

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 30, 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 William J. Brong Bernard S. Currie	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski Eric R. MacDougall Victor M. Verbeke
ABSENT:	Scott C. Jelinski Mark D. Leer	R. Bud Miller (Arrived at 7:38 PM)
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Ben Alessi, Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brandon Bilohlavek, Brenda J. Bray, R. Bradley Clemens, Joseph Deady, Deb Doebler, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, William Lukridge, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, *Radio Station WNPV*, and the public.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

This year's Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors are:

MORGAN DELAWARE – Class of 2009
BENJAMIN ALESSI – Class of 2009

The monthly report was given by Ben Alessi on the events going on at the Souderton Area High School. He talked about school spirit in relation to the Phillies' win and the connection to Jamie Moyer, homecoming events, honors received by the "Arrowhead" newspaper, and an update on high school sports.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

Operations Committee
William J. Brong, Chairman

Summary of the Special Operations Committee Meeting held on October 29, 2008

Mr. Brong gave a brief report on the October 29th Operations Committee meeting where the administration gave a PowerPoint presentation on the seven boundary line scenarios relating to the Middle Level Transition beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. The Operations Committee and

WORKSHOP ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Operations Committee (Continued)

Summary of the Special Operations Committee Meeting held on October 29, 2008 (Continued)

administration fielded questions about the seven scenarios from Board members and the public. The Board requested additional information from the administrators. The administration will gather the information requested and will report back to the Operations Committee at the Wednesday, November 5, 2008 meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the Administration Offices. Mr. Brong indicated that after this meeting it is hoped that a recommendation can be moved to the Board on November 13th for approval.

Mr. Brong announced that agenda item **IX – Recommendation of approval of middle school attendance areas effective September 2009** - would be removed from the agenda since no committee recommendation was reached at the October 29th Operations Committee meeting.

New High School Furniture

Mr. Pollack stated that the purpose of his presentation was to review the process followed by the Move Action Team (MAT) to address new furniture and equipment needs for the new high school. The existing furniture and equipment will be addressed separately and on a different timeline.

Mr. Pollack talked about the current high school furniture and equipment inventory, identifying new furniture and equipment needs by department, the Furniture Fair held last summer, interviewing vendor finalists, updating the high school furniture and equipment inventory, and refining the budget analysis.

The furniture and equipment procurement process has involved acquiring the products selected based upon function, quality, and value at competitive prices. Mr. Pollack also spoke about the importance of securing specialized services for selecting products, negotiating with manufacturers, phasing of furniture deliveries, coordinating with trucking companies, receiving and inspecting deliveries, assembling furniture, and setting up classrooms. He explained the reasons for selecting School Specialty as the company to handle the specialized services that will be needed. An update on the progress and cost to complete report will be presented to the Board in the Spring.

Finally, Mr. Pollack talked about the next steps in the timeline such as creating room-by-room product lists, evaluating costs and alternatives, adjusting items and detail options, and the issuance of purchase orders for new furniture and equipment. The parallel project to the new furniture and equipment needs is addressing the relocation of the current furniture and equipment from the old high school to the new high school. The next steps include hiring a moving company, coordinating deliveries, delivery and set-up of furniture and equipment, and preparations needed to move the existing furniture, equipment, and inventory from the old high school.

Dr. Baumgartner asked for more information on School Specialty. He asked if the company was a supplier or manufacturer.

Mr. Pollack explained that School Specialty is a supplier and distributor working with over 2,000 manufacturers, and focuses on school furniture and equipment.

WORKSHOP ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Operations Committee (Continued)

New High School Furniture (Continued)

Mr. Verbeke asked for an explanation of the cooperative purchasing agreement and how School Specialty will help control prices.

Mr. Pollack explained that a cooperative purchasing agreement is a series of bids that have been submitted through a state-wide or regional organization that has been approved by the state for school purchases and take advantage of the programs and volume discounts. The district can negotiate prices due to volume.

Mrs. Bray explained that the district continually works with School Specialty on the pricing of items.

Mr. Verbeke asked if other school districts that have used School Specialty for the same purpose.

Mr. Pollack stated that when references were contacted, they enthusiastically recommended School Specialty.

Mr. MacDougall asked if district personnel would be used for moving existing equipment.

Mr. Pollack addressed the question by stating that discussions have just begun on this issue.

Mr. Brong concluded that another report will be given in December relating to costs involved.

Mr. Currie highlighted that the attendance boundary line discussions will continue at the next Operations Committee meeting on November 5th, and for that reason tonight's agenda item **“Recommendation of approval of middle school attendance areas effective September 2009”** will be withdrawn from the agenda.

School Improvement Plan

Mr. Silva presented an update on the School Improvement Plan. The second year of the School Improvement Plan will be brought to the Board of Directors on November 13, 2008 for a vote.

Three years ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Education informed Souderton that the high school students did not make Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act, and the high school was given a “Warning” status. Two years ago, the high school improved, but not enough to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, and the high school was moved to “School Improvement” status. This distinction required the school district to implement a School Improvement Plan to boost students' performance relative to state standards.

Mr. Silva reviewed the process that was used to establish a two year plan for school improvement. That plan was reviewed and approved by the Board, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and the state. This year the school district we must submit revisions to the Plan.

Mr. Varano reported on the progress of AYP that has been made and what is being done to revise the Plan. This year, the School Board is the only agency that needs to approve the revisions to the Plan.

WORKSHOP ITEMS (CONTINUED)

School Improvement Plan (Continued)

Co-teaching and coaching are continuing to grow. The literacy and math coaches are very involved in the formative assessment. The math curriculum has not been revised to date due to a lack of human resources this fall. Mr. Varano explained how Study Island is being used for formative assessment in math and reading at the high school. The effectiveness will be measured in both reading and math with checkpoints throughout the school year.

Mr. Miller questioned the math baseline percentages of October 28, 2008 and asked if the results were better or worse than previous years.

Mr. Varano explained the percentage information and how it was achieved.

Mr. Miller also asked if a fifth period was going to be added to block scheduling.

Mr. Varano stated that if a fifth period is needed, it could become effective next year at the new high school.

Mr. Silva thanked Mr. Varano and his team for setting up improvement programs that will continue to monitor the progress of student learning. Mr. Varano mentioned that the laptops received last year through the Classrooms for the Future Grant have been a large part of the improvement plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Neil Marshall, of Harleysville, spoke about the process used for purchasing the furniture and equipment for the new high school and the state bidding process. He indicated that Board policy requires that school projects over \$10,000 must have three competitive bids. Mr. Marshall felt that putting this project out for bid would save the taxpayers money.

Mr. Sultanik briefly spoke about the acquisition process for school districts. Purchasing from the state bid list is a valid alternative to the competitive bid process. The state bid list has already gone through the competitive bid process. Business determinations are up to the School Board.

Mrs. Bray stated that the district looks at competitive purchasing agreements every year with the Board approving the agreements as per Board policy.

Tracy Cole, from Franconia Township, thanked the Board and administration for the presentation made last evening regarding the middle level attendance boundaries. She addressed the boundary scenarios discussed at the meeting and the Board's role in making the decision.

Ron Moritz, from Franconia Township, spoke about using Route 63 as the dividing line for the attendance boundaries.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An Executive Session was held on October 16, 2008 to discuss negotiations. The session lasted 75 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, along with the addendum items for approval, and asked Board members to remove any items that needed further discussion or separate consideration.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the items listed on the consent/action agenda and the addendum.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the items as listed:

Recommendation to approve the Minutes of the October 16, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to approve the Financial Statements and Check Listings for September 2008.

EXHIBIT A

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

WILLIAM GROSS

Health and Physical Education Teacher
Vernfield Elem.

Health and Physical Education Common
In-Service Day
Perkasie, PA
November 4, 2008 (Tues.)
Estimated Expenses: \$ 76.33
Substitute Expenses: 103.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$176.33

LISA STOVER

Music Teacher, Vernfield Elem.

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
District II Professional Development Conf.
Blue Bell, PA
November 4, 2008 (Tues.)
Estimated Expenses: \$ 25.00
Substitute Expenses: 103.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$128.00

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

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

KERRY BOYLE School Counselor, Oak Ridge Elem.	Strategies for Anxious Children: Shrinking Worries, Drawing on Strengths Warrington, PA November 5 (AM), 2008 (Wed.)
SUE CHAMBERS School Counselor, Franconia Elem.	Estimated Expenses: \$225.00 (combined)
LINDA H. MOYER School Counselor, Lower Salford Elem.	Substitute Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
KELLY SIEGFRIED School Counselor, Vernfield Elem.	Total Estimated Expenses: \$225.00 (combined)
SUSAN WEXLER School Counselor, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	
WILLIAM CODDINGTON Graduation Project Coordinator High School	Engaging the Parent – Montgomery County Principals & Supervisors Association Kulpsville, PA November 5 (AM), 2008 (Wed.)
CHRISTOPHER HEY Assistant Principal, High School Paid by Project 720 funds.	Estimated Expenses: \$200.00 (combined)
	Substitute Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Estimated Expenses: \$200.00 (combined)
BETH ANN MULFORD Kindergarten Teacher Salford Hills Elem.	Kid Writing Workshop Lower Gwynedd, PA November 5, 6 (AM), 2008 (Wed., Thurs.)
	Estimated Expenses: \$231.70
	Substitute Expenses: <u>154.50</u>
	Total Estimated Expenses: \$386.20
SCOTT MYERS Health & Physical Education Teacher Indian Crest Jr. High	Student Assistance Program Training Bethlehem, PA November 11, 12, 13, 2008 (Tues., Wed., Thurs.)
	Estimated Expenses: \$420.63
	Substitute Expenses: <u>309.00</u>
	Total Estimated Expenses: \$729.63
LUCY BUCHANAN ESL Teacher, West Broad Street Elem.	Evaluating ELL Students for Special Education Services Eagleville, PA November 14, 2008 (Fri.)
CHRISTINE MAINE ESL Teacher, Lower Salford/Vernfield Elem.	Estimated Expenses: \$835.95 (combined)
JESSICA MILES ESL Teacher, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	Substitute Expenses: <u>103.00</u> (Miles only)
ANA MARIE PECK ESL Teacher, Franconia Elem.	Total Estimated Expenses: \$938.95 (combined)
JENNIFER WORTHINGTON ESL Teacher, Oak Ridge/Salford Hills Elem.	

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

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

SUSAN MARKLEY
Learning Support Teacher
Indian Crest Jr. High School
Club Ophelia Director Certification Program
Philadelphia, PA
November 15, 16, 2008 (Sat., Sun.)
Estimated Expenses: \$473.40
Substitute Expenses: 0.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$473.40

JOSEPH GUNN
Gifted Teacher, Indian Crest Jr. High
Challenging the Gifted Conference
Doylestown, PA
November 20, 2008 (Thurs.)
Estimated Expenses: \$133.61
Substitute Expenses: 0.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$133.61

JOHN HANDERHAN
Social Studies Teacher
Indian Valley Middle School
Restorative Practices
Bethlehem, PA
November 20, 2008 (Thurs.)
Estimated Expenses: \$113.40
Substitute Expenses: 103.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$216.40

AUTUMN WRIGHT
First Grade Teacher, Franconia Elem.
Terrific Ideas on Classroom Management
Philadelphia, PA
December 3, 2008 (Wed.)
Estimated Expenses: \$218.31
Substitute Expenses: 103.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$321.31

ANDREA LYSTAD
Health and Physical Education Teacher
Lower Salford Elem.
Eastern District Conference – American Alliance
for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and
Dance
Lancaster, PA
February 5, 6, 2009 (Thurs., Fri.)
Estimated Expenses: \$ 95.00
Substitute Expenses: 206.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$301.00

KERRY BOYLE
School Counselor, Oak Ridge Elem.
The Gesell Institute Training Workshop
Kennett Square, PA
March 9, 10, 11, 2009 (Mon., Tues., Wed.)
Estimated Expenses: \$485.95
Substitute Expenses: 0.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$485.95

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignations

PAULA OERTH Special Education Aide, Vernfield Elementary
Effective: November 7, 2008

DOLORES SLATER Special Education Aide, Autistic Support,
Indian Valley Middle School
Effective: October 31, 2008

JEFFREY ZAleta Audio/Visual Aide, Souderton Area High School
Effective: October 31, 2008

Recommendations for Employment

JANINE BAILEY Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Salford Hills Elem.
Replacement for Beginning: October 24, 2008
Kimberly Hayes (resigned) Wage: \$9.37 per hour
Hours: 1.5 per day

DAVID CUNNINGHAM District Electrician/HVAC Technician
Replacement for Beginning: November 17, 2008
Gerald Dorn (retired) Wage: \$23.94 per hour
Hours: 8 per day

SEAN MARR ESL Teaching Assistant, High School
New Position per Beginning: To be determined
2008-2009 Budget/ Wage: \$12.77 per hour
Title III Funds Hours: 7 per day

THOMAS J. OUSEY Part-Time Custodian, Indian Valley Middle School
Replacement for Beginning: November 3, 2008
Daniel Insogna (resigned) Wage: \$9.71 per hour
Hours: 4 per day

DONNA ROBINSON Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide,
Oak Ridge Elementary
Beginning: To be determined
Wage: \$9.37 per hour
Hours: As needed

LIGIA TELLERIA Special Education Aide, One-to-One
New Position per Vernfield Elementary
2008-2009 Budget Beginning: October 31, 2008
Wage: \$11.28 per hour
Hours: 7 per day

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Additions to 2008-2009 Substitute Teacher List

SUSANNE CONOLLY	ERIN CRAWFORD	ANNETTE EUBANK
PIA GRAHAM	PATRICIA HARTZELL	DENISE MEYER
AMANDA MYERS	DANIEL PISTON	LORI ROSTRON
COLLEEN YOUNG	MEGAN ZIMMERMAN	
CHRISTOPHER AUBERTIN	EDWARD BRAY	DANIELLE FERRARA
DAVID GUSSIE	KATHARINE WALTER	JOHN WARNER

Recommendation to Approve Supplemental Contracts for Coaching - 2008-2009

RICHARD HESS	Head Basketball Coach, Girls (IC)	\$2,676.00
MICHAEL CHILDS	Head Basketball Coach, Girls (IC)	2,485.00
JOEL BERGER	Head Basketball Coach, Girls (IV)	2,082.00
JEFFREY WALKER	Head Basketball Coach, Girls (IV)	2,145.00
JOSEPH HAY	Developmental Water Polo Coach (HS)	
	\$25 per hour- 8 weeks/5 hours per week	

Second Reading of Anti-Bullying Policy

This is the Second Reading of the revised Anti-Bullying Policy. The recommendation is to move the Anti-Bullying Policy to the November 13, 2008 Board meeting for a Third Reading and final adoption.

Ratification of the appointment of the law firm Kerns, Pearlstine, Onorato & Hladik, LLP to represent the Souderton Area School District in eminent domain proceedings based upon the fee arrangement set forth in the letter dated October 16, 2008. **EXHIBIT B**

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Resignation

DAVID RAMAGE

District Staff Development

Effective: On or before December 23, 2008

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Middle School Attendance Areas Effective September 2009

Dr. Amuso stated that this item had been withdrawn from tonight's agenda. Further discussion will take place at an Operations Committee meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 following a 6:30 PM Policy Committee meeting in the Tinner Board Room.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (CONTINUED)

The next scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 13, 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.

The next North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008 in the Administrative Conference Room at North Montco, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 7:45 PM in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

Another scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 25, 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

There was no business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracy Coyne, resident of Souderton, talked about the unfair treatment of students in sports and extra-curricular activities due to the teacher's work stoppage. Students are not able to apply for college scholarships because extra-curricular activities are not taking place.

Dr. Amuso addressed the question.

Jill Basile, from Harleysville, thanked the Board for their united support during negotiations. She also addressed a situation that occurred during Back to School Night.

Mr. Currie announced that an Executive Session would be held following the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING (CONTINUED)

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary