

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, June 5, 2008 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski
	William J. Brong	Mark D. Leer
	Bernard S. Currie	Eric R. MacDougall
	Scott C. Jelinski	Victor M. Verbeke

ABSENT: R. Bud Miller (arrived at 7:11 PM)

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanic, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brandon Bilohlavek, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Lisa Gurgick, Dona Italiano, William Lukridge, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

North Montco Technical Career Center Award Winners

Dr. Amuso called on Mr. Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, to recognize a few of the high school students who also attend North Montco Technical Career Center. The following North Montco Technical Career Center/Souderton Area High School students are being recognized for their accomplishments at the Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) competition recently held in Lancaster, PA. The gold medal winners are eligible to compete in Dallas, Texas in June for the National HOSA competition.

ALEXIS FLOWERS (12) – Gold Medal - HOSA Bowl Team

KIRSTIN EDWARDS (12) – Silver Medal - Creative Problem Solving Team

Penn HOSA Scholarship Winner

MICHELE FEINDLER (12) – Silver Medal – Creative Problem Solving Team

Penn HOSA Scholarship Winner

The Souderton Area High School partners with the North Montco Technical Career Center in this program with many students going into medical or pre-med occupations.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

North Montco Technical Career Center Award Winners (Continued)

The SKILLS USA State Level Competition was recently held in Hershey, PA. Using the skills they have learned in their classrooms, our students competed in various competitions against their peers from across the state.

NICHOLAS FAMULARO (12th) – Bronze Medal - Carpentry

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second by Mr. Leer.

Mr. Brong added that he had attended the Senior Recognition event at the North Montco Technical Career Center. Out of all of the Souderton graduating seniors at North Montco, the Souderton graduates received over \$83,000 in scholarships. North Montco had 290 graduates this year.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the North Montco Technical Career Center Award winning students for their accomplishment.

Dr. Amuso called on the parents of these students to stand and receive recognition for their support.

Teacher Recognition

Mr. Varano also recognized Dona Italiano, English teacher at Souderton Area High School by detailing the criteria of the award and talked about her accomplishments and assets at the secondary level.

(NOTE: Mr. Miller arrived at this time – 7:11 pm.)

DONA ITALIANO was recently named as a finalist in the 2008 Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence. This award is sponsored by the Freedom Credit Union and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Mrs. Italiano was selected for going above and beyond the call of duty as an educator in Montgomery County.

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Verbeke, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Mrs. Italiano for her professionalism and dedication to teaching.

Dr. Amuso also recognized Mrs. Italiano's husband who was in the audience.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Finance Committee – R. Bud Miller, Chair

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee (Continued)

Resolution for 2008-2009 Cooperative Purchasing

Mr. Miller announced that the district would be considering a resolution at the next Board meeting that would provide cooperative purchasing through the following sources: Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit #13, COSTARS, PEPPM, Southeastern Pennsylvania Buying Group (Food Service), DVASBO Purchasing Group (Food Service), Chester County Intermediate Unit #24 (Food Service), and Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

2008-2009 Depositories

Mr. Miller and Mrs. Bray noted the listing of depositories for the 2008-2009 school year.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

2008-2009 Supply & Paper Bids

Mr. Miller noted that the district's paper consumption is going up along with the price of paper. He asked the administration to take a look at reducing paper usage.

Mr. Kwaitkowski asked why the Franconia Elementary custodial bid was higher than the other school bids.

Mr. Bray explained that Franconia had used their 2007-2008 bid order and the school's inventory of custodial supplies, and needed to replace their inventory and order enough supplies for the entire 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Dr. Baumgartner noted that some school boards have gone to paperless board meetings. All necessary information is put on a laptop computer for the board members.

Mr. Brong commented that going to laptops usually generates more paper.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

Recommendation to Authorize the Transfer of Budgeted Funds

Mrs. Bray noted that the authorization to transfer the budgeted funds was based upon audit adjustments to the book balances for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008. She indicated that the auditors come in at the end of the year and make recommendations for transfers. This authorization will allow our auditors to transfer funds.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

Education-Personnel Committee – Mark D. Leer, Chair

Writing Units of Study - Grades 3-4-5

Mr. Leer indicated that this process began in January 2006 and is now coming to an end.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Writing Units of Study - Grades 3-4-5 (Continued)

Mrs. Ryan spoke about the process and talked about what has transpired over the years with the writing process and staff development. Pending approval of the curriculum, copies of the new curriculum will be distributed to teachers in grades 3-5 for an approximate cost of \$2,800 from the Director of Elementary Education's 2008-2009 budget. Mrs. Ryan proceeded to talk about the overview of the Writing Units of Study such as: Launching the Writing Workshop; Raising the Quality of Narrative Writing; Informational Writing; Persuasive Writing and Poetry.

Mr. Currie asked how the measuring of student progress would take place.

Mrs. Ryan explained that the teachers assess children using a rubric consistent with the PDE Writing Domains rubric at the end of each unit, as well as a fall and spring formal writing assessment. Scores are kept for each student and compared year to year.

Mr. Brong asked Mrs. Ryan to define rubric as a scoring guide.

Mrs. Ryan explained that a rubric assesses children on their level of learning using specific criteria for each level of achievement.

Mr. Silva added that this is very consistent to how secondary students are tracked.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

Reading Unit of Study—Reading as a Test Genre – Grades 3-4-5

Mrs. Ryan began by stating that historically the district has believed that good teaching will result in good enough test results. Standardized testing is not going away, and the results of failing to demonstrate proficiency are increasingly consequential. She spoke about testing as a *genre*, distinguished by characteristics of form, style and content. The unit focuses on developing the thinking strategies used by good readers (and mathematicians, and scientists) and understanding test questions and formats. The goal is to respond to today's high stakes testing environment in a professional, forward-thinking manner by helping children understand the thinking strategies they must use to succeed in any learning environment. Mrs. Ryan explained the unit overview and indicated that there would be no additional costs required.

Mr. MacDougall asked how teachers will prevent themselves from teaching to the test and if the test alignment would be used with math and science and other subjects.

Mrs. Ryan responded that we don't want our children to be handicapped going into the tests, but we want them to think. She also talked about test strategies with recent science tests, noting that thinking strategies will serve students well in all standardized testing situations.

Mr. Miller questioned if Souderton was moving away from A-B-C grading and how it would affect scores.

Mrs. Ryan responded that at this point the impact of grades vs. no grades is not known.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Reading Unit of Study—Reading as a Test Genre – Grades 3-4-5 (Continued)

Dr. Baumgartner asked if going to a test genre would cause a change in teaching.

Mrs. Ryan responded that the intent of this unit is to link ongoing reading instruction to the language and expectations of the test without compromising excellent teaching.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

Elementary Science – FOSS Science Kit Overview for 2008-2009 – Grades 1-2-3-4-5

Mr. Leer reminded the Board that this topic was discussed before along with a few demonstrations of the kits.

Mrs. Ryan indicated that teachers sampled these kits and overwhelmingly liked the kits and the inquiry approach to teaching Science. The students will be assessed by using the tests that come with the kits. She talked about costs and inservice training that will be needed for this set of kits. The total cost of \$55,307 has been included in her budget for next year.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for approval.

2008-2009 Budget

Dr. Amuso mentioned that on June 19th, the Board will vote on the final budget. There is no tax increase for Souderton residents this year. The budget includes Governor Rendell's administration's recommendation for increased state funding. The 2008-2009 Final Budget will remain the same as the 2008-2009 Proposed Final Budget.

Recommendation: Move to the Board meeting on June 19, 2008 for final vote.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An informative executive conference session was held on May 22, 2008 to discuss Board governance. The session lasted 35 minutes.

An executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel matters. The session lasted approximately 15 minutes.

Mr. Currie read a statement regarding the status of negotiations. He stated that the Board will be renegotiating with three groups of employees: teachers, secretaries, aides, all who have contracts expiring at the end of June 2008. The Board's objective is to develop contracts which reflect accountability to the teachers, students and especially the community of taxpayers. A health care industry expert was hired to advise the Board on the trends in health care costs, insurance program contents, and cost sharing trends. The expert presented those findings in a summary format to the union representatives and presented a proposal to modify the health care plan. Talks will continue throughout the summer.

EXHIBIT A

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the consent/action agenda items for approval. He asked the Board members to pull off any item that needed more discussion.

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

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

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the May 22, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

JANET ALDINGER Second Grade, Franconia Elem.	Celebrate Literacy Conference West Chester, PA June 24, 25, 2008 (Tuesday, Wednesday)
CASSIE HAMMER Third Grade, Franconia Elem.	Est. Expenses: \$1,295.00 (Combined)
DR. BEVERLY HANRAHAN Second Grade, Franconia Elem.	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$1,295.00 (Combined)
BARB SCOTT CARS Teacher E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	JOAN SHELLENBERGER CARS, Franconia Elem.
EILEEN SHANER Fourth Grade, Franconia Elem.	JAIME STONE Third Grade, Franconia Elem.

PERSONNEL – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Recommendation for Transfer

ELLEN SYKES Replacement for Thomas Ferlick (transfer)	From: Assistant Principal, Indian Valley Middle School To: Assistant Principal, Indian Crest Junior High ACT 93 GROUP Beginning: July 1, 2008
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<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Pennsylvania State Univ. (BS) 1977	1998-2008–Souderton Area School District-Indian Valley Middle School–Assistant Principal
Villanova Univ. (MS) 1981	1996-1998–Souderton Area School District–Indian Valley Middle School-Instructional Support
Delaware Law School (JD) 1989	Teacher
Pennsylvania State Univ. Principal Certificate) 1995	
Salary – Pending Approval of ACT 93 Compensation Plan for 2008-2009	

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation for Employment

REBECCA E. LEMIEUX

Replacement for
Wesley Hickman (resigned)

Education

York College (BS) 2001
Lehigh Univ. (M.Ed.) 2003
Lehigh Univ. (Certificate) 2004

District School Psychologist

TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL

Beginning: 2008-2009 School Year

Experience

2004-Present-Downingtown Area School District
School Psychologist- Early Intervention-
Elementary-Secondary
2003-2004–Tuscon Unified School Dist., Arizona
School Psychologist Intern
2002-2003–Colonial School Dist.–Behavior
Specialist
2001-2002–Lehigh University–Low Incident
Disabilities Training Project–Project Trainee

Recommended Salary - \$53,113 – M+24 (5) ♦

♦-2007-2008 Salary Guide-Salary to be adjusted pending approval of a new Professional
Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Medical Sabbatical

NANNETTE RUTH

English Teacher, Indian Crest Junior High
Effective: 2008-2009 School Year

Recommendation to Approve Request for Childrearing Leave

VALERIE SEBRA

Special Education, Indian Valley Middle School
Beginning November 18, 2008, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first
semester of the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Sebra is planning to return to work for the
second semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

MEREDITH EHST

First Grade Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary
Beginning November 18, 2008, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first
semester of the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Ehst is planning to return to work for the
second semester of the 2008-2009 school year.

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignation

JENNIFER HARRISON

Special Education Aide, West Broad St. Elem.
Effective: June 13, 2008

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Employment

STEVEN OLIVIERI

Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Beginning: June 18, 2008
Wage: \$9.41 per hour
Hours: as needed

Recommendation for employment of the 2008 Summer Sports Camp staff.

EXHIBIT B

Recommendation to approve bids for removal of carpet and installation of tile at Indian Crest Junior High School, Oak Ridge Elementary School, and West Broad Street Elementary School for 2008-2009.

EXHIBIT C

Request for Souderton Area School District participation in ESEA Title I, Title II, Title III and Title V programs during the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Frank Gallagher will serve as the official representative to file the appropriate applications.

Recommendation to approve listing of colleges and universities who partner with the Souderton Area School District for placement of student teachers.

Arcadia University
Cabrini College
Eastern University
Gwynedd Mercy College
Immaculata University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Kutztown University
Lock Haven University
Penn State University
Temple University
Ursinus College

Recommendation to approve Montgomery County Intermediate Unit election of School Board members.

EXHIBIT D

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

No items for discussion/action.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Administrative Conference Room at the Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (CONTINUED)

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 19, 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.

On Wednesday, Wednesday, June 25, 2008 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.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

There was no report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Verbeke mentioned that he had attended last night's concert that was held at the high school. The concert featured musicians from Indian Valley Middle School, Indian Crest Junior High School and Souderton Area High School. The music was amazing and he was impressed with the program. Mr. Verbeke thanked the music teachers for the performance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brittany McCollum and Mike Borrelli, students at Indian Crest Junior High School, spoke about the elimination of "Senior Privilege" and how the ninth grade students were upset with this decision. Ms. McCollum explained how important "Senior Privilege" is to the students. They urged the Board to keep "Senior Privilege" as it is.

Mr. William Lukridge, president of the Souderton Area Education Association (SAEA), read a statement about contract negotiations. He began his statement by stating that Souderton Area Education Association officials had met with district officials prior to January 11, 2008. A February meeting was snowed out, but a meeting took place during the first of March 2008, where the SAEA presented a complete proposal. He stated that the district did not respond until the last week of April with only a partial proposal. The district has not been able or willing to provide a proposal on health care or performance pay until Tuesday of this week, even though they are fully aware that the contract runs out on June 30th. He indicated that this was a blatant disregard of the law, and the need to get a fair contract settled before the start of school. SAEA has contacted the state mediator to become involved in the process, and on June 11th the association will be taking a strike authorization vote for the beginning of September. Mr. Lukridge indicated that SAEA remains willing to bargain over the summer, but will be asking the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board to force the district to follow the law.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Hugh Donnelly, resident of Franconia Township, thanked the Board for doing the best they can for the taxpayers in keeping taxes down. He spoke about a COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for school employee retirement plans that will approve an increase and cost the district more money. The state is mandating a program that is not part of current education, and the current Board must fund for retired educators. Mr. Donnelly urged taxpayers to contact state legislators to vote no against the COLA.

Mr. Currie announced that the Board would meet in executive session after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Verbeke, second by Dr. Baumgartner to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary