

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, October 11, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:19 PM by Vice President Dr. Jack A. Parry, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner William J. Brong Tracy G. Cole Bernard S. Currie	R. Bud Miller Dr. Jack A. Parry Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Mark D. Leer	Eric R. MacDougall
SOLICITORS	Kyle A. Berman, Esq. Ellen Enters, Esq.	Loren D. Szczesny, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brandon Bilohlavek, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Dr. Dale Burkhard, R. Bradley Clemens, Molly Dugan, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Katie Strite, Wayne Walton, representatives from *The Souderton Independent*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Presentation by PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC on behalf of ALMAC Group regarding a Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA) Agreement

Carmen Italia, President of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Corporation presented the members of the team who would be making the presentation. Michael Bacon, Vice President of Finance for ALMAC Group, Dan Breen, representative for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC, and Thomas Bowen, Attorney and Director of State and Local Tax/Incentives for Stevens & Lee. Mr. Italia also introduced Del Plank, Lower Salford Township Manager.

Mr. Bacon began his presentation by sharing the history of ALMAC and how they provide clinical services and technology for major pharmaceutical. ALMAC currently has plants in Yardley and Audubon with hopes to expand their operations in Pennsylvania. Their vision is to combine these two plants by moving the workers and operations to a larger plant in Lower Salford Township. The project would cost approximately \$100,000,000.

Dan Breen, of PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York, spoke about the impact this project would have in the community. The economic impact for the geographic area over the next 10 years is estimated to be approximately \$11.9 Billion. Jobs will be created at ALMAC and in the local area. He also

WORKSHOP ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Presentation by PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC on behalf of ALMAC Group regarding a LERTA Agreement (Continued)

addressed the tax benefits of permitting ALMAC in Lower Salford Township. There is the possibility of \$12 Million of property tax revenue to the district over the next twenty years. The district would also benefit from earned income tax collected from workers who would live in the area.

Thomas Bowen, tax attorney, informed the Board that the site is currently 60 acres of “green field.” Estimates are for construction to last two years beginning in 2008. The Memorandum of Understanding calls for a ten year tax exemption period. Mr. Bowen also addressed other tax benefits of the project. LERTA is a tool provided by the federal government to provide for new business construction. Upon Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding, the LERTA boundaries would be determined by Lower Salford Township, and the school board would review the agreement again before the adoption of the formal schedule.

Mr. Italia indicated that LERTA agreements have already been adopted with four school districts in Montgomery County and then talked about the projects already in place.

Dr. Parry indicated that this agreement is time sensitive and will be put to a vote later in tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Bowen stated the Memorandum of Understanding lists 45 Fretz Road in Lower Salford Township as the location for the project, and with approximately 936 jobs within three years after completion of the construction.

Several Board members asked questions of the team to clarify location, costs, legal issues, tax benefits, etc.

Mr. Currie indicated that the declining balance on tax exemptions should be modified and asked if that portion of the Memorandum of Understanding could be renegotiated.

Mr. Bowen indicated that there have been some variations in other counties and gave several examples. He stated that the exemption percentages were consistent with other school districts in the county. The Memorandum of Understanding is an indication of support of the LERTA project. All details can be worked out at a later time.

Dr. Parry asked for confirmation that ALMAC would not go forward until the LERTA agreement is finalized.

Mr. Bacon confirmed that ALMAC would not go forward until the LERTA agreement is finalized.

Mr. Currie asked if the solicitors from both the school district and ALMAC could caucus during the remainder of the meeting and modify the Memorandum of Understanding before board action later in the meeting.

Dr. Parry made the request for the solicitors from both parties meet to come up with a modified agreement.

WORKSHOP ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Status Report – Sale of Existing Souderton Area High School Building

Dr. Amuso started his presentation by noting that on September 28, 2006, the Board of School Directors charged the administration to develop a plan for the sale of the current high school property. He talked about the proceeds from the sale and how the sale of the property would increase the tax base for the school district, municipalities and counties involved. Five real estate firms, that showed an interest in marketing the property, were interviewed.

Dr. Amuso also stated that school code permits the district to sell the high school via public auction, sealed bids, or private sale, subject to the approval of the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County. The administration was charged to identify a firm with demonstrated success in marketing a property of this type. Proposals have been received from four companies and reviewed by the solicitor. The administration will recommend a professional real estate firm to represent the district in the sale of the high school building and adjoining athletic fields at the October 25th Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jack A. Parry, Vice President

Dr. Parry reported in Mr. MacDougall's absence.

An Executive Session was held on September 27, 2007 following the Board meeting to discuss litigation and personnel items. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel items. The meeting lasted approximately 60 minutes.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee – R. “Bud” Miller, Chairperson

No report.

Education-Personnel Committee – Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

Mr. Currie indicated no report.

Finance Committee – Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Finance Committee meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, October 17, 2007 and Thursday, November 1, 2007. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 PM and will take place in the Tinner Board

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee (Continued)

Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA. Dr. Parry indicated that the goal of these meetings is to establish guidelines for the administration in developing the 2008-2008 budget.

Policy Committee – Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole spoke about two policies, Policy #901 and #909 that will be discussed later on tonight's agenda. She indicated that there was still some work to do on Policy #603 and it will be brought to the Board when ready.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the items on the consent agenda for approval.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the items on the consent agenda as listed.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

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

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the September 27, 2007 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

RACHAEL SIMMS Healthy Sexuality: Adaptive Skills for Individuals with
Autistic Support, Oak Ridge Elem., Autism
Salford Hills Elem., Vernfield Elem. Philadelphia, PA
October 17, 2007 (Wed.)
Est. Expenses: \$109.70
Sub. Expenses: 0.00
Total Est. Expenses: \$109.70

SHARON ALDERFER Keystone State Reading Association Conference
CARS Teacher, Lower Salford Elem. Hershey, PA

CAMILLE CASANI October 22-24, 2007 (Mon.-Wed.)
CARS Teacher, Salford Hills Elem. Est. Expenses: \$2,574.00 (combined)

DR. PATRICIA MATHUES Sub. Expenses: 309.00 (combined)
CARS Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem. Total Est. Expenses: \$2,883.00 (combined)

LYNN ROBINSON
CARS Teacher, Vernfield Elem.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

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

MARGARET OETINGER Language Arts, Indian Valley M. S.	How to Succeed at Writing Tests Cherry Hill, NJ October 25, 2007 (Thurs.) Est. Expenses: \$175.00 Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> Total Expenses: \$278.00
JOSHUA PENNINGTON Technology Education Indian Valley Middle School	Technology Education Association of PA State Educators Conference Camp Hill, PA November 8, 2007 (Thursday) Est. Expenses: \$149.70 Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$252.70
SARA SCHWED District Psychologist	The Worried Child – Diagnosing and Treating Anxious Children Lancaster, PA November 12 & 13, 2007 (Mon. & Tues.) Est. Expenses: \$243.50 Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$243.50
CHRISTINE NENSTIEL Health/Physical Education Senior High School	Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance Conference Lancaster, PA November 16, 2007 (Fri.) Est. Expenses: \$328.46 Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$431.46
BRENDA KRUPP Elem. Staff Development Coach DAVE RAMAGE Coordinator of Technology Staff Development GAIL RYAN Director of Elementary Education	Leading for Results: Transforming Teaching, Learning and Relationships in Schools Workshop Norristown, PA March 11-12, 2008 (Tues.-Wed.) Est. Expenses: \$619.00 (combined) Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u> Total Est. Expenses: \$619.00 (combined)

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Requests for Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

1. Souderton Area High School – Future Business Leaders of America
Grades 10-12
Destination: Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, NY
Date: November 16-18, 2007 (Friday-Sunday), 2007
Purpose of Trip: To participate in the FBLA National Fall Leadership Conference
Number of Students: 18 Number of Chaperones: 2
Requesting Teacher: Maria Halteman
Trip will be financed by students and fundraising activities.

2. Indian Crest Junior High School – Grades 8 and 9 Music Students
Destination: Sony Tech Museum, Planet Hollywood, Musical – Wicked and
Virgin Mega Store, New York City, NY
Date: March 8, 2008 (Saturday)
Purpose of Trip: To see a Broadway musical.
Number of Students: 40 Number of Chaperones: 8
Requesting Teacher: Kim Brennan
Trip will be financed by the students.

3. Souderton Area High School – Advanced Choir Students – Grades 10-12
Destination: St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Times Square, a Broadway show,
New York City, NY
Date: April 26-27, 2008 (Saturday-Sunday)
Purpose of Trip: To participate in St. Patrick’s Cathedral for an Adjudicated
Choral Festival
Number of Students: 32 Number of Chaperones: 8
Requesting Teacher: Teresa Washam
Trip will be financed by students and parents going on the trip.

PERSONNEL - AMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Employment

LORA KUHNS	Assistant Principal – 10 month position, Indian Valley M. S.
Replacement for	ACT 93 GROUP
Ellen Sykes (transfer)	Beginning: To Be Determined
<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Kutztown University (BS) 1993	2005-2007-Allentown School District –Harrison-Morton Middle School-Assistant Principal
Lehigh University (MS) 2001	2003-2005-Allentown School District-Union Terrace & Muhlenberg Elementary Schools-Administrative Intern
Wilkes University (MS) 2004	1998-2003-Allentown School District-South Mountain Middle School–Math/ Science/Reading Teacher 1993-1998-Allentown & Southern Lehigh School Districts- Substitute Teacher
	Recommended Salary - \$88,416 (pro-rated)

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Request for Childrearing Leave

JENNIFER BANO Language Arts Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School
Beginning approximately April 13, 2008, following Family/Medical Leave, through the end
of the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Bano is planning to return to work for the 2008-2009
school year.

PERSONNEL - SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Resignations

ANTHONY C. COLELLI Audio/Visual Aide, Souderton Area High School
Effective: October 26, 2007

CHRISTINA HUBER Title V Teaching Asst., Lower Salford Elementary
Effective: October 8, 2007

LUISA PHELAN Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Oak Ridge Elementary
Effective: October 5, 2007

Recommendation to Approve Employee Transfer

MICHAEL STADNYCKI From: Substitute Study Hall Aide, High School
Replacement for To: Study Hall Aide, High School
Richard Kincade (resigned) Beginning: October 12, 2007
Wage: \$9.57 per hour
Hours: 7 per day

Recommendation to Approve Employment

SUZANNE BRUECKS Substitute Playground/Cafeteria Aide, E. M. Crouthamel
Elementary
Beginning: October 12, 2007
Wage: \$9.37 per hour
Hours: as needed

RITA HOOVER Title V Teaching Asst., Salford Hills Elementary
Replacement for Beginning: October 12, 2007
Jennifer Miller (resigned) Wage: \$12.77 per hour
Hours: 4 per day, 135 days

ALEX SHEPARDSON Part-Time Custodial Substitute
Beginning: September 28, 2007
Wage: \$9.46 per hour
Hours: as needed

Recommendation to Approve Induction Mentors for 2007-2008.

EXHIBIT A

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Supplemental Contracts for 2007-2008

COREY CLEMMER	Yearbook Advisor (IV)	\$ 650.00
LYNNE STAUFFER	Class Advisor-11 th grade (HS)	1,500.00

(Change from shared position with Germaine Schultz)

Recommendation to Approve Employment of Additional Community Education Staff and Salaries for Fall 2007 Session. **EXHIBIT B**

Recommendation to engage the firm of Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell and Lupin to represent the Souderton Area School District in eminent domain proceedings based upon the fee arrangement set forth in the letter dated September 19, 2007. **EXHIBIT C**

Dr. Amuso introduced Lora Kuhns, new assistant principal at Indian Valley Middle School.

Dr. Parry welcomed Miss Kuhns to the District and to her position.

Dr. Burkhard also welcomed Lora Kuhns to the Souderton Area School District.

Miss Kuhns thanked the Board and the administration for this opportunity. She is looking forward to becoming a member of the administrative staff.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

First Reading of Policies

Policy #901 - Public Relations Objectives

Policy #909 - Municipal Government Relations

Dr. Amuso presented Policies #901 and #909 for a first reading and asked for questions.

Mr. Currie mentioned that at the last Board meeting he had suggested adding wording that would mention what not to publish so as to address the safety of students, staff, and facilities. He indicated that publishing certain items could place students, staff, or facilities in jeopardy.

Mr. Gallagher thanked Mr. Currie for his suggestion and said he would work on additional wording.

Mr. Miller questioned why the Indian Valley Public Library was mentioned in Policy #909.

Mr. Gallagher indicated that school code allows school districts to support and fund local agencies to better the education of the students. The solicitor believed that it was best to include the public library in the policy since it was part of the original policy and Souderton Area School District financially supports the library.

Dr. Parry recommended moving these two policies for a second reading at the next Board meeting.

INFORMATIONAL

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2007 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the Administrative Conference Room at the Technical Career Center, 1265 Sunneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

A Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Tinner Board Room, Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2007 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, October 25, 2007 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

There was no report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

There was no unfinished or new business.

Dr. Parry called for a brief recess for an Executive Session of the Board at 8:45 PM to discuss the LERTA Agreement.

Dr. Parry reconvened the meeting at 9:03 PM.

Presentation by PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC on behalf of ALMAC Group regarding a LERTA Agreement (Continued)

Dr. Amuso announced that the administration was recommending approval of the Memorandum of Understanding from ALMAC relating to a LERTA Agreement with Lower Salford Township and Montgomery County.

There was a motion by Mr. Verbeke, second by Mr. Brong to approve the Memorandum of Understanding by ALMAC.

Mr. Currie made a motion to amend the motion on the floor and modify the last paragraph of the Memorandum of Understanding by approving Option #1.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Presentation by PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLC on behalf of ALMAC Group regarding a LERTA Agreement (Continued)

Mr. Szczesny explained Option #1 as wording that would change the exemption from taxes to the following rates in a ten year, declining balance exemption: First Year – 100%; Second Year – 95%; Third Year – 90%; Fourth Year – 85%; Fifth Year – 80%; Sixth Year – 50%; Seventh Year – 20%; Eighth Year – 15%; Ninth Year – 10%; Tenth Year – 5%. The Memorandum of Understanding will be revised to include this modification.

A motion was made by Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Brong to amend the last paragraph of the Memorandum of Understanding with the modifications as presented.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the modification to the last paragraph of the Memorandum of Understanding of the LERTA Agreement regarding declining exemptions as listed: First Year – 100%; Second Year – 95%; Third Year – 90%; Fourth Year – 85%; Fifth Year – 80%; Sixth Year – 50%; Seventh Year – 20%; Eighth Year – 15%; Ninth Year – 10%; Tenth Year – 5%. The Memorandum of Understanding will be revised to include this modification.

Dr. Parry reminded that Board that they would now be voting on the motion that was on the floor, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ALMAC and Souderton Area School District.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Memorandum of Understanding between ALMAC and the Souderton Area School District regarding a LERTA Agreement **EXHIBIT D**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Parry announced an Executive Session following meeting to discuss litigation issues.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Verbeke, second by Mr. Brong to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 7 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary