

Souderton Area School District

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A meeting of the Souderton Area School Board was held Thursday, December 21, 2006 at the Souderton Area School District Administrative Offices in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 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	R. Bud Miller
	Tracy G. Cole	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Bernard S. Currie	Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Eric R. MacDougall	
SOLICITOR:	Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Grace Eves, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Donna Huff, Steve Pollack, Laurie Reynolds, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, representatives from the Souderton Independent, The Reporter, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

District Recognitions

Dr. Amuso called on Gail Ryan to introduce **DONNA HUFF**, principal of Lower Salford Elementary School, who recently completed the National Staff Development Council's Academy, which has taken two and a half years to accomplish. NSDC is a premier organization which trains teachers and administrators how to support small groups of teachers in understanding data and helping students to learn and achieve. Approximately 50 individuals from North America participated in the academy.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Donna Huff for her achievement.

EXHIBIT A

Donation to West Broad Street Elementary School

Dr. Amuso stated that a parent of the West Broad Street Elementary School community, who wishes to remain anonymous, has graciously donated \$1,000 to be used for the Art and Music programs at West Broad.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Donation to West Broad Street Elementary School (continued)

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

RESOLVED, That the Board accept this anonymous donation of \$1,000 by a parent from West Broad Street Elementary School to be used as stipulated by the donor.

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

Requests conform to district administrative policy and procedures.

Dr. Amuso stated that there was a request from the Board to take the request from Mrs. Cole as a separate item.

TRACY G. COLE
School Board Member

Federal Relations Network Conference
Washington, D.C.
January 28, 29, 30, 2007 (Sun.-Tues.)
Est. Expenses: \$535.00
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Expenses: \$535.00

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

There was discussion from the Board members asking what organization was sponsoring the conference and if Souderton was a member of the organization. Dr. Amuso indicated that the conference was sponsored by the National School Boards' Association and that Souderton is a member.

Mr. Currie asked what information would be obtained by attending this conference.

Mrs. Cole responded that she will have an opportunity to meet with local congresspersons and other Pennsylvania school board members to lobby on educational issues and legislation at the federal level. There is an opportunity to dialogue with Congressman Dent, who has made an effort on behalf of the Souderton Area School District.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if specific goals are achieved at the conference.

Mrs. Cole indicated that delegates vote on a national platform and speak with local congressional leaders regarding federal funding.

Mr. Currie called for the question.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 5 to 3, with Mr. Brong, Mr. Currie and Dr. Baumgartner voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the conference request from Tracy Cole as listed.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (continued)

At this point, there was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Mr. Leer to approve the remainder of the conference/workshop requests.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the remainder of the conference/workshop requests as listed:

ALYSSA PICARD Social Studies Teacher, Indian Valley	Strengthen Student Learning Using Differentiated Instruction Philadelphia, PA February 2, 2007 (Fri.)
CINDY VESEY Special Education, Indian Valley	Est. Expenses: \$438.67 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>206.00</u> (combined) Total Expenses: \$644.67 (combined)
DAVE RAMAGE Coord. of Technology/Staff Development	Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference Hershey, PA February 12, 13, 2007 (Mon., Tues.)
Paid with ABG Funds	Est. Expenses: \$539.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Expenses: \$539.00
GWYN CLARK Librarian, Franconia Elem.	Kutztown University Children’s Literature Conference Kutztown, PA April 20, 21, 2007 (Fri., Sat.)
JOYCE KOERT Librarian, West Broad Street Elem.	Est. Expenses: \$150.00 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> (combined) Total Expenses: \$150.00 (combined)
SUSAN PLUMMER Librarian, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	

Local Tax Study Commission Update

Dr. Amuso reviewed the recommendation that the Local Tax Study Commission presented to the School Board on December 7, 2006. The recommendation was to go with an additional 1% EIT (Earned Income Tax); which will bring the total EIT rate to 1.5% and to thoroughly educate the public on the issue prior to the primary election. He briefly went over the timeline associated with the Act 1 requirements and mentioned that the Board needs to come up with a referendum question for the May primary ballot. A public hearing will take place in January to share the updated information from Public Financial Management. The Board will discuss the topic and make their recommendation for the referendum question in February.

Dr. Amuso then thanked the administration and staff for their support during last week’s incident at the high school. He also thanked Chief Charles Quinn and the Souderton Police Department for their manpower and response and noted Chief Quinn’s efforts in contacting the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department and Chief Durante’s support.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Brenda Jones Bray

Recommendation to Approve School Board Minutes

Mrs. Bray presented the Minutes of the November 21, 2006 Board meeting for approval.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2006 Board meeting as presented.

Mrs. Bray presented the Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Board Reorganization meeting for approval.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Board Reorganization meeting as presented.

Mrs. Bray presented the Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Special Board meeting for approval.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Special Board meeting as presented.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

In the absence of Mr. MacDougall, Dr. Parry gave the Report of the President.

An Executive Session was held on December 13, 2006 to discuss personnel and possible litigation. The meeting lasted 45 minutes.

An Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted 30 minutes.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Grace Eves

Approval of the Financial Statements and Check Listings for November 2006

Mrs. Eves presented the financial statements, check listings and school activity fund statements as of November 30, 2006 for approval.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Mr. Miller questioned figures under Federal Revenue and Debt Service.

Mrs. Eves explained that the figure in the Federal Revenue section were funds due to Souderton from last year, and the question on the Debt Service figures was due to the fact that the majority of the debt service has been paid.

Dr. Parry questioned if the construction fund had enough money in it to cover expenses.

Mrs. Bray responded that she has been corresponding with Public Financial Management regarding the draw schedules and the need to move forward with the bond issue.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2006 as presented.
EXHIBIT B

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

The following items were discussed at the December 13, 2006 Education-Personnel Committee meeting:

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Souderton Area High School 2007-2008 Program of Studies

The High School 2007-2008 Program of Studies was presented for a final reading on December 13, 2006 at the Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Souderton Area High School 2007-2008 Program of Studies as presented.

Middle Level Transition Update

Mr. Leer indicated that planning for the transition is going well. Mr. Silva and Mr. Ferlick will update the Board in the spring.

Update on Programs

- Dual Enrollment Program through Montgomery County Community College
- Intervention Program for helping students become proficient.

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

CURRICULUM ITEMS

Request for Out-of-State Field Trip

Mr. Leer presented the request as listed:

- a. Indian Crest Junior High School – Gifted Support Program Grades 8 & 9
Date: May 1, 2007 (Tuesday)
Destination: United Nations Building and Metropolitan Museum of Art in
New York City, NY
Purpose of Trip: Culminating activity for gifted seminar program at Indian Crest
Number of Students: 90
Number of Teachers/Chaperones: 6 Teachers/Staff – 8 Parents
Requesting Teacher/Sponsor: Louisa Abney-Babcock and Nancy Greshock
Trip will be financed by students.

Upon a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mrs. Cole, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the out-of-state field trip as listed.

OTHER ITEMS

Recommendation to Accept Awarded Grant

Louisa Abney-Babcock, secondary Gifted Support teacher, has received a preliminary recommendation for funding of two grants through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the secondary level Robotics Program. These grant funds will be used to cover costs of materials, supplies, equipment, and attendance at robotics competitions. One grant has been approved for \$10,000, and its duration is four to six months. The second grant is approved for \$6,000 and will extend up to 16 months.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the grants from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development for the secondary level Robotics Program. **EXHIBIT C**

Montgomery County Special Needs Children's Foundation Grant

The learning support teachers at Oak Ridge Elementary School are submitting a proposal to the Montgomery County Special Needs Children's Foundation for a Mini-Grant/Technology grant project. They will seek the grant in the amount of \$1,951, and these funds will be used to purchase iPods that primary and intermediate learning support students can use to listen to downloaded audiobooks. The objectives of this project are to increase the students' reading fluency, as well as their comprehension and thinking skills and strategies, while also helping them to develop a desire and need to read for both learning and enjoyment. The grant will be for one year, and the funds will need to be expended by October 17, 2007.

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the personnel items as listed:

Request for Extension of Childrearing Leave

BERTINA HSU-MILLER Third Grade Teacher, Vernfield Elementary School
Through the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs. Hsu-Miller is planning to return to work for the 2007-2008 school year.

Recommendations for Employment

KERRY BOYLE

Replacement for
Susan Wexler (sabbatical)

Education

Fairfield Univ. (BA) 2004
Villanova Univ. (MS) 2006

Guidance Counselor, E.M. Crouthamel Elem.

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

Effective: Second semester 2006-2007

Experience

September 2006 – Present –SASD-E. M. Crouthamel
Guidance Counselor (LTS)
2005-2006-Central Bucks School District-Kutz
Elementary-Independently Contracted Counselor
Mill Creek Elem.-Counseling Intern

Recommended Salary

\$20,219.50 – M (1)

KELLIE CONLAN

Replacement for
Amanda Engler (childrearing)

Education

Bloomsburg Univ. (BS) 2004

Special Education Teacher, Indian Crest Jr. High

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

Effective: Second Semester 2006-2007

Experience

September 2006-Present-SASD-Indian Crest Jr. High
Special Education Teacher (LTS)
2004-2006-Fox Trail Elem.-Davie, Florida-Fourth Grade
Teacher

Recommended Salary

\$18,385.50 – B (1)

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

JENNIFER KRAUSE First Grade Teacher, Vernfield Elem.
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Courtney Panachyda (childrearing) Effective: Second semester 2006-2007
Education Experience
Chestnut Hill College (BS) 1997 September 2006-Present-SASD-Vernfield Elem.-First
Cabrini College (MS) 2005 Grade Teacher (LTS)
February–June 2006-SASD-Vernfield Elem.-
Kindergarten Teacher-Per-Diem Extended
Substitute
September 2005-January 2006-SASD-West Broad Elem.
First Grade Teacher (LTS)
Recommended Salary
\$20,219.50 – M (1)

MEGAN LEADBEATER Third Grade Teacher, Vernfield Elem.
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Bertina Hsu-Miller (childrearing) Effective: Second semester 2006-2007
Education Experience
Arcadia Univ. (BA) 2006 September 2006-Present-SASD-Vernfield Elem.-Third
Grade Teacher (LTS)
Spring 2006-Wissahickon School District-Stoney Creek
Elem.-Third Grade-Student Teacher
Recommended Salary
\$18,385.50 – B (1)

CHRISTINE MAINE .5 Kindergarten Teacher, Vernfield Elem.
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Cheri Fogle (childrearing) Effective: Second semester 2006-2007
Education Experience
Rutgers Univ. (BA) 1988 September 2006-Present-SASD-Vernfield Elem.
Beaver College (M Ed) 1994 .5 Kindergarten Contract and .5 Kindergarten
(LTS)
September 2005-June 2006-SASD-Vernfield Elem.
.5 Kindergarten Teacher
September 2001-June 2005-SASD-Vernfield Elem.,
Salford Hills Elem., West Broad Street Elem.
Kindergarten Teacher
Recommended Salary
\$10,702.50 – M+12 (1)

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

PENELOPE MAYNARD Science Teacher, Indian Crest Jr. High
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Kelly Fickert (childrearing) Effective: December 14, 2006 through June 2007
Education Experience
Univ. of Scranton (BS) 2003 September-November 2006-SASD-Substitute Teacher
2004-2006-Easton Area School District-Easton Area
High School & Twilight Program Alternative
Education – Science Teacher
Recommended Salary
\$36,771 (pro-rated) – B (1)

MEREDITH McMAHON English Teacher, Senior High School
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Michelle Ruch (childrearing) Effective: Second semester 2006-2007
Education Experience
Penn State Univ. (BS) 1999 September 2006-Present-SASD-Senior High School
Arcadia Univ. (MA) 2006 English Teacher (LTS)
Spring 2006-Jenkintown Middle/High School-Language
Arts-Student Teacher
Recommended Salary
\$20,219.50 – M (1)

KATHRYN REICHARD .5 Kindergarten Teacher, Vernfield Elem.
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Cheri Fogle (childrearing) Effective: Second semester 2006-2007
Education Experience
Kutztown Univ. (BS) 2005 September 2006-Present-SASD-Vernfield Elem.
.5 Kindergarten Teacher (LTS)
April-June 2006-Central Bucks S.D.-Mill Creek Elem.
Fourth Grade (LTS)
February-April 2006-Central Bucks S.D.-Mill Creek
Elem.-Building Substitute
Recommended Salary
\$9,192.75 – B (1)

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

PROFESSIONAL STAFF (continued)

Recommendations for Employment (continued)

SHARON STREFF	Part-Time Learning Support, Franconia Elem. Beginning: December 11, 2006
Replacement for Colleen Schneider (transfer)	
<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Gwynedd-Mercy College (BA) 1966	1999-2006-ATG Learning Academy, Chalfont, PA Elementary and Special Education, Grades K-9
	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
	\$26 per hour – 3 hours per day

SUPPORT STAFF

Retirement

R. TERRY RAUDENBUSH	Warehouse Manager, Food Service Department Effective: June 29, 2007 Employed by SASD: 7.5 years
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Resignations

DANIEL INSOGNA	Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: December 21, 2006
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MARTHA MOYER	Special Education Aide, Vernfield Elem. Effective: December 6, 2006
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ELISSA SANER	Title I Aide, E. M. Crouthamel Elementary Effective: December 22, 2006
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Transfer

DENNIS FRANKENFIELD	From: Part-Time Custodial Substitute To: Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School Beginning: December 22, 2006 Hourly Rate: \$9.21 Hours: 4 per day
Replacement for Daniel Insogna (resigned)	

Recommendation for Employment

KAREN KUKUCHKA-MANN	ESL Aide, Souderton Area High School Beginning: December 18, 2006 Hourly Rate: \$12.65 Hours: 7 per day
Replacement for Patti Kline (resigned)	

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

Recommendations for Supplemental Contracts - 2006-2007 School Year

ANNE FITCH	World Languages Advocate, Senior High	\$1,000.00
(Change from shared advocate position – Anne Fitch and Carol Ramsey)		
KRISTIN KELLY	SAVE Assistant, Senior High	600.00
TAMI WENGER	Girls Lacrosse - Head Coach, Senior High	4,133.00
MARGARET WHOMSLEY	SADD Advisor, Senior High	900.00
KELLIE CONLAN	Developmental Girls Basketball Coach (IC)	25.00 per hour 6 hours per week/7 weeks

Recommendation for Contracted Services for Coaching – 2006-2007 School Year

RICHARD KINCADE [^]	Asst. Wrestling Coach, Senior High	\$2,631.00 (pro-rated)
[^] New to coaching at SASD		

Recommendation to Approve Additional Induction Mentors for 2006-2007 School Year

KAREN FRAZIER	Mentor for Penelope Maynard (IC)	\$ 600.00 (pro-rated)
JENNIFER GRANITO	Mentor for Matthew Montagna (HS)	600.00 (pro-rated)

Additions/Deletions to Substitute Teacher and Food Service Listing for 2006-2007.

EXHIBIT D

The next Education-Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

NORTH MONTCO TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER

William J. Brong and Mark D. Leer, Representatives

Mr. Brong reported the North Montco Joint Operating Committee held their reorganization meeting. There are five new members to the board, and Mr. Brong was elected Vice Chairman. He reported that the North Montco Board is also working at an accelerated pace on their budget. The present budget proposal shows an increase of 2.14% over the 2006-2007 budget. Souderton's share will increase by \$31,931 for 2007-2008.

Mr. Brong also mentioned that North Montco recently provided their holiday dinner this year to all board members from the sending districts. The students did an excellent job.

The next meeting of the Joint Operating Committee Board will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Administrative Conference Room at the North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

R. “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Miller presented the requests for use of school facilities.

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy

FRANCONIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

E.P.Y.S.A. – Souderton Soccer

Gym

Monday evenings 6:30PM – 8:00PM – January 8, 2007 thru March 30, 2007

Indoor practice

Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN CREST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Denise Gucwa’s School of Dance

Auditorium

June 1 – 3:30PM – 11:00PM

June 2 – 12:30PM – 6:00PM

Dance Recital

Certificate of Insurance on file

INDIAN VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

S.A.Y.F.A. – Youth Football

Cafeteria & Auditorium

February 10 & 11, 2007 - 4:00PM – 10:00PM

Annual Banquet

Certificate of Insurance on file

LOWER SALFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harleysville Softball Association

Cafeteria

January 22, 2007 – 8:30AM – 12:00PM

2007 Season Registration

Certificate of Insurance on file

OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harleysville Softball Association

Cafeteria

January 25 & 26, 2007 – 6:30PM – 9:00PM

February 1 & 2, 2007 - 6:30PM – 9:00PM

February 3, 2007 - 8:30AM – 12:00PM

2007 Softball Registration

Certificate of Insurance on file

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for Use of School Facilities (continued)

Prevailing rates, conforming to present policy.

OAK RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harleysville Softball Association

Cafeteria

January 25 & 26, 2007 and February 1 & 2, 2007 – 6:30PM – 9:00PM

February 2, 2007 – 8:30AM – 12:00PM

2007 Season Registration

Certificate of Insurance on file

SALFORD HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harleysville Girls Softball Association

Cafeteria

February 9 & 10, 2007 – 6:30PM – 9:00PM

February 10, 2007 - 8:30AM – 12:00PM

2007 Season Registration

Certificate of Insurance on file

S.A.G.L.A. & S.A.B.L.A.

Souderton Area Girls & Boys Lacrosse Assoc.

Hallway outside Gym

January 13 & 30, 2007 -- 10:00AM – 12:00PM

2007 Season Registration

Certificate of Insurance on file

Committee Chairperson Report

The Operations Committee discussed the following at their December 7, 2006 meeting:

- New High School Update
- High School Pool Roof Repairs
- Annual Transportation Report 2005-2006

New High School Project

Right of Way Agreement with Verizon for Lower Road Utility Poles

Dr. Parry questioned how much the project would cost and how much was budgeted for the project.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the Verizon cost was \$77,222 and also mentioned that \$275,000 was budgeted in PlanCon G for all utility work. That includes cable, electric, and water.

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Leer, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Right of Way Agreement with Verizon for the relocation of Lower Road utility poles as presented.

EXHIBIT E

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Recommendation to Accept Bid for High School Pool Roof Repairs

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Leer.

Mr. Milled indicated that the district would receive reimbursement from the insurance company for this project since the damage was caused by a wind storm.

Mr. Brong asked if there was a deductible.

Mrs. Bray responded that the deductible was \$1,000.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the bid from U. S. Roofing in the amount of \$48,600 for the repairs to the high school pool roof.

EXHIBIT F

TRANSPORTATION

No report.

FOOD SERVICE

No report.

The next scheduled Operations Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

The Finance Committee discussed the following at their December 7, 2006 meeting:

2007-2008 Technology Budget Preview

Dr. Parry indicated that the technology portion of the budget was discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting. The committee is trying to determine what technology equipment is in place, what is needed, and how it enhances education.

Mr. Currie spoke about his recommendation to have technology addressed at either Finance or Education-Personnel regarding the needs of technology so the board could understand what is needed and why. He referred to an email from the solicitor regarding budget timelines that must be met.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2007-2008 Technology Budget Preview (continued)

Dr. Parry agreed that further discussion is needed on technology to understand the issue of how technology is used and integrated in the classrooms. He questioned the ratio of students to computers.

Mrs. Ryan indicated that elementary class sizes vary, but all classrooms have three computers per classroom, the use of a portable lab and a computer lab.

Dr. Amuso suggested that the discussion on this issue continue at the January 3 Finance Committee meeting and the January 17 Education-Personnel Committee meeting. He indicated that he would work with the solicitor on the budget timelines.

Mrs. Sheehan indicated the firm is reviewing legislation to determine the dates of the Act 1 budget timelines.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the board has already given the administration the directive to come up with a budget that would not need to go to the voters on a referendum. He explained the complicated budget process.

Mrs. Cole added that the board has been provided with lots of information regarding technology needs.

There was discussion among board members about the use and need of technology in the classrooms, integration uses among elementary and secondary levels, student/computer ratio, and an understanding of the plan for technology.

Mr. Miller added comments about the computer lease going from \$1 million per year to \$1.5 million per year and asked for a better understanding of the cost increase.

Dr. Baumgartner suggested a change in the lease agreement to four years. As in old computers should be replaced, but the board needs to understand the reasoning for new, additional computers.

Mr. Brong added that the student/computer ratio needs to be addressed so that it is even across the district.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the administration will address the questions.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, immediately following the 6:30 PM Operations Committee meeting, in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Committee Chairperson Report

The Policy Committee discussed the following at their December 13, 2006 meeting:

First Reading of Policies:

Policies #317.1, #417.1 and #517.1 – Terroristic Threats/Acts (Administrative, Professional and Classified Employees)

Mrs. Cole indicated that these policies resulted from numerous meetings.

Mr. Miller suggested that a harassment item should be placed under terroristic threats.

Mrs. Cole indicated that a harassment policy is already in place. The definition of terroristic threat comes directly from the criminal code.

Update on Policy #246 – Student Wellness – Implementation

Mr. Gallagher updated the board on the implementation of the Student Wellness Policy and the efforts of the School Health Council.

Broadcasting Board Meetings

Mrs. Cole indicated that the Policy Committee has been working on this new policy and is awaiting answers to questions posed to the solicitor's office.

The next Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 at 6:30 PM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

No report.

The next Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2007 beginning at 7:45 PM. The meeting will be held at the IU, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

INDIAN VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Victor M. Verbeke, Representative

Mr. Verbeke reported that the Funding Task Force met on November 29 and is drafting a funding agreement.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Tracy G. Cole, Representative

No report.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Representative

No report.

FEDERAL PROJECTS

No report.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

No report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Miller commented on the Indian Valley Chorus Concert.

Mrs. Cole shared comments regarding the Senior Citizen Breakfast that had taken place at Indian Valley Middle School.

Dr. Baumgartner added that funds for the breakfast came from student fundraising activities.

ADJOURNMENT

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary