

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, November 13, 2008 at the District Administrative Office 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.

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 (joined meeting via teleconference at 7:27 PM)	
SOLICITOR:	Jeffrey Sultanic, Esq.	

Also present at the meeting were: Deb Alder, Dr. Charles Amuso, Dr. Stacy Aronow, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Stephen Bukowski, R. Bradley Clemens, Joseph Deady, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Gail Ryan, Walt Salevsky, Jack Silva, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter*, *The Souderton Independent*, *The Intelligencer*, *Radio Station WNPV*, and the public.

RECOGNITIONS

Souderton Area High School Arrowhead Staff

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), perhaps the most prestigious scholastic journalism association in the country, has awarded the “Arrowhead,” the award-winning student newspaper at Souderton Area High School, a Gold Medal with additional All-Columbian Honors in four out of four possible categories, which include Coverage, Writing and Editing, Graphic Presentation, and Business Operations. In recent years, All-Columbian Honors have only been awarded when a publication has achieved the 95th percentile or higher in each of these categories. The Arrowhead newspaper advisor is Dr. Stacey Aronow.

Dr. Amuso introduced Mr. Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, who spoke about the prestigious awards that were won by the 2007-2008 newspaper staff. He introduced Dr. Aronow, who noted several other awards and achievements earned by the newspaper staff. Dr. Aronow mentioned a few of the interviews that will be found in the latest edition of the “Arrowhead.” Student editors were also introduced.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second by Dr. Baumgartner.

Mr. Miller complimented the students and Dr. Aronow for their achievement.

RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

Souderton Area High School Arrowhead Staff (Continued)

Dr. Baumgartner also congratulated the editorial staff.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the 2007-2008 “Arrowhead” newspaper editorial staff for their many accomplishments and awards.

EXHIBIT A

Dr. Amuso invited the parents of the editorial staff to stand and receive recognition.

E. M. Crouthamel Elementary School

Each year the Division of Federal Programs selects schools to receive the Title I Academic Achievement Award of \$5,000 based on making Adequate Yearly Progress for two or more consecutive years. E.M.C. has been selected for this distinguished award based on the ESL PSSA subgroup performance. Only 125 schools across the Commonwealth have been selected for this award. Congratulations to Deb Alder, E.M.C. Principal, and the entire E.M.C. faculty and students for their hard work and success.

Mr. Gallagher acknowledged Deb Alder, the E.M.C. faculty, and students for this achievement. The students have shown exceptional growth in the ESL subgroup. Mr. Gallagher mentioned that the ESL/ELL population has doubled at E.M.C. over the past few years with over 75 ESL students currently at E.M.C. Mrs. Alder works tirelessly with her staff and students and they deserve this recognition.

Mrs. Alder thanked the Board for the recognition. She made comparisons between test scores and percentages from 2006 to 2008 and spoke about how the school faculty has worked to understand all the learners and meet their needs. Mrs. Alder also acknowledged Barb Scott and Jessica Miles, who have worked very hard to understand the students and train the teachers. Most importantly, the parents of ESL and Title students should be recognized for their hard work and support.

There was a motion by Mr. Jelinski, with a second by Mr. Miller to recognize the achievements of the students and staff at E. M. Crouthamel Elementary School.

Mr. Currie asked how many different languages were represented at E.M.C. He said that this achievement was a testimony to Mrs. Alder’s leadership.

Mrs. Alder responded that there were eight to nine different languages represented at E.M.C.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Mrs. Alder, the faculty, staff, and most importantly the students of E.M.C. for this achievement.

EXHIBIT B

It was at this time that Mr. MacDougall joined the meeting via telephone conference call.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Finance Committee
R. Bud Miller, Chair

2009-2010 Souderton Area School District Budget Timeline

Mr. Miller briefly reviewed key dates as required by Act 1 for the preparation of the 2009-2010 Budget. The timeline will be discussed on November 19, 2008 at the Finance Committee meeting.

EXHIBIT C

Education-Personnel Committee
Mark D. Leer, Chair

Souderton Area High School Program of Studies Changes for 2009-2010

Mr. Varano presented revisions/changes to the Souderton Area High School Program of Studies for the 2009-2010 school year. The changes address the needs of moving into the 9-12 grade structure, meeting Chapter 4 requirements, and increasing the graduation requirements.

Mr. Leer introduced Mr. Varano, who presented the report.

Mr. Varano briefly highlighted the most important changes of the Program of Studies for the 2009-2010 school year. The changes are limited to those that are required by state law or local policy. There will be an increase in the graduation requirements from 24 to 26 credits for the graduation class of 2013. The 26th credit will be the addition of one technology credit from a variety of technology courses. Two new courses being offered are Pre-School Lab I and Child Health and Consumer Issues. To follow the state requirements of Chapter 4, the high school has developed a Science Nine course to meet science requirements for graduation.

Mr. Varano also stated that he hopes to expand the virtual high school next year from 15 to 40 students. Another change is that the Program of Studies booklet will not be printed and distributed to students. The entire booklet will be available on the high school Web site.

Hugh Donnelly, from Franconia Township, asked if additional resources meant that additional teachers would be needed.

Mr. Varano responded that it is difficult to determine right now. The impact will be felt when the eighth graders move up to the eleventh and twelfth grades. Mr. Varano's prediction is that 2 to 2.5 teachers will be needed, mostly in the core classes. Next year may require some additional teachers, but not due to the changes in the course of studies.

Mr. Brong questioned the number of students in the virtual high school program.

Mr. Varano explained that there was not enough time to open the virtual high school to all students. The program was only offered to a few extremely talented students. With this being the first year of the program, high school staff has had time to train and will be better prepared to counsel students for next year. At this time, there are five virtual high school students for the fall and 11 for the spring. Mr. Varano spoke about one student who is studying nuclear physics.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Education-Personnel Committee (Continued)

Souderton Area High School Program of Studies Changes for 2009-2010 (Continued)

Mr. Brong spoke about the opportunity his son has had exploring nuclear physics.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

An Executive Session was held on October 30, 2008 to discuss personnel issues. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

An Executive Session was held on November 5, 2008 to discuss real estate. The meeting lasted 10 minutes.

An Executive Session was held prior to tonight's School Board meeting to discuss personnel matters. The session lasted approximately 15 minutes.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Amuso stated that the administration recommended the Board's approval of the items listed under the consent/action agenda. He invited Board members to remove items if more discussion was needed.

There was a motion by Dr. Baumgartner, and a second by Mr. Jelinski, to approve the consent/action items as listed. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the consent/action items as listed below:

Recommendation to Approve the Minutes of the October 30, 2008 School Board Meeting.

M. LYNN CONNERY-ORCUTT	Literacy for All K-8 Workshop
Reading Recovery Teacher,	Providence, RI
Oak Ridge Elem.	November 16, 17, 18, 2008 (Sun., Mon., Tues.)
	Estimated Expenses: \$1,168.04
	Substitute Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
	Total Estimated Expenses: \$1,168.04

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Conference/Workshop Requests (Continued)

JEAN FREY	Challenging the Gifted Conference
Gifted Teacher, E. M. Crouthamel, Franconia & West Broad Street Elementary Schools	Doylestown, PA November 20, 2008 (Saturday) Estimated Expenses: \$257.58 (combined)
STACY ZANINE	Substitute Expenses: <u>103.00</u> (Zanine only)
Gifted Teacher, Lower Salford & Oak Ridge Elementary Schools	Total Estimated Expenses: \$360.58 (combined)

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation for Employment

DANA M. GERHART	Instrumental Music Teacher, Franconia & Salford Hills Elementary Schools-2.5 Days per 5 Day Cycle
Replacement for Part-Time Hourly Position	.5 TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL Beginning: November 14, 2008

<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Temple Univ. (BM) 1999	Sept. 2008-Present-Souderton Area S.D.-Part-Time Per-Diem Music, Franconia & Salford Hills Elem. 2000-2008–Instrumental Music Programs, Wilmington, DE-at Philadelphia Suburban Parochial Schools– Instrumental & General Music

Recommended Salary - \$18,661.50 (pro-rated) – B(1)♦

♦ 2007-2008 Salary Guide-Salary to be adjusted pending approval of a new Professional Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Childrearing Leave

NOVA HOSTETTER Third Grade, West Broad St. Elementary
Beginning approximately March 11, 2008, following Family/Medical Leave, through the
end of the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Hostetter is planning to return to work for the
2009-2010 school year.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Compensated Professional Leave.

KAREN TULABA Special Education, Learning Support, Vernfield Elementary
Second Semester of the 2008-2009 school year

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Transfers

SUSANNE CONOLLY	From: Substitute Teacher
Replacement for Constance Meyers (transfer)	To: Title I Teaching Asst., Franconia Elementary Beginning: November 5, 2008 Wage: \$12.77 per hour Hours: 6 per day

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Transfers (Continued)

ROSE KOEHLER From: Special Education Aide, One-to-One, Salford Hills
Salford Hills Position To: Special Education Aide, One-to-One, E.M.C.
Ended New Position at Beginning: November 3, 2008
E.M.C. Wage: \$10.40 per hour
Hours: 6 per day

BERNADETTE MUHLBERGER From: Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Lower Salford Elem.
Replacement for To: Special Education Aide-Autistic Support, Lower
Salford
Paula Oerth (resigned) Beginning: November 10, 2008
Wage: \$10.40 per hour
Hours: 7 per day

Recommendation for Employment

WILLIAM HENCE Special Education Aide-Autistic Support, High School
Replacement for Beginning: November 6, 2008
Justin Ziegler (resigned) Wage: \$10.40 per hour
Hours: 7 per day

Additions to the Substitute Teacher List for 2008-2009 School Year

REBEKAH BENNER	KYLE FISHER	ALBERT GONCE
CHRISTINE KELLEHER	ELIZABETH MARGUSH	MICHAEL ZABRODSKI

Recommendation to Approve Supplemental Contracts for Coaching Positions-2008-2009

JAMES CHAIKOWSKY	Head Wrestling Coach (IC)	\$2,804.00
NICHOLAS CHIAROLANZA	Asst. Wrestling Coach (IC)	1,762.00
JOHN HANDERHAN	Head Basketball Coach, Boys (IV)	2,756.00
PERRY ENGARD	Head Basketball Coach, Boys (HS)	5,469.00
MICHAEL STADNYCKI	Asst. Basketball Coach, Boys (HS)	3,370.00
LYNN CARROLL	Head Basketball Coach, Girls (HS)	4,720.00
JOSHUA KLIMOVICH	Asst. Basketball Coach, Girls (HS)	2,879.00
THOMAS WELCH	Asst. Basketball Coach, Girls (HS)	3,208.00
TODD BAUER	Head Swimming Coach, Boys & Girls (HS)	5,847.00
BARBARA TOMLINSON	Asst. Swimming Coach (HS)	2,729.00
JOHN DONAHUE	Head Winter Track Coach, Boys (HS)	3,575.00
JOHN ROWE	Head Winter Track Coach, Girls (HS)	3,682.00
STANLEY SMITH	Head Wrestling Coach (HS)	5,382.00
JEREMY MILLER	Asst. Wrestling Coach (HS)	2,764.00

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Contracted Services for Coaching Positions-2008-2009

MICHAEL AHERN	Asst. Basketball Coach, Boys (HS)	\$3,829.00
LARRY HILL	Asst. Basketball Coach, Boys (HS)	3,358.00
BEN BOWMAN	Asst. Basketball Coach, Girls (HS)	2,966.00
TRISHA SWANSON	Asst. Swimming Coach (HS)	2,865.00
WILLIAM HENCE	Diving & Asst. Swimming Coach (HS)	3,419.00
MICHAEL McCAULEY	Asst. Wrestling Coach (HS)	2,684.00

Recommendation to Approve Compensation Plan at a 2.5% Increase for Cabinet Secretaries for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. **EXHIBIT D**

Recommendation to Approve the 2008-2009 Souderton Area High School Continuous School Improvement Plan – Year 2 Revision Tool - The administration recommends approval of the Improvement Plan – Year 2 Revision Tool that was presented by Mr. Varano and reviewed by the Board at the October 30, 2008 School Board meeting.

Third Reading and Final Adoption of Policies

The administration and Policy Committee recommend approval of a third reading and the final adoption of the policies listed below:

Anti-Bullying Policy **EXHIBIT E**
Policy #603 – Budget Preparation **EXHIBIT F**

Recommendation to Approve the 2008 Per Capita Tax Exonerations **EXHIBIT G**

Recommendation to Approve Real Estate Tax Waiver for Salford Township **EXHIBIT H**

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Establish Middle School Attendance Areas Beginning in the 2009-2010 School Year Using Scenario #1 as Recommended by the Operations Committee on November 5, 2008.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second by Dr. Baumgartner.

Mr. Miller stated that this issue had been discussed for some time. He reviewed the goals of the administration in recommending Scenario #1 for the attendance lines and spoke about the discussions held at the last two Operations Committee meetings.

The vote was taken, and with a vote of 7 to 2, with Mr. Jelinski and Mr. Leer voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the recommendation of the administration to establish the middle school attendance areas, beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, using Scenario #1 as recommended by the Operations Committee on November 5, 2008. **EXHIBIT I**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

The public is invited to attend all of the meetings listed below:

The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 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.

A meeting of the Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 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.

Mr. Miller mentioned that he may not be able to attend the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Currie stated that the committee and the administration will take the matter under advisement. If a change is needed, the district will advertise the change.

On Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 7:45 PM a meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place at the Anderson School, 930 Jefferson Avenue, Eagleville,

The next regularly 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.

Mr. Sultanik mentioned that the November 19th Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting has been moved from the Norristown Office to The Anderson School, 930 Jefferson Avenue, Eagleville, PA.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Miller stated that in an effort to help the children transition with the boundary line changes, the administration has recommended the implementation of activities that would help the fifth grade students get to know their fellow classmates when they move to the middle school environment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tracy Coyne, from Souderton, asked several questions related to the status of the arbitration process. She spoke about the effect of the work stoppage on the students.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

Mr. Sultanik explained that the neutral arbitrator is not paid until the arbitration process is complete. The neutral arbitrator has directed both parties not to disclose any information. However, Mr. Sultanik stated that the process is continuing and hearings will be held sometime in the future. There is no way of knowing when the process will be completed. Once the hearing process has concluded, the arbitrators have 20 days to make a recommendation to both parties. After that there is a series of votes. If both parties agree to the arbitration panel's recommendation, then there is a settlement. If one or both of the parties reject the arbitration panel's recommendation then the process continues. Another work stoppage could occur for a limit time period. Based upon what Mr. Sultanik knows, the report may come down sometime in the spring.

Mrs. Coyne also spoke about some teachers being bullied by other teachers not to fulfill their supplemental contracts.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary