

**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, April 10, 2008 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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	Eric R. MacDougall
	Bernard S. Currie	R. Bud Miller
	Scott C. Jelinski	Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Mark D. Leer	
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, Ginny Perry, Gail Ryan, Walter` Salevsky, Jack Silva, Stephen Straka, Sam Varano, Wayne Walton, Teresa Washam, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

RECOGNITIONS

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) – 2008 Music Festival Participants

Dr. Amuso called on Mr. Sam Varano to introduce Stephen Straka, high school band director. Mr. Straka spoke about the band and orchestra students and their participation in the various PMEA band and orchestra festivals. Mr. Straka also thanked the parents of these students for their encouragement and support.

The following Souderton Area High School students were selected by audition to participate in this year’s PMEA Music Festivals:

<b>REBEKAH DOLL</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> )	Violin	PMEA District 11 Orchestra
<b>NATHAN FRUEH</b> (9 <sup>th</sup> )	Bass	PMEA District 11 Orchestra
<b>MICHAEL NELSON</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Viola	PMEA District 11 Orchestra
<b>MATTHEW PIATEK</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Trumpet	PMEA District 11 Band & Orchestra
<b>ALISON SHARP</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> )	Clarinet	PMEA District 11 Band
<b>RYAN WOODWARD</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> )	Clarinet	PMEA District 11 Band
<b>TINA ZHENG</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> )	Violin	PMEA District 11 & Region 6 Orchestra

Daniel Kujala, Orchestra Director – Stephen Straka, Band Director

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) – 2008 Music Festival Participants (Continued)

There was a motion by Mr. Miller and a second from Mr. Jelinski to recognize the PMEA band and orchestra students for their achievements. The vote was taken and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the PMEA band and orchestra students for their achievements. **EXHIBIT A**

Mrs. Teresa Washam, high school choral teacher, spoke about the talents and achievements of the PMEA choral students. She talked about the multiple talents of her students and the seniors' college plans. Mrs. Washam also acknowledged the parents for their encouragement and support. The choral group performed a short song for the Board.

<b>ANGELA BARTHOLOMEW</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> )	Soprano 2	PMEA District 11 Chorus
<b>CASSONDR A DIAZ</b> (10 <sup>th</sup> )	Soprano 1	PMEA District 11 & Region 6 Chorus
<b>BLAKE DITLOW</b> (11 <sup>th</sup> )	Bass 2	PMEA District 11 & Region 6 Chorus & Bass 2 (5 <sup>th</sup> Place) All-State Chorus
<b>MICHELE FEINDLER</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Soprano 2	PMEA District 11 Chorus
<b>CASSANDRA McCLOUD</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Soprano 2	PMEA District 11 & Region 6 Chorus
<b>MICHAEL NELSON</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Piano	PMEA District 11 Chorus
<b>SARAH THOMPSON</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Alto 1	PMEA District 11 & Region 6 Chorus & Alto 1 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Place) All-State Chorus
<b>SETH TRUMBORE</b> (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Accompanist	PMEA District 11, Region 6, & Accompanist (1 <sup>st</sup> Place) All-State Chorus

Teresa Washam – Choral Director

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the PMEA choral students for their achievements. **EXHIBIT B**

Art Show Winners

Mr. Varano introduced Mrs. Ginny Perry, who spoke about the accomplishments of her art students. Mrs. Perry also shared information about her senior students and their plans for college.

The following Souderton Area High School students were winners in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County High School Art Show and Competition. This is a highly competitive art show representing all high schools in Montgomery County. Mrs. Ginny Perry is the high school art teacher.

**BRIANNA ANTRIM** (11<sup>th</sup>) – Honorable Mention - Ceramics  
**RACHAEL HUNT** (12<sup>th</sup>) – Honorable Mention – Painting  
**MEURCIE REDDING** (12<sup>th</sup>) – Second Place – Ceramics  
**NICOLE SHELBY** (12<sup>th</sup>) – First Place – Printmaking  
**KELSEY WAGNER** (11<sup>th</sup>) – Third Prize – Painting

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

Art Show Winners (Continued)

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize the art show winners for their accomplishments.

**EXHIBIT C**

Dr. Amuso asked the parents in attendance to stand for recognition and thanked them for their support.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Finance Committee  
R. Bud Miller, Chair

Review of 2008-2009 Special Education Contract with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit  
Mr. Miller asked Mrs. Bray to comment on this item. Mrs. Bray indicated that this contract is the annual contract with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for services based on the needs of our special education students. Mr. Miller added that the difference in this contract from other years is that the Intermediate Unit has broken up services, and now charges the district only for services that are needed.

Recommendation: Move this item to the April 24, 2008 Board meeting for approval.

Update of 2007-2008 Expenditure Projections

January 31, 2008	\$92,821,850
March 31, 2008	<u>93,678,099</u>
Increase	\$ 856,249

Mrs. Bray commented on the expenditure increase. An update will be reported at a future meeting.

2008-2009 Revenue: First Look – A Review by Local, State, and Federal Sources

Mr. Miller asked Dr. Amuso to present the “First Look” at the revenue side of the 2008-2009 budget. A proposed final budget will be presented by May 8th. The Finance Committee will be meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the revenue budget in greater detail. Dr. Amuso indicated that the administration is still waiting for revenue numbers from the state.

Dr. Amuso reported at the present time, the 2008-2009 budget compared to the 2007-2008 budget shows an increase of about \$825,000 or .88%. The first look at anticipated revenue for next school year is \$94,857,312, which is a decrease of \$153,610 or .16% compared to the 2007-2008 total projected revenue as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Local revenue reflects the current millage of 24.46, which is the same as the 2007-2008 school year. As a result of current economic conditions, the local revenue shows an increase of \$240,000 or .32%. State revenue reflects a 2% increase over 2007-2008 projections due to Basic Education funding and Special Education funding. There is also a decreased retirement rate which will yield a lower state reimbursement. As a result, state revenue looks like it will be decreased by \$365,000 or 1.98%. Dr. Amuso mentioned that the administration is trying to get better information on the governor’s budget. The anticipated federal government portion of revenue

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee (Continued)

2008-2009 Revenue: First Look – A Review by Local, State, and Federal Sources (Continued)

will also decrease. Until the governor's budget is released, the administration will be conservative in calculations. Dr. Amuso went on to summarize that as of April 10, 2008, it looks like the difference between 2008-2009 "First Look" revenues and expenditures is \$1,004,805.

Dr. Amuso explained the governor's proposed budget calls for a 5.67% increase in revenue, but that amount is not included in the budget calculations at this time. Uncertainty has driven the administration to only build in a 2% increase in state revenue. More information will be available on Tuesday about gaming revenue.

Mr. Miller commented that the local taxpayers support 80% of the revenue budget and the state contributes 19%. The federal government only gives 1% of revenue support. Last year, investment earnings were good, causing the cost to Souderton's contribution to go down. He questioned what would happen in future years with the retirement payment if the stock market continues to go down.

Dr. Amuso mentioned that the lower retirement rate (4.76%) is for the 2008-2009 school year only. In future years, rates and contributions will change. He asked the Board to put some money away for future years to prepare for the anticipated rate spike in 2012-2013.

The Board will continue to discuss development of the budget at the April 15, 2008 Board Committee-as-a-Whole meeting.

Recommendation to Designate/Unreserved June 30, 2008 Fund Balance for PSERS and Construction

Mrs. Bray reported on the fund balance anticipated at the end of the year. She talked about the retirement rate decrease and how \$1,100,000 of the fund balance could be designated for future increases in the PSERS retirement rate and suggested designating \$2,900,000 of the fund balance for construction projects, including the completion of the high school, capital repairs, and renovations to the North Montco Technical Career Center.

Recommendation: Move this item to the April 24, 2008 Board meeting for approval.

Mr. Brong briefly spoke about Souderton's portion of the North Montco Technical Career Center renovation project.

Dr. Amuso stated that the total project estimate for the Technical Career Center is \$12M, which will be divided among the five participating school districts. If the state approves the renovation plan, North Montco could receive 40% reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Miller asked about courses at North Montco and if the renovations will affect the size of the school.

Dr. Amuso explained that there would be only a small addition, but significant renovations to the current building.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee (Continued)

Recommendation to Designate/Unreserved June 30, 2008 Fund Balance for PSERS and Construction (Continued)

Mr. Brong responded that most of the renovation is to meet new safety codes. The school will be set up in a marketplace style setting to allow the public access to services at the tech school without entering the main portion of the building.

Mr. Currie shared a comment about a bubble in the retirement rate for the year 2011-2012, which could be approximately \$3,000,000 and suggested that the Board start putting money aside now to help offset that possibility.

Classrooms for the Future (CFF) Grant Application Update

Mr. Gallagher indicated that the administration is in the process of putting the application together for the CFF grant for next year, which will be the final year the grant will be available from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The grant amount projected at \$407,177 and will provide funds for the set-up of an additional six Smart Rooms in the core areas. A Smart Room includes an electronic white Board, projector, and a classroom set of laptops. In addition, we will add 490 student laptops.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments from the audience.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

A Board information session was held on April 2, 2008 to discuss negotiations. The session lasted four hours.

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

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the recommended items on the consent/action portion of the agenda for approval. He mentioned that Item K would not be included in the motion (but moved to the next Board meeting for a second reading).

Mr. Currie mentioned that Item J, the nomination of a Board member to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board, had taken place in December. However, due to a technicality, the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit had asked the Board to affirm that decision. Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner will be representing Souderton for a two year term.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Mr. Miller asked for clarification on what had been changed in Policy #217 - Graduation Requirements.

Dr. Amuso responded that there were no changes from the last discussion.

There was a motion by Mr. MacDougall and a second by Mr. Brong to approve the consent/action agenda items as presented. Item K will be moved to the next Board meeting for a Second Reading.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve/ratify the items on the consent/action agenda as presented:

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the March 27, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

<b>GRACE EVES</b> Assistant Business Manager	Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials School Law Kulpsville, PA April 11, 2008 (Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$249.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$249.00
<b>TERESA WASHAM</b> Music, Senior High School	Pennsylvania Music Educator's Conference Hershey, PA April 16, 17, 18, 2008 (Wed., Thurs., Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$221.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>309.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$530.00
<b>DR. R. PAUL BAUMGARTNER</b> School Board Member	Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Advocacy Conference Harrisburg, PA May 18-19, 2008 (Sun., Mon.) Est. Expenses: \$551.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$551.00
<b>GRACE EVES</b> Assistant Business Manager	2008 School District Conference Malvern, PA June 5, 2008 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$125.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$125.00

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

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

**GAIL RYAN** Celebrate Literacy  
Director of Elementary Education West Chester, PA  
June 24-25, 2008 (Tues., Wed.)  
Est. Expenses: \$281.86  
Sub. Expenses: 0.00  
Total Est. Expenses: \$281.86

Request for Overnight Field Trip

Oak Ridge Elementary School – Life Skills Class

Date: May 12-13, 2008 (Mon.-Tues.)

Destination: Camp Men-O-Lan, Quakertown, PA

Purpose of Trip: Extend the walls of the classroom to give students an outdoor school experience, which allows them to practice and apply skills of daily living in creative and innovative ways.

Number of Students: 4

Number of Teachers/Staff: 3

Number of Other Adults: 2

Requesting Teacher: Pat Hedrick

Trip financed by Home and School Assoc. and fundraising activities.

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignation

**ROBERT S. WEBER** Full-Time, Second Shift, Custodian, West Broad Elem.  
Effective: April 11, 2008

Recommendation for Transfer

**RYAN DINLOCKER** From: Part-Time Custodian, Franconia Elem.  
Replacement for To: Full-Time, Second Shift, Custodian,  
Robert Weber (resigned) West Broad Street Elementary  
Beginning: April 14, 2008  
Wage: \$17.65 per hour  
Hours: 8 per day

Recommendation for Employment

**JAY FAUBERT** Full-Time, Second Shift,  
Replacement for E. M. Crouthamel Elementary  
Bernardo Carmona (resigned) Beginning: April 14, 2008  
Wage: \$17.65 per hour  
Hours: 8 per day

Recommendation to Award Bid for Lower Salford Elementary School's Roof Repair to Jim Miller, Inc. with a Base Bid of \$67,295. **EXHIBIT D**

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Third Reading and Grant Final Approval to Policies

Policy #910 - Community Relations

The community relations policy has been reviewed along with the 900 series of policies and has been updated to reflect current and future practices, and monitoring of policy.

**EXHIBIT E**

Policy #217 - Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements have been revised due to information received from the Federal government which requires the district to include language relating to IEP students and their participation in graduation. Other revisions include the incremental increase of graduation credit and monitoring of the policy.

**EXHIBIT F**

Recommendation to Approve Agreement with Bucks County Intermediate Unit for Contracted Costs for Maintaining Student Placement 2007-2008. **EXHIBIT G**

Recommendation to Ratify Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with Capital Area Intermediate Unit for joint purchase of Use of Connect-Ed Communication and Emergency Notification System for \$7,065 for 2007-2008. The estimated total cost for the next two school years is approximately \$20,500. This amount is included in the proposed budget.

**EXHIBIT H**

Recommendation to Approve the 2008-2009 Board Meeting Calendar. **EXHIBIT I**

Recommendation to Nominate Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner as Souderton's Representative to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board for the Remainder of the 2007-2010 Term.

First Reading of Policy #807 – Opening Exercises/Flag Displays

Recommendation: Move policy to the next Board meeting for a Second Reading.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Policy Governance Motion

Dr. Amuso stated that the administration is recommending approval of this Policy Governance motion.

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

Mr. MacDougall shared concern over the motion and asked if the Policy Committee would continue to review PSBA policies and work on policy governance.

Mr. Currie responded that was the intent.

Mr. MacDougall mentioned that he understood the Policy Committee would no longer oversee the PSBA policies and only work on policy governance. He explained his reason for opposing the last paragraph of the motion.



DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Policy Governance Motion (Continued)

Dr. Amuso stated that the administration needs to know what will happen to the policy manual since the administration is bound by PSBA policy.

Mr. Currie added that until policy governance is up and running, there may be a time when the Policy Committee may need to look at procedural policies.

Mr. Verbeke shared the intent of the motion. Policy governance will give the superintendent direction.

Dr. Baumgartner added comments about the administration and procedures.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 1, with Mr. MacDougall voting no, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the Policy Governance motion as presented.

**EXHIBIT J**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A meeting of the Board Committee-as-a-Whole will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 6:30 PM to continue discussions on the 2008-2009 Budget. 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 public is invited to attend.

There will be a Middle-Level Realignment Presentation to the Board and parents on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 beginning at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA. The public is invited to attend.

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 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.

On Wednesday, April 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, April 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.

No report from Mr. Sultanik.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

No unfinished/new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray  
Board Secretary