Final Budget for the Souderton Area School District (Continued)

retirements and six sabbaticals, and includes five additional professional staff and six additional special education aides. The budget also includes the moving of all technology to a single unified operating system (Windows).

Dr. Amuso indicated that budgeted expenditures total \$96,342,794. Budgeted real estate tax at 23.63 mils, plus a millage increase of .83 mils and \$2,763,433 from the Fund Balance would balance the budget. The current millage is 23.63, with the proposed millage at 24.46. The budget shows a 3.5% millage increase, with an average millage increase, in dollars to homeowners, of \$125.

Dr. Amuso also shared that the audited fund balance as of June 30, 2006 was \$13,941,955. A transfer was made to the Capital Reserve fund in September 2006 of \$3,100,000. Projected 2006-2007 revenues over expenditures are estimated at \$2,500,000. The 2007-2008 use of fund balance will be \$2,763,433, thus leaving a projected balance at June 30, 2007 of \$10,578,522.

Dr. Amuso talked about high school funding and reviewed that the state would not permit the stadium building and maintenance building to be included in the high school project.

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

Mr. Currie indicated that the administration and the Board have gone from a 5.7% increase to a 3.5% increase in real estate tax millage. However, he is still concerned about an 8.5% increase when 2006-2007 projected amounts and 2007-2008 budgeted amounts are compared. He charged the administration and the Board to reduce expenditures between now and the final vote on the budget in June.

Dr. Baumgartner asked what affect the budget will have on the student/teacher ratio and class size.

Mr. Clemens responded that enrollment and classroom sizes continue to be monitored. He indicated that student/teacher ratios will be very close to present ratios with the new budget.

Mr. Miller asked if six sabbaticals in one year was excessive.

Mr. Clemens indicated that sabbaticals are controlled by school code and a sabbatical cannot be denied by the district if the employee is eligible. He also explained the difference in salaries and benefits when professional staff are on sabbatical leave.

Mr. Verbeke thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work on this budget, but commented that he too would like to see the expenditure side of the budget reduced.

Mr. MacDougall shared his appreciation for the administration's hard work on the budget. He added that the Board knew that this was going to be a tough year due to the high school project. He challenged the Board and administration to look at expenses for next year and start next year's budget process with some clear objectives.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve the 2007-2008 Proposed Final Budget for the Souderton Area School District (Continued)

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2007-2008 proposed final budget as presented with expenditures totaling \$96,342,794.

INFORMATIONAL

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.

On 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.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Miller asked for clarification regarding tax bill information for the local tax collectors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:53 PM.

SODERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary