

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, January 10, 2008 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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	R. Bud Miller
	Scott C. Jelinski	Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Eric R. MacDougall	
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Molly Dugan, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Steve Pollack, Tim Roberts, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Wayne Walton, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR RECOGNITION MONTH – January 2008

Dr. Amuso began the meeting by reading a Proclamation from the Pennsylvania's School Boards Association relating to January being School Director's Recognition Month. He talked about how our local officials are elected and provide many hours of service in representing the citizens of the community. Dr. Amuso thanked the Board for their service. **EXHIBIT A**

Mr. Currie explained the new format for School Board meetings.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ITEMS

Finance Committee – R. Bud Miller, Chair

Mr. Miller started the meeting by introducing the Finance Committee members: Mr. Brong, Mr. Jelinski, Mrs. Bray, Dr. Amuso, Mr. Clemens and himself.

Mr. Miller mentioned that the North Montco Technical Career Center 2008-2009 Budget would be voted on later in tonight's meeting.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Proposed 2008-2009 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget

Mr. Miller presented the 2008-2009 Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget for discussion. Souderton's total contribution for 2008-2009 will be \$72,633, which is a reduction from 2007-2008 of \$18,990 or a decrease of 20.73%. The Intermediate Unit's total budget for 2008-2009 will be \$1,300,961, which is a 20.10% reduction from this year.

Dr. Amuso added the Board will be asked to approve the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,861,825, a 5.05% decrease in their budget. In the past, every district was assessed a certain amount for services. Now that the Intermediate Unit has gone to a "Marketplace" approach, districts will only pay for technology services used. The Board will take action on the Intermediate Unit budget on January 24, 2008.

Budget Development Process

Dr. Amuso explained the budget development process for the 2008-2009 Budget. The plan is to work on the expenditure side of the budget in addition to working with individual budget codes as in the past. The 2008-2009 development process will primarily focus on expenditures required by law and regulation (state and federal), such as regular education, special education, gifted education, and vocational education. Another focus area will be expenditures required by contracts which include current teachers, support staff, and certified supervisors, along with instructional materials and equipment, and transportation for special education students.

Dr. Amuso also talked about expenditures required by law, regulation or agreement/contract such as existing debt obligation and building maintenance projects to ensure safety of students and staff, and transportation for regular education/non-public school students or the agreement with local municipalities to share funding of the Indian Valley Public Library.

Finally, Dr. Amuso indicated that the budget development process will look at expenditures not required by law or regulation, which may be included as the result of sound educational practice or community expectation, such as instructional or support staff positions which are not required by law or regulation or instructional and support staff to address enrollment increases or additional programs. Also included would be support of currently funded non-mandated programs, such as secondary school electives, extra-curricular activities for students, and planned building maintenance which is not of an emergency nature. The adjustment of fees for programs and services for the community would include the use of facilities by community groups and community education programs.

The administration will present a prioritized list to the Finance Committee using this budget process for consideration.

The Board has already given the administration a directive to not exceed a 4.4% increase in real estate taxes. The Finance Committee will develop limits on expenditures as well.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Budget Development Process (Continued)

Mr. Miller noted that in the past, the Board looked at actual expenditures. The new process will help the Board focus on expenditures, rather than a real estate tax rate. He thanked Dr. Amuso for the excellent presentation.

Mr. Jelinski indicated that he thought this process will make the budget easier to understand.

Mr. Miller noted that the Finance Committee is recommending this process for this year's budget development.

Local Index

Mr. Miller spoke about the local index and what our community can afford. The Finance Committee has reviewed several years of data, provided by Berkheimer Associates, the firm which collects the District's earned income tax. Average increases in the community income over the past three years average 2.06%, and now the Board is asking the administration to stay within that limit. This same percentage is being assigned to expenditure increases. The administration has already informed the state that Souderton will be staying under 4.4% real estate tax increase. Mr. Miller directed Dr. Amuso to limit expenditures to an increase of 2.06% over projected 2007-2008 expenditures when preparing the budget.

Mr. Currie indicated that this process includes a safety valve for future budget development. The Board will respond to the administration's recommendations accordingly. He stated that there is a shared responsibility by the administration and Board to make sure necessary items are funded.

Time Frame for 2008-2009 Budget Development

Mrs. Bray addressed the 2008-2009 budget development timeline. The process will begin in February with a review of the 2006-2007 financial statements and discussion of the projected 2007-2008 expenditures. The process will continue through the spring, with a review and approval of the 2008-2009 Proposed Final Budget on May 8th, a display of the Final Budget in the PDE-2028 format by May 30th, the publishing of the Notice of Intent to adopt the 2008-2009 Final Budget by June 9th, and adoption of the 2008-2009 Final Budget on June 19th.

Mr. Miller indicated that if additional Finance Committee meetings are needed, they will be added to the calendar.

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING ITEMS

Education-Personnel Committee – Mark D. Leer, Chair

Mr. Leer welcomed newly elected Board members Dr. Baumgartner and Mr. Kwiatkowski to the Education-Personnel Committee. Other committee members include Mr. Clemens, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Silva, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Berk and Dr. Amuso.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

EDUCATION-PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Education-Personnel Committee (Continued)

Mr. Leer previewed issues that will be coming to the Board in future months:

- Update on the Reorganization of Secondary Schools – February 2008
- Imminent Changes to Chapter 4 of the PA School Code – Changes in Graduation Requirements – March/April 2008

Mr. Silva added that there was a State Board of Education hearing yesterday related to the issue of graduation requirements. The State Board is in the final phase of changing the requirements for PA public schools. He briefly explained some of the proposed changes.

Mr. Leer spoke about the Curriculum Council and their function regarding curriculum and materials. In past years, Mrs. Cole had served as the Board's representative and will remain on the council as a parent volunteer. Mr. Currie will now be the Board's representative to the Curriculum Council, and Mr. Leer will attend as many meetings as possible.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if the Chapter 4 changes needed to go through the PA House and Senate before they were adopted. He suggested the Board discuss this topic at a future meeting.

Mr. Silva responded the district's focus should be on our students meeting standards and assessments. He addressed Dr. Baumgartner's question and explained student expectations and testing requirements.

Mr. Brong questioned when the Middle School Transition Committee would be addressing redistricting of students for the transition and asked if public meetings would be held for parents.

Mr. Silva indicated that work has begun on the redistricting portion of the transition.

Dr. Amuso stated that Mr. Silva has already been to each of the elementary schools and had meetings with parents to discuss the reorganization.

Mr. Silva indicated that the administration wants to make sure that attendance areas for both schools will have equal enrollment.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Tracy Cole, from Lower Salford Township, encouraged the Board to keep the stadium building project in perspective to the total cost of the project, and approve the proposed change order. The building is a required facility and will enhance the entire campus. The high school project has proceeded smoothly due to the work of the architect, construction team, and administrative team. Mrs. Cole indicated that all estimates have been very conservative.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An Executive Session was held on December 20, 2007 following the Board meeting to discuss litigation. The meeting lasted 60 minutes.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted approximately 10 minutes.

Mr. Currie announced that an Executive Session would take place after tonight's meeting to discuss legal matters.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

Mr. Verbeke mentioned that Dr. Larson had announced her retirement and he was sad to see her go. He publicly thanked Dr. Larson for her many years in education and added that she would be missed and asked if Dr. Larson could be invited to a future meeting so the Board could publicly thank her.

Dr. Amuso added that Dr. Larson has been with the Souderton Area School District for 14 years and has had an outstanding career in education, but at the public school level and college level. He added that Dr. Larson will be missed.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the items on the Action Items/Consent Agenda as listed:

Recommendation to Approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2007 School Board Meeting.

EXHIBIT B

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

BERTINA HSU-MILLER	Strengthening Instruction for Gifted Students Through
Gifted Support, Lower Salford &	Differentiated Teaching
Oak Ridge Elementary Schools	Allentown, PA
	January 16, 2008 (Wed.)
	Est. Expenses: \$261.51
	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$261.51

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONSENT)

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

JANE NATALI Supervisor of Food Service	Elements of Food Service Kulpsville, PA January 23, 2008 (Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$128.03 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$128.03
EDWARD GALLAGHER Mathematics/Football Coach Senior High School	PA Scholastic Football Coaches Association Kick-Off Clinic Hershey, PA February 1, 2008 (Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$198.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$301.00
JANE NATALI Supervisor of Food Service	Tyson University for School Foodservice Operators Springdale, Arkansas February 5-8, 2008 (Tues.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$97.91 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$97.91
LORA L. KUHNS Assistant Principal Indian Valley M. S.	Facilitating Restorative Conferences Bethlehem, PA February 7-8, 2008 (Thurs.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$308.33 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$308.33
BRENDA JONES BRAY Director of Business Affairs	PA Association of School Business Officials Conference Hershey, PA March 4-7, 2008 (Tues.-Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$945.15 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$945.15
REBEKAH KUNICKI First Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	Real Reading...Right From the Start Newark, NJ March 19, 2008 (Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$247.99 Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$350.99

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONSENT)

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

COLLEEN WEGIMONT American Alliance for Health, Physical
Health/Phys. Ed., Oak Ridge Elem. Education, Recreation, & Dance National Conf.
Fort Worth, TX
April 8-12, 2008 (Tues.-Sat.)
Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00
Sub. Expenses: 412.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$412.00

Recommendation to Approve Revisions to the Existing Social Studies Planned Course for Grade 7.

Recommendation to Approve the 2008-2009 North Montco Technical Career Center Budget.

EXHIBIT C

PERSONNEL – ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Recommendation for Resignation/Retirement

DR. LINDA LARSON Principal, Oak Ridge Elementary School
Employed by SASD: 14 years
Effective: June 30, 2008

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendations for Employment

JESSICA BROCKMANN Special Education, Learning Support, Senior High
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Jennifer Granito (childrearing) Effective: Second Semester - 2007-2008

<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Jacksonville State University, OH (BS) 2000	First Semester 2007-2008-Souderton Area School Dist.–Long-Term Substitute–Special
Jacksonville State University, OH (MS) 2002	Education Teacher 2004-2007–Cordillera Elem., Mission Viejo, CA Resource Specialist 2002-2004–West Carrollton H.S.– Dayton, OH Special Education Teacher- Life Skills

Recommended Salary - \$20,523 - M (1)

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendations for Employment (Continued)

MARGARET BURKE Fourth Grade, Oak Ridge Elementary
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Kristin Diaz (childrearing) Effective: Second Semester - 2007-2008
Education Experience
Pennsylvania State University First Semester 2007-2008–Souderton Area S.D.
(BS) 1983 Oak Ridge Elem.–Long-Term Substitute
Arcadia University (M.Ed.) 2003 Fourth Grade Teacher
2006-2007–SASD–E. M. Crouthamel Elem.
Title I Teaching Assistant
March-June 2006-SASD–Lower Salford Elem.
Per-Diem Extended Substitute –
.5 Kindergarten Teacher
2005-2006–SASD–E. M. Crouthamel Elem.
Title I Teaching Assistant
Recommended Salary - \$20,523 – M (1)

LEAH KOWALSKI English Teacher, Senior High School
Replacement for **LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE**
Therese Tirado (childrearing) Effective: Second Semester – 2007-2008
Education Experience
Arcadia University (BA) 2006 First Semester 2007-2008–Souderton Area S.D.
Senior High–Long-Term Substitute
English Teacher
March-June 2007–SASD–Senior High - Per-Diem
Extended Substitute–English
Recommended Salary - \$18,661.50 – B (1)

Recommendation for Contracted Service

YVONNE LEVANT District Wilson Reading Specialist
New position per IEPs and Effective: January 14, 2008 through the end of
paid through IDEA funds the 2007-2008 School Year
Hourly Rate: \$60.00
Hours: One (1) per day

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation for Transfer

NANCY WELBY From: Substitute Food Service
Replacement for To: Food Service Assistant – Indian Valley
Carmen Schreffler (transfer) Middle School
Beginning: January 7, 2008
Wage: \$9.51 per hour
Hours: 5.75 per day

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendations for Employment

ROSEMARY DILLON

Replacement for
Ann-Marie Tobar (resigned)

ESL/Title I Teaching Assistant
Beginning: January 7, 2008
Wage: \$12.77 per hour
Hours: 6 per day

ARTHUR SELL

Substitute Game Manager, Senior High
Wage: \$20 per hour
Hours: As needed

Recommendation to Approve Change in Supplemental Contract

District Coordinators of Art (K-5) \$750.00 each (change to shared position)

ELIZABETH JOHNSON-BOROWSKI & PAULA SLEMMER

Recommendation to Acknowledge Grant Application

Souderton Area High School-School Improvement Grant - \$9,500

Duration of Grant: One Year

The grant is allocated to schools that have entered the school improvement process as a result of PSSA scores. The funds will be utilized to purchase a Classroom Performance System (CPS) which will permit classroom teachers to monitor student progress on a daily basis. The funds will also be used to provide for consulting services, teacher substitute release time for in-service on co-teaching techniques, and curriculum writing for co-taught math classes.

EXHIBIT D

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Required Change Order for the Stadium Buildings Project

Dr. Amuso presented the change order for action.

There was a motion by Mr. Leer, second by Mr. Brong to approve the change order as presented. The vote was taken and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry required Change Order for the stadium buildings project as presented.

EXHIBIT E

INFORMATIONAL

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Administrative Conference Room at the Technical Career Center, 1265 Sunneystown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

On Wednesday, January 23, 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.

The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 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.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

There was no report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Miller commented on the sales brochure for the old high school property that was produced by Binswanger.

Dr. Amuso indicated that information about the sale of the old high school building and property has been released to the public. Mrs. Bray added that a for sale sign will be erected on the school property that borders Route 309.

Mr. Miller mentioned that anyone who is interested in purchasing the property should contact the Binswanger agency.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hugh Donnelly, of Franconia Township, commented on the new Board meeting format and complimented the Board for doing a great job. He asked about acquiring funding from the state for requirements that are mandated but not funded by the state. Mr. Donnelly also thanked the Board for reviewing costs associated with the stadium building project.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary