

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A regularly scheduled public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held Thursday, February 28, 2008 at the District Administrative Offices in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, 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
	Bernard S. Currie	R. Bud Miller
	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski	Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Scott C. Jelinski	(Note: Mr. Jelinski arrived at 7:11 PM)
SOLICITOR:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Bonnie Barnes, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Rob Davide, Deborah Doeblor, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Dan Glatts, Maureen Krum, Steve Pollack, Laurie Reynolds, Tim Roberts, Gail Ryan, Beth Swartz, David Thayres, Sam Varano, Wayne Walton, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, *The Morning Call*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Souderton Area High School – Foreign Exchange Students

Mr. Varano, principal at Souderton Area High School, introduced Dan Glatts, who is the Foreign Exchange Club advisor. Mr. Glatts asked the exchange students to speak about their home country and their experiences in the United States and Souderton.

NATSUKO GODA - Japan
BJORN HELLQVIST – Sweden
YOOTHAPOOM WONGKUENKAEW – Thailand

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the 2007-2008 Foreign Exchange Students from Souderton Area High School. **EXHIBIT A**

Mr. Varano asked the host families to stand and be recognized for their support of their exchange students.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

Rob Davide, Class of 2008, reported on the events at Souderton Area High School. Rob spoke about the upcoming musical “State Fair,” The Biggest Loser Contest, the Prom Fashion Show, the opening of the SAVE Eco Store, and several club collection drives. Other items highlighted were the club competitions, and a sports update.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Operations Committee Report

William J. Brong, Chairman

Asphalt Bid Opening

Mr. Brong announced that the asphalt bid opening is scheduled for March 4, 2008. The bids will be brought to the March 13th Board meeting to be discussed and a vote will be taken on March 27th to award the contracts.

Lower Salford Roof Bid Opening

Mr. Brong also announced that the Lower Salford roof bid opening is scheduled for March 18, 2008. These bids will be brought to the Board meeting for discussion on March 27th and voted on April 10th to award the contract.

Indian Crest Technology Education Center Concept Study

Steve Pollack, Supervisor of Operations, reported to the Board on the technology education space at Indian Crest Junior High School. The room is a large open room that had been used to house the traditional industrial arts program since 1972 when the school opened. Presently, the room houses a woodshop, a few computers and technology classes, but the majority of the room is not conducive to future middle school needs. The administration will consider converting this space into a technology center with classrooms for the 6-7-8 program as outlined in the Middle Level Transition Plan. A suitable technology area already exists at Indian Valley. Mr. Pollack mentioned that a local architectural firm, Godshall Kane, has been employed to do a study and come up with options and budget estimates. This project would be proposed in the updated 5-Year Plan to be presented in April 2008.

Mr. Brong added that Godshall Kane is also working with the North Montco Technical Career Center on their renovation project and doing a tremendous job.

Mr. Miller asked for an explanation of the LGI (Large Group Instruction) and SGI (Small Group Instruction) rooms recommended for Indian Crest. He asked if Indian Valley has the same type of areas.

Mr. Pollack indicated that Indian Valley has a small SGI room and also has a computer lab. Renovations by district staff have been taking place over the past few years at Indian Valley.

Mr. Miller asked why the administration was waiting until 2010 to do the Indian Crest renovations.

Mr. Pollack responded that the project will take more than a summer to complete. There is significant work to be done at Indian Crest; designs and plans need to be discussed along with the funding. He

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Operations Committee Report (Continued)

Indian Crest Technology Education Center Concept Study (Continued)

suggested waiting until 2010 when the high school project would be finished and the pupil population would be lower at Indian Crest to allow for classroom shifting to facilitate renovation when school is in session. The project could begin in the Spring of 2010 and be ready for the opening of the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Kwiatkowski questioned the HVAC portion of the project.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the boiler and emergency generator replacement, as previously approved in the 5-Year Plan, were a separate project to be done during the summer of 2009 and would be limited to the boiler room. HVAC work to serve the proposed technology center and also adjacent music and auditorium areas would be part of the scope for the 2010 project. He spoke about the condition of the old equipment and the timeframe needed to complete the project.

Mr. Currie asked for clarification about the Technology Education Center project timeline.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the project should go out for bid in the fall or winter of 2009, start work in spring of 2010, and complete the project during the summer before the opening of the new school year in September 2010. Time is needed to design and bid the project, order equipment, and do the work. The principal is comfortable that the curriculum can be delivered to students during the 2009-2010 school year while the work is commencing.

Mr. Currie commented that the curriculum delivery is not to be interrupted during construction.

Mr. Brong asked if there was a TV studio at Indian Crest.

Mr. Pollack indicated that the current TV studio is located in the library.

Mr. Brong asked if the construction area will be closed off to students while work is being done. He also mentioned that he had heard some of Indian Crest's original drawings from 1972 could not be found.

Mr. Pollack confirmed that original drawings could not be located. However, Labor and Industry has found some drawings and will be sending a copy to the district.

Mr. Brong stated that the Operations Committee is recommending proceeding with the Indian Crest Technology Education Center planning and employing the firm of Godshall Kane for services rendered in the amount of \$4,000. It was agreed that no specific action by the Board was necessary to authorize payment for architectural services.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Policy Committee Report
Victor M. Verbeke, Chairman

Policy Governance Update

Mr. Verbeke stated that the Policy Governance Committee would be presenting to the Board and the community the first two aspects of policy governance. He briefly explained the history and process that has taken place.

Dr. Baumgartner presented and explained the Board Governance Policies which include:

- Global Governance Process
- Governing Style
- Board Responsibilities
- Member Governance Principles
- Members' Code of Conduct
- President's Role and Duties
- Board Committee Principles
- Cost of Governance
- Policy Stewardship
- Community Linkage

The main aspects of these policies will allow the Board to govern themselves, represent their constituents, and focus on outcomes and results rather than details; to be proactive rather than reactive. The Board will also be monitoring the performance of the superintendent, organizational outcomes, executive limitations, executive authority, written standards, provide directives, and hold the superintendent accountable.

Mr. Verbeke explained the concept of community linkages. The Board's job will be to write policies, with its constituents voicing their opinion regarding those policies.

Mr. Kwiatkowski reported on Board-Superintendent Linkage Policies which will include:

- Board/Superintendent Relationship
- Recruitment and Appointment of Superintendent
- Accountability of Superintendent
- Delegation to the Superintendent
- Monitoring the Superintendent's Performance
- Evaluation of the Superintendent

The Board-Superintendent Linkage Policies will focus on: clear communication between the Board and superintendent, establish policies for the organization, the development of goals and outcomes, and the evaluation of the superintendent.

Mr. Verbeke explained how the Board will use policy to impact student achievement by giving clear directives and goals. He suggested having a special meeting in March to deliberate on the policies.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Policy Committee Report (Continued)

Policy Governance Update (Continued)

Mr. Currie stated that he would work with Dr. Amuso to schedule a date for a Committee-as-a-Whole meeting on this topic.

Mr. Verbeke thanked the Board for the time it will take to go through this process. The Policy Governance Committee is recommending that the policies be put on the district's Website so the community can read them and give feedback on the policies. He asked each Board member to put their thoughts on the policies in writing.

Mr. Currie asked the administration to look into getting the policies posted on the Website and develop a method for the public to send in feedback.

Review of Policies

Mr. Gallagher indicated that the Administrative Policy Review Committee has reviewed these policies and is recommending some changes.

Policy #217 - Graduation Requirements

Mr. Gallagher indicated that this policy needed to be reviewed due to the change of language that was required by IDEIA law. There were also administrative additions to the policy. He reviewed the new language relating to the work of the Project 4 team, which includes graduation credit changes, starting with the Class of 2013.

Mr. Verbeke stated that the committee recommends moving Policy #217 forward for a first reading on March 13th.

Dr. Baumgartner asked why the delay in requiring 28 credits.

Mr. Varano stated that the school improvement designation caused a set back in the timeline. The high school staff has had to divert a lot of their time between the improvement plan and the Classrooms of the Future Grant that requires 30 hours of staff training. This has taken a lot of time away from program development. Mr. Varano added that the staff also needs to focus on program development for the grade transition and the logistics of closing and opening two buildings.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if the graduation credit timeline could be moved up.

Mr. Varano indicated that the high school staff will move as quickly as possible on increasing the number of graduation credits, but for now, the school improvement plan is more important.

Mr. Verbeke asked what the difference would be between the "scholar diploma" and the "standard diploma." He asked for a definition of the "scholar diploma" to be placed in policy so everyone would understand the definition.

Mr. Varano explained all the requirements of the "scholar diploma." He is hoping to develop a third level of diploma, the "pathway diploma."

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Policy Committee Report (Continued)

Review of Policies (Continued)

Policy #217 - Graduation Requirements (Continued)

Mr. Verbeke stated that the administration needs to define the requirements of these diplomas.

Mr. Gallagher recommended putting the requirements in the Program of Studies catalog. Language in the policy should be changed to show “administrative procedures.”

Mr. Miller asked if Souderton students could get into better colleges and obtain better scholarships with a scholar diploma.

Mr. Varano shared that raising the bar the correct way will help students achieve, thus getting themselves into better schools and getting better scholarships.

Mr. Verbeke stated that the committee is recommending moving forward on this policy for a first reading on March 13th.

Policy #807 - Opening Exercises/Flag Displays

Mr. Gallagher reviewed the policy, and indicated that the policy had been discussed by the Administrative Policy Review Committee. Chapter 12 requires the Board to review specific policies of which Policy #807 is one. He highlighted updated language and recommended that the policy move forward for a first reading on March 13th.

Mr. Verbeke indicated that updating the language makes the policy easier to read. He also reviewed key aspects of the policy. This is an end for responsible citizenship. He also talked about additional language inserted to cover opening exercises, the displaying of the flag on school property, and the distribution of the Flag Code to every eighth grade student.

The policy will move forward for a first reading on March 13th.

Policy #910 - Community Relations

Mr. Gallagher mentioned that about a year ago discussions began relating to the televising of Board meetings. At that time, the Board recommended that the administration update all of the 900 level policies to reflect better communications with the public. Mr. Gallagher indicated that Policy #910 was reviewed and language changed to reflect the Board’s request. He highlighted the changes in wording and recommended that the policy move forward for a first reading on March 13th.

Mr. Verbeke commented that these changes will tie into policy governance.

Recommendation to Purchase IEPPLUS Special Education Software (SunGard Pentamation) Subject to Contract Approval by the District’s Solicitor

Dr. Amuso presented the item for discussion and mentioned that the recommendation would move forward for action at the March 13th Board meeting.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Purchase IEPPLUS Special Education Software (SunGard Pentamation) Subject to Contract Approval by the District's Solicitor (Continued)

Mrs. Karen Berk, Director of Special Education, explained the current software application being used for IEP's and student histories. The system is different from what the rest of the district is using to establish data for all students. She explained the reasons why the present system is not suitable for current efficiency and spoke about committee research and trials that were performed on several different data systems. IEPPlus is 100% web-based. This system will help manage and track special education student data and records, both past and current.

Mrs. Berk listed many of the programs that the system will allow the Special Education to maintain:

- Manage and track the student referral/evaluation process
- Track special education student records
- Use web-based forms to easily develop Individual Education Plans and other mandated documents
- Maintain historical information
- Comply with IDEIA regulations
- Meet ever-changing state and federal regulations
- Maximize the district's entitled Medicaid reimbursements (ACCESS)
- Maintain a central database for demographic information and services
- IEP/Report development
- Meeting scheduler for IEP meetings
- Contact management to store and manage student information
- Medicaid billing information

Mrs. Berk went on to mention that IEPPLUS will work in tandem with the district's database system eSchoolPlus that will be unveiled this fall. The initial start-up cost of \$75,000 will include needed training, which the administration purposes to initiate immediately upon Board approval. Funding for this system would come from IDEIA and/or ACCESS reimbursement.

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on where the funds would come from.

Mrs. Berk responded that IDEIA and/or ACCESS funds are federal funds.

Mr. Miller questioned if federal funds would be taken away from somewhere else if we purchased the new software system.

Mrs. Berk explained how federal funds are funneled to Souderton through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and how the money may be spent.

Dr. Amuso recommended that this item appear on the next Board agenda for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted approximately 15 minutes.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the consent agenda for approval unless Board members would like certain items removed for discussion.

Dr. Amuso recommended that Item M be removed from action.

- M. Recommendation to Proceed with the Virtual High School Program for 2008-2009 at a Cost of \$5,000 Paid Out of Project 720 Funds.

In the initial year of implementation, 10 course “seats” will be available to Souderton Area High School students for the following courses:

1. Advanced Placement courses that a student is otherwise unable to schedule.
2. Basic Mandarin: Chinese Language and Culture

Mr. Miller requested to have Item P removed.

- P. Resolution to Delegate Authority Pursuant to Section 13-1310(a) of the Public School Code of 1949 to the Superintendent of Schools of the Souderton Area School District to Assign Student Attendance Areas for Indian Valley and Indian Crest Middle Schools for the 2009-2010 School Year.

Dr. Baumgartner requested to have Item Q removed.

- Q. Recommendation to Adopt 2008-2009 School Calendar.

At this point, there was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the consent agenda, except for Items M, P, and Q.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the consent agenda as presented, with the exception of items M, P and Q:

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the February 14, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings for January 2008.

EXHIBIT B

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

JESSICA BROCKMANN Special Education, Senior High School	Co-Teaching as a Strategy for Success King of Prussia, PA March 5, 2008 (1/2 Day – Wednesday)
EDWARD GALLAGHER Math, Senior High School	Est. Expenses: \$145.44 (Combined)
JENNIFER GRANITO Special Education, Senior High School	Sub. Expenses: <u>257.50</u> (5-1/2 Day Subs.)
SHAWN HANRAHAN Math, Indian Crest Jr. High	Total Est. Expenses: \$412.94 (Combined)
DOUGLAS HENNING Special Education, Indian Crest Jr. High	
MARK JAMES Math, Senior High School	
KATHY DOLL Business Education, Sr. High School	Moving Forward Conference Gwynedd, PA March 7, 2008 (Fri.)
KAREN SERFASS Business Education, Sr. High School	Est. Expenses: \$110.00 (Combined)
	Sub. Expenses: <u>154.50</u> (Combined)
	Total Est. Expenses: \$264.50 (Combined)
MICHELLE RUCH English, Senior High School	Technology Coaching Academy Norristown, PA March 13, 2008 (Thurs.) April 8, 2008 (Tues.) May 8, 2008 (Thurs.)
	Est. Expenses: \$ 51.51
	Sub. Expenses: <u>309.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$360.51
CINDY APPELBAUM Transition Coordinator/Special Education Souderton Area High School	Penn Autism Network’s Third Annual Conference “Facing the Future with Optimism” Philadelphia, PA March 28, 2008 (Fri.)
MATTHEW MONTAGNA Special Education, Senior High School <i>Paid with Federal Funds</i>	Est. Expenses: \$372.52 (Combined)
	Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> (Montagna Only)
	Total Est. Expenses: \$475.52 (Combined)
MARIA HALL Multidisability Classroom Nurse Vernfield Elementary <i>Paid with Federal Funds</i>	Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses and Practitioners Conference King of Prussia, PA March 28, 29, 2008 (Fri., Sat.)
	Est. Expenses: \$250.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$353.00

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (Continued)

VICKI BALL Response to Intervention: How to Raise the
Student Support Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem. the Achievement of All Students
DR. PATRICIA MATHUES Drexel Hill, PA
CARS, Oak Ridge Elem. April 9, 2008 (Wed.)
Est. Expenses: \$390.00 (Combined)
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$390.00 (Combined)

GWYN CLARK Aspergers Syndrome Back to Basics: A Practical
Librarian, Franconia Elem. Approach
Horsham, PA
April 11, 2008 (Fri.)
Est. Expenses: \$120.00
Sub. Expenses: 103.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$223.00

WILLIAM CODDINGTON Senior Project Institute
Grade 12 Senior Project Coordinator New Orleans, LA
Senior High School June 25, 26, 27, 2008 (Wed, Thurs., Fri.)
CHRISTOPHER HEY Est. Expenses: \$3,437.00 (Combined)
Assistant Principal, Senior High School Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$3,437.00 (Combined)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Resignation

WESLEY HICKMAN District Behavior Specialist
Effective: February 11, 2008

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendations for Transfers

MARY LEIDY From: Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Franconia Elem.
To: Substitute Café/Playground Aide, Franconia
Effective: March 7, 2008

BETH ANN MULFORD From: Title I Teaching Asst., West Broad St. Elem.
To: Substitute Teacher
Effective: March 3, 2008

Recommendation to Approve Additions and Deletions to the Substitute Teacher List

EXHIBIT C

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Employment of Coaches for the 2007-2008 School Year

Supplemental Contracts for Coaching Positions

MICHAEL CHILDS	Head Baseball Coach (HS)	\$ 4,247.00
NATHANIEL BENDER	Asst. Baseball Coach (HS)	2,617.00
KIMBERLY DUDEK	Head Lacrosse Coach (girls) (HS)	4,174.00
PETER SPIZZIRRI	Head Lacrosse Coach (boys) (HS)	3,524.00
WILLIAM GROSS	Asst. Lacrosse Coach (boys) (HS)	2,972.00
ANDREW McCLINTOCK	Asst. Soccer Coach (girls) (HS)	2,944.00
JEFFREY WALKER	J. V. Soccer Coach (girls) (HS)	2,915.00
ROBERT TYBRING II	Asst. Softball Coach (HS)	2,617.00
MARK JAMES	Head Tennis Coach (boys) (HS)	2,362.00
J. WILLIAM CODDINGTON	Head Track Coach (boys) (HS)	4,774.00
JOHN DONAHUE	Asst. Track Coach (boys) (HS)	3,196.00
JAMES O'NEILL	Head Track Coach (girls) (HS)	4,774.00
RICHARD HESS	Asst. Track Coach (girls) (HS)	3,213.00
JOHN ROWE	Asst. Track Coach (girls) (HS)	3,343.00
BRAD GARRETT	Head Volleyball Coach (boys) (HS)	3,356.00
DANIEL STOVER	Asst. Volleyball Coach (boys) (HS)	2,915.00
DANIEL ROBBINS	Developmental Basketball Coach (boys) (IC)	
	\$25.00 per hour – 8 weeks/6 hours per week	

Contracted Services for Coaching Positions

DAVID MYERS	Asst. Baseball Coach (HS)	\$ 2,973.00
EDWARD MOLNAR	Freshman Baseball Coach (HS)	2,349.00
NICOLE BAUER^	Asst. Lacrosse Coach (girls) (HS)	2,547.00
AMY ALWINE KELLER	Freshman Lacrosse Coach (girls) (HS)	3,352.00
JOHN FINCH ^	Asst. Lacrosse Coach (boys) (HS)	2,325.00
TERRY UNDERKOFFLER	Head Soccer Coach (girls) (HS)	4,353.00
JOSEPH HALLAR	Head Softball Coach (HS)	4,164.00
DANALYNN TUROK	Asst. Softball Coach (HS)	2,467.00
ROBERT PEPKOWSKI	Freshman Softball Coach (HS)	2,987.00
SCOTT KEELER ^	Asst. Tennis Coach (boys) (HS)	1,605.00
BRADLEY KULL	Asst. Track Coach (boys) (HS)	3,042.00

^ New to SASD

Recommendation to Approve Additions and Changes for Community Education Staff and Salaries for Winter/Spring 2008 Session

MEREDITH BIRCHALL	Color Analysis & Image Update (\$20 per hour, 3 hours) (Two Sessions)	\$120.00 (Total)
MEREDITH BIRCHALL	Makeup for a Beautiful Face (\$20 per hour, 3 hours)	\$ 60.00
MEREDITH BIRCHALL	Relax and Say “Spaaaa” (\$20 per hour, 3 hours)	\$ 60.00
MARY BETH BETTE	Belly Dancing (\$20 per hour, 6 additional hours)	\$120.00

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Item M - Recommendation to Proceed with the Virtual High School Program for 2008-2009 at a Cost of \$5,000 Paid Out of Project 720 Funds (Continued)

Mr. MacDougall asked why the scope was being narrowed.

Dr. Amuso indicated that there would be only 10 seats available and the relevance of some of the courses were questionable at this time. The administration asked Mr. Varano to limit the possibilities for the first year and then perhaps expand in years to come.

Mr. Varano explained the rationale for choosing AP courses and Mandarin Chinese for the first year of the program.

Mr. Brong asked for clarification about the development of written policy to determine how students would be selected for the program.

Mr. Varano indicated that the administration still needs to formulate and develop procedures.

Mr. Brong suggested adding another bullet to indicate that the administration is working on developing procedures.

Dr. Amuso agreed that another bullet could be added stating that the administration will develop written procedures and share with the Board.

Mr. Currie restated that procedures will be developed and written.

The motion was amended and agreed upon by Mr. Leer and Mr. Miller that the High School administration will develop written procedures to prioritize students into the program.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 1, with Mr. MacDougall voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board grant approval to proceed with the Virtual High School Program for 2008-2009 at a cost of \$5,000 paid out of Project 720 funds, and in the initial year of implementation, 10 course “seats” will be available to Souderton Area High School students for the following courses and procedures:

1. Advanced Placement courses that a student is otherwise unable to schedule.
2. Basic Mandarin: Chinese Language and Culture
3. High School administration will develop written procedures to prioritize students into the program.

Item P - Resolution to Delegate Authority Pursuant to Section 13-1310(a) of the Public School Code of 1949 to the Superintendent of Schools of the Souderton Area School District to Assign Student Attendance Areas for Indian Valley and Indian Crest Middle Schools for the 2009-2010 School Year.

Dr. Amuso presented this resolution for discussion.

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

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Item P - Resolution to Delegate Authority Pursuant to Section 13-1310(a) of the Public School Code of 1949 to the Superintendent of Schools of the Souderton Area School District to Assign Student Attendance Areas for Indian Valley and Indian Crest Middle Schools for the 2009-2010 School Year (Continued)

Mr. Miller questioned if the school facilities at Indian Valley and Indian Crest, were comparable as far as student population and similar attributes.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the capacity of both schools are about the same.

Mr. Pollack stated that Indian Crest's student capacity is 1,000, and Indian Valley's student capacity is 968 students.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the schools will be as similar as possible. All of the programs will be the same.

Mr. Miller asked if elementary schools will be broken up in the redistricting.

Dr. Amuso stated that there are some elementary school attendance areas that are larger than others and there will be some splits. The administration will have a chance to discuss attendance areas with parents when the new attendance lines have been determined.

The motion was taken to a vote, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the resolution to delegate authority pursuant to Section 13-1310(a) of the Public School Code of 1949 to the Superintendent of Schools of the Souderton Area School District to assign student attendance areas for Indian Valley and Indian Crest Middle Schools for the 2009-2010 School Year. **EXHIBIT E**

Item Q - Recommendation to Adopt 2008-2009 School Calendar

Dr. Amuso highlighted the starting and ending dates of the proposed 2008-2009 calendar.

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

Dr. Baumgartner shared comments from residents regarding early dismissals. He asked the purpose of early dismissals and if they were needed.

Dr. Amuso explained the need for early dismissals for parent/teacher conferences. We must accommodate parents who cannot come in the evening. Act 80 days are permitted by state law for teacher training and count as a full student/teacher day. Students receive the required 180 days of instruction. Other uses for early dismissal days are for staff development or grade level meetings within the teacher work day. The teachers work 192 days.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if it would be possible to put the teacher training into full days instead of early dismissal days.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Item Q - Recommendation to Adopt 2008-2009 School Calendar (Continued)

Dr. Amuso indicated that the number of days the teachers work is a contractual issue.

Mr. Leer also commented that he felt early dismissal days were not productive for students. He suggested taking a look at changing early dismissal days in the future and suggested extending the school year.

Dr. Amuso commented that teachers do use the time to instruct students productively on early dismissal days.

Mr. Verbeke also expressed concern about early dismissal days. He suggested that the parents should be educated on why the calendar is set up the way it is. The administration and Board should look at how to communicate the reasoning behind the calendar.

Dr. Amuso offered to hold a workshop meeting to explain the calendar.

Mr. Brong expressed that the Board is micromanaging the school calendar. The administration does a good job on the calendar.

The vote was taken on the proposed 2008-2009 School Calendar, and on a vote of 9 to 0 it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adopt the 2008-2009 School Calendar as presented.

EXHIBIT F

INFORMATIONAL

The next scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2008 beginning at 7:00 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.

The next North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 17, 2008, in the Administrative Conference Room at North Montco, 1265 Sunnyside Pike, Lansdale, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at 7:45 PM in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

There was no report from Mr. Fitzgerald.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

No unfinished or new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Swartz, from Telford, asked the Board if they had voted on curricular changes at the February 14th Board meeting. She expressed concern about proposed cuts in the World Languages and Unified Arts curriculum. Ms. Swartz, a teacher at Indian Crest, explained to Board members how the current school day has time at the end of the day for remediation. In the proposal, remediation students will not be able to meet with their unified arts teachers for help.

Dr. Amuso explained that the recommended changes came through the Middle Level Transition Committee. The middle level area is limited in time and resources, and that may preclude the structure of our middle level programs.

Mrs. Maureen Krum, from Souderton, has taught Spanish in the district for many years. She expressed concern over the elimination of the exploratory world languages curriculum in seventh grade. She spoke about the opportunities that would be eliminated and teachers having to travel between schools.

Shelby Kay-Fantozzi, a junior at Souderton Area High School, shared her concern about the elimination of the exploratory language program. She stated that languages improve the work ethic and help students on standardized tests. Students need a better understanding of languages when they enter college.

Mr. Currie thanked the ladies for their comments.

Mr. Verbeke commented that Policy #803 states that the Board shall determine school the calendar and that they were not micromanaging the administration.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Jelinski, second by Mr. Kwiatkowski to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:53 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary