

**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 25, 2009 at the District Administrative Offices in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bruchak called the roll. Board members present were:

PRESENT:	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Mark D. Leer
	William J. Brong	Eric R. MacDougall
	Bernard S. Currie	R. Bud Miller
	Scott C. Jelinski	Victor M. Verbeke
	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski	(via Conference Phone Call)
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Robert Bruchak, R. Bradley Clemens, Joseph Deady, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Bill Hazel, Steve Pollack, Thomas Quintois, Tim Roberts, John Rowe, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter*, *Souderton Independent*, *The Intelligencer*, and the public.

RECOGNITIONS

Souderton Area High School – Track Champion

Mr. Quintois, district athletic director, introduced Kristin Smith and spoke about her accomplishments in track. **KRISTIN SMITH** is the first girl in Souderton history to win a PIAA Class AAA High Jump State Championship at the Pennsylvania State Track and Field Championships, with a jump of 5' 9", a personal best. Kristin will be attending the United States Naval Academy in the fall. Her track coach, John Rowe, also spoke about Kristin's training and accomplishments throughout the years. Kristin was also recognized by the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association as the 2008-2009 First Team High Jumper. Also, a banner will be displayed in the high school gym noting Kristin's achievement.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second from Dr. Baumgartner to recognize Kristin Smith for her achievements.

Mr. Currie and Dr. Baumgartner offered best wishes to Kristin as she attends the U. S. Naval Academy.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board recognize Kristin Smith for her state high jump championship.  
**EXHIBIT A**

Dr. Amuso asked Kristin's family to stand and receive recognition for their support.

### RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

#### Tree Donation for the New High School

Mr. Pollack, Supervisor of Planning and Operations, spoke about Mr. and Mrs. Wetjen's generous donation. The Wetjen Family, from Harleysville, has two children who attend the Souderton Area School District, has graciously donated twelve Japanese cherry trees that have been planted at the new Souderton Area High School. Mrs. Wetjen grew up in Japan and has fond memories of watching the cherry trees change color throughout the four seasons. The twelve cherry trees represent the twelve grades students will complete in order to graduate. Mr. Wetjen spoke about his wife's Japanese culture and their respect for nature. He said, "Technology will stand with tradition" at the new high school.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second from Mr. Miller to accept the donation of the twelve Japanese cherry trees for the new high school. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board accepts the donation of twelve Japanese cherry trees from Mr. and Mrs. Wetjen for planting at the new Souderton Area High School. **EXHIBIT B**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Tracy Cole, from Franconia Township, addressed the proposed final budget for 2009-2010. She spoke about the Board's decision and her concerns about using funds from the fund balance to lower the tax increase for taxpayers. Mrs. Cole also spoke about the decision to reorganize the Cabinet.

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

A second Executive Session was held on June 17, 2009 to discuss personnel items. That meeting lasted 55 minutes.

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/action agenda items, plus the addendum items, as recommended by the administration. He asked Board members to remove items from the agenda prior to the vote if more discussion was needed.

There was a recommendation to remove the 2009-2010 Depositories agenda item from the vote.

Dr. Amuso addressed the recommendation to reorganize the Cabinet Administration by stating that there would not be a savings attributed to the decision. Efficiency and effectiveness will increase with one Cabinet member, Mr. Jack Silva, in charge of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for grades K-12.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Dr. Amuso also spoke about the additional responsibility for Mr. Gallagher as he oversees the Special Education department, and the need for an additional Special Education Supervisor to meet the needs of our special education students. Mr. Gallagher has had experience as a special education teacher prior to becoming an administrator.

There was a motion by Dr. Baumgartner, with a second by Mr. Jelinski to approve the consent/action agenda items, plus the addendum items as listed.

Mr. Brong questioned if Grand View Hospital Sports Medicine was the current supplier of athletic sports medicine. The response was yes.

Mr. MacDougall shared concern about removing special education as a Cabinet-level position and asked if Mr. Gallagher would be attending meetings and hearings.

Dr. Amuso responded that Mr. Gallagher has had prior experience in special education and will remain a member of the Cabinet. Mr. Gallagher will attend to his current responsibilities, as well as special education. There will be no downfall with the change, plus there will be an additional supervisor to address special education students' needs.

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the consent/action agenda items, plus the addendum items as listed:

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the May 21, 2009 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings for May 2009.

**EXHIBIT C**

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (Pending Approval of the 2009-2010 Final Budget)

**SARA SCHWED**  
District Psychologist

School Psychology Summer Institute  
Philadelphia, PA  
July 7, 2009 (Tuesday)  
Expenses: \$110.00

**LAURA MOYER**  
District Speech & Language  
Clinician

Practical Therapy Techniques for Persistent  
Articulation Errors  
Philadelphia, PA  
July 20, 2009 (Monday)  
Expenses: \$237.50 (Federal Funds - IDEA)

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (Pending Approval of the 2009-2010 Final Budget) (Continued)

<b>MEREDITH EHST</b> First Grade, Salford Hills Elem.	Responsive Classroom II Workshop Ewing, NJ July 20-24, 2009 (Monday-Friday) Expenses: \$1,696.35 (Combined Costs)
<b>LAUREN HENDRICKS</b> First Grade, Salford Hills Elem.	
<b>WILLIAM CODDINGTON</b> Dean of Students, High School	Student Assistance Program Training Bethlehem, PA July 21-23, 2009 (Tuesday-Thursday) Expenses: \$468.00 (Federal Funds)
<b>DAN GLATTS</b> Digital Video & TV Production High School	Adobe Premiere Pro 4.0 – Master Class Training Philadelphia, PA July 27-31, 2009 (Monday-Friday) Expenses: \$4,738.10 (Combined Costs)
<b>MICHAEL OLENICK</b> Digital Media, High School	
<b>ANA MARIE PECK</b> ESL Teacher, Franconia Elem.	English Language Learner Symposium West Chester, PA August 2-5, 2009 (Sunday-Wednesday) Expenses: \$266.50 (Federal Funds – Title III)
<b>MATTHEW MONTAGNA</b> Autistic Support, High School	National Autism Conference State College, PA August 3-5, 2009 (Monday-Wednesday) Expenses: \$680.06 (Federal Funds – IDEA)
<b>SHERRIE ARMITAGE</b> Fourth Grade, Salford Hills Elem.	Responsive Classroom Workshop Ardmore, PA August 3-7, 2009 (Monday-Friday) Expenses: \$728.76
<b>LISA STOVER</b> Music, Vernfield Elem.	Gordon Institute for Music Learning International Conference Winston-Salem, NC August 12-13, 2009 (Wednesday-Thursday) Expenses: \$175.00

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Retirement

<b>RICHARD SWARTZ</b>	Language Arts, Sixth Grade, Indian Valley Middle School Effective: End of the 2008-2009 School Year Employed by SASD: 40 Years
-----------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Accept Resignations

**TAMMY CACCAVO** Spanish Teacher, Souderton Area High School  
Effective: End of the 2008-2009 School Year

**LORI LEMAN** District Speech & Language Clinician  
Effective: June 25, 2009

Recommendation to Approve Requests for Childrearing Leave

**JONATHAN BLAIR** Social Studies Teacher, Indian Valley Middle School  
Beginning November 20, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Blair plans to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

**ROSEMARIE OSADA** Special Education Teacher - Learning Support,  
E. M. Crouthamel Elementary  
Beginning September 25, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Osada is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

**HEIDI PEKAR** Fourth Grade Teacher, Lower Salford Elementary  
Beginning November 20, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Pekar is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

**NICOLE WHEELER** Special Education Teacher, Lower Salford Elem.  
Beginning November 20, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Wheeler plans to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

**AUTUMN WRIGHT** First Grade Teacher, Franconia Elementary  
Beginning December 5, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the end of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Wright is planning to return to work for the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Extension of Childrearing Leave

**MELINDA GROSSO** Speech & Language Clinician, Lower Salford Elem.  
Through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year. Mrs. Grosso plans to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Reorganize the Cabinet Administration

The administration is recommending approval of the reorganization of the Cabinet Administration effective July 1, 2009 as follows:

Eliminate the positions of Director of Elementary Education, Director of Secondary Education, and Director of Special Education.

Approve the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment, and the attached job description, and also approve the transfer of Jack Silva to the position of Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment at an annual salary of \$124,761, effective July 1, 2009. **EXHIBIT D**

Approve the transfer of Gail Ryan to Principal at Franconia Elementary School at an annual salary of \$120,977, effective July 1, 2009.

Approve the revised job description for the position of Director of Pupil Services/Special Services, and approve the salary for Frank Gallagher in the amount of \$127,369, effective July 1, 2009. **EXHIBIT E**

Recommendation to Add an Act 93 Administrative Position

The administration is recommending an additional Supervisor of Special Education position be added to the Act 93 Administrative group, with the salary to be assigned according to the Act 93 Compensation Plan, effective July 1, 2009.

Recommendation to modify the following Compensation Plans:

Cabinet Secretaries  
Food Service Employees  
Act 93 Administrators

**EXHIBIT F**

Recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Compensation Plans for the following:

Cabinet Members  
Cabinet Secretaries

**EXHIBIT G**

Resolution to Furlough and Demote Professional Staff.

**EXHIBIT H**

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignation

**CHRISTINE VENEZIALE** Special Education Aide, Vernfield Elem.  
Effective: June 16, 2009

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation/Ratification of Employment

**JOSHUA SHATMAN** Summer Custodian, Lower Salford Elementary  
Beginning: June 23, 2009  
Hours: 8 per day  
Wage: \$9.71 per hour

Recommendation for Employment of Summer Special Education Program Staffing.

**EXHIBIT I**

Recommendation for Employment of Community Education Summer 2009 Staff.

**EXHIBIT J**

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

Souderton Area High School – Cheerleading Squad Grades 9-12

Date: August 28 – 31, 2009 (Friday – Monday)  
Destination: Pine Forest Cheer Camp, Olyphant, PA  
Purpose of Trip: Cheerleading Instruction  
Number of Students: 37                      Number of Chaperones: 2  
Requesting Teacher/Sponsor: Leslie Reyburn-Shisler  
Trip financed by students.

Souderton Area High School – Boys Cross Country Team

Date: September 25 – 27, 2009 (Friday – Sunday)  
Destination: May Mount Cross Country Festival, Richmond, VA  
Purpose of Trip: Participate in Cross Country Festival  
Number of Students: 30                      Number of Chaperones: 10  
Requesting Teacher/Sponsor: John Donahue  
Trip financed by Booster Club.

Recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Special Education Contract with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Cost to the District for special education services totaling approximately \$1,252,843.14. This recommendation was reviewed at the June 17, 2009 Education-Personnel Committee meeting.

**EXHIBIT K**

2009-2010 Supply and Paper Bids

Recommendation to approve supply and paper bids for 2009-2010 as per attachment. This recommendation was reviewed at the June 3, 2009 Finance Committee meeting. **EXHIBIT L**

2009-2010 Cooperative Purchasing

The administration recommends approval for the 2009-2010 Cooperative Purchasing through the following sources: Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23, Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

2009-2010 Cooperative Purchasing (Continued)

Unit #13, COSTARS, PEPPM, Southeastern Pennsylvania Buying Group (Food Service), Chester County Intermediate Unit #24 (Food Service), and Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15, as reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting on June 3, 2009. **EXHIBIT M**

2008-2009 Budget Transfers

Recommendation to approve 2008-2009 budget transfers as per attachment and as reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting on June 3, 2009. **EXHIBIT N**

2009-2010 Grand View Hospital Sports Medicine Agreement

Recommendation to approve a one-year extension to the agreement for athletic training services with Grand View Hospital Sports Medicine for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$36,500. **EXHIBIT O**

Third Reading and Adoption of Policy #815.1 – Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications, and Information Systems. This policy has been reviewed and found to be in compliance with the Federal E-Rate Program, which requires districts to include language on the proper use of the Internet. This recommendation comes from the Policy Committee as reviewed at the June 3, 2009 meeting. **EXHIBIT P**

Souderton Area School District Strategic Plan

Recommendation to approve the submission of the 2009-2014 Souderton Area School District Strategic Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education as reviewed at the June 17, 2009 Education-Personnel Committee meeting. This plan outlines several priority goals for the District:

- To ensure that each student engages in multiple opportunities to demonstrate growth and achievement academically, socially and emotionally.
- To enhance communication among all stakeholders to increase collaboration and understanding.

Least Restrictive Environment Plan

The administration is recommending approval of the Least Restrictive Environment Plan as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and as reviewed at the June 17, 2009 Education-Personnel Committee meeting. The goal of this plan is to schedule as many special needs students with regular students as appropriate. **EXHIBIT Q**

Approval and Adoption of Curriculum Revision and New Textbooks

The items listed below were reviewed by the administration, teachers, the Curriculum Council, and the Education-Personnel Committee on June 17, 2009 and recommended for approval.

1. German III Revised Course
2. German III Textbook – **Komm Mit!**
3. French II Textbook – **Bien Dit!**



CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Approval and Adoption of Curriculum Revision and New Textbooks (Continued)

4. Middle Level Health Textbooks – **Teen Health, Course 1; Teen Health, Course 2; Teen Health, Course 3**
5. Ninth Grade Science Textbook – **Earth Science**

2009-2010 Building Use Fees

Recommendation to approve the 2009-2010 Building Use Fees as presented and reviewed by the Operations Committee on June 17, 2009. The fees have been increased to reflect increased costs to the school district. **EXHIBIT R**

New High School Storage Garage Bids

Recommendation to approve the High School Storage Garage Bids and award to:

General Construction – Adams Bickel, Collegeville, PA - \$49,442

Electrical Construction – Lederach Electric, Lederach, PA - 38,800

Plumbing Construction – Richard Bondurant, Media, PA - 14,646

These bids were reviewed by the Operations Committee on June 17, 2009. **EXHIBIT S**

North Montco Technical Career Center – Building Project: Amendment to Articles of Agreement

The administration recommends the approval of the North Montco Technical Career Center-Building Project; Amendment to Articles of Agreement Resolution. This amendment makes the required contributions for participating school districts more equitable. Souderton Area School District's share will go from 14.93% to 15.87% of future capital projects. All the school districts' shares changed slightly. This recommendation comes from the June 17, 2009 Operations Committee meeting. **EXHIBIT T**

Souderton Area School District – Sale of High School

Recommendation to approve and execute the "Petition of the Souderton Area School District for the Sale of Real Property" for the Souderton Area High School, located at 41 North School Lane, Souderton Borough. This petition must be filed in Montgomery County Common Pleas Court to get court approval of the sale. **EXHIBIT U**

Voluntary Contribution Agreement with Peter Becker Community for school years 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013. **EXHIBIT V**

Recommendation to appoint Robert P. Bruchak as Souderton Area School District's Right-to-Know Officer beginning July 1, 2009.

2009-2010 Depositories

Recommendation to approve banking depositories for the 2009-2010 school year as reviewed by the Finance Committee on June 3, 2009.

This item was removed from the consent agenda by request from Mr. Miller, as he is an officer of TD Bank and TD Bank is on the depository list. Mr. Miller will abstain from the vote.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

2009-2010 Depositories (Continued)

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second by Dr. Baumgartner. The vote was taken and on a vote of 8 to 0, with 1 abstention, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the 2009-2010 Depositories as presented. **EXHIBIT W**

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2009-2010 Final Budget

Dr. Amuso recommended approval of the 2009-2010 final budget as discussed at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Finance Committee meeting. He reviewed the progression of the budget, which is outlined in Policy #603. All programs were reviewed to see where expenses could be cut without cutting programs and the educational instruction of the students. The administration presented a budget with an overall increase in expenditures at 3.3%, which is below the local index. Dr. Amuso asked the Board to approve the budget with the use of \$2.2 M from the fund balance to bring the tax increase down from 2.9% to 2.0%.

The Finance Committee is recommending adoption of the 2009-2010 Final Budget in the expenditure amount of \$99,977,098 and that local taxes to support this budget are established as listed:

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 24.95 mils and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

The following Act 511 taxes are continued for the 2009-2010 fiscal year:

REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX.....	1%
EARNED INCOME TAX.....	1%
PER CAPITA TAX.....	\$10.00

The Real Estate Tax, Earned Income Tax on residents, and the Per Capita Taxes under Act 511 are shared equally with municipalities.

With the Homestead and/or Farmstead Act there will be a reduction of \$190.72 in their real estate tax bill. This is due to state gaming revenue.

Mr. Bruchak reported on the development of the budget. He shared projected revenue figures from both the state and federal government, as well as the reasons for a decrease in the local revenue. Mr. Bruchak also addressed the millage impact and property tax reductions due to the Homestead and/or Farmstead Act for this year. With the tax increase determined, the Board discussed using part of the fund balance to lower that tax impact. The net increase for this year against last year’s increase is \$79.00.

There was a motion by Mr. Jelinski, with a second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the budget.

Mr. Miller asked for an explanation of the assessed value of a home. He also spoke about the use of fund balance to help lower the tax increase as discussed at the last Finance Committee meeting.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

2009-2010 Final Budget (Continued)

Mr. Currie added that after Board discussion at the last Finance Committee meeting, using funds from the fund balance to reduce the tax increase would leave a fund balance of slightly less than \$7.5 Million. The district must follow the law of having not more than 8.0 % of the budget in the fund balance.

Dr. Baumgartner noted that imbedded in the budget is the School Improvement Plan, which is very important for improving educational outcomes and the quality of education for students.

Mr. MacDougall expressed his concern about using the fund balance at this time. With the new teacher contract and the new high school starting up, there may be unforeseen expenses that will need to be funded.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked when the North Montco Technical Career Center funding will be due.

Dr. Amuso stated that Souderton’s portion of the North Montco renovation project will not be needed until the 2010-2011 school year. The district will receive partial reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Kwiatkowski continued to share his concern about using the fund balance at this time.

Mr. Currie stated that at the 2.9% level of tax increase, the fund balance would have been over 8.0%.

Mr. Currie called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Baumgartner – Yes  
Mr. Brong – No  
Mr. Jelinski – Yes  
Mr. Kwiatkowski – No  
Mr. Leer – Yes

Mr. MacDougall - No  
Mr. Miller - Yes  
Mr. Verbeke - Yes  
Mr. Currie

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 6 to 3, it was

**RESOLVED**, That the Board approve the 2009-2010 Final Budget as presented.

**EXHIBIT X**

INFORMATIONAL

The public is invited to attend all meetings that are listed below.

The schedule of July 2009 meetings of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors are listed below:

Wednesday, July 1 – Policy Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM  
Finance Committee Meeting immediately following the Policy Committee Meeting.

INFORMATIONAL (CONTINUED)

The public is invited to attend all meetings that are listed below.

Wednesday, July 15 – Education-Personnel Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM  
Operations Committee Meeting immediately following the Education-Personnel  
Committee Meeting.

Thursday, July 23 – Board of School Directors Meeting – 7:00 PM

All meetings of the Board of School Directors are 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 from Mr. Sultanik.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

There was no unfinished or new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hugh Donnelly, from Franconia Township, congratulated the Board for holding firm on the budget. He asked the Board members to please use the microphones when talking.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully,

Robert P. Bruchak  
Board Secretary