

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 Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Vice President Ralph Bud Miller, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

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

Also present at the meeting were: Ben Alessi, Dr. Charles Amuso, Brigitte Bagocius, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Morgan Delaware, Molly Dugan, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Steve Pollack, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, representatives from *The Intelligencer*, *The Reporter*, *Souderton Independent*, *Radio Station WNPV*, and the public.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Morgan Delaware and Ben Alessi reported on activities and upcoming events at Souderton Area High School such as the start of the winter sports season, holiday concerts, the winter play, and a food drive entitled “Pantry Clean Out Week”.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Operations Committee
William J. Brong, Chairman

Update on Construction of New High School

Mr. Brong briefly reported on the progress of the new high school construction.

Mr. Brong also mentioned that a presentation on the proposed renovations to the technology area at Indian Crest Junior High School will be made at the next Operations Committee workshop.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Policy Committee

Victor M. Verbeke, Chairman

Policy 801 - Public Records/Open Records - This policy is under review in order for the District to be in compliance with the Right-To-Know Act that takes effect January 1, 2009.

Mr. Verbeke spoke about the new Right-To-Know law and how all Commonwealth agencies and school districts are required by law to put this policy in place.

Mr. Gallagher explained the key points of the law: (1) the appointment of a Right-To-Know Officer; (2) conducting a records management analysis; (3) the creation of a “Message from the Secretary”; (4) the drafting of rules and regulations of the law; (5) creation of Right-To-Know request forms and response letters; (6) updating the district’s Website on Right-To-Know information; (7) training of school district personnel, and (8) record keeping responsibilities. The Commonwealth has created a new governmental agency entitled the Office of Open Records in response to public requests for information.

Mr. Verbeke asked if the policy must be adopted by January 1st or put in place by January 1st.

Mr. Gallagher responded that the most important thing was to have a Right-To-Know Officer in place by January 1st.

Dr. Amuso stated that the Souderton Area School District will follow and comply with the law.

Discussion followed as to the reasoning and purpose of the law and policy. Mr. Sultanik reviewed the 2007 Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that prompted the action. The purpose is to allow the public to have information regarding the use of public funds.

Mr. Verbeke addressed the importance of information confidentiality, and acknowledged the public’s right to inspect public records. At this point, the Policy Committee members were polled for their opinions of the proposed policy. Mr. Verbeke stated that student security and safety must be protected at all times.

Mr. Gallagher stated that the administration will not share specifics of the district’s security plan.

Mr. Verbeke indicated that the policy does not address when the school board would receive information about potential litigation.

Dr. Amuso agreed that informing the school board was an important issue that needed further discussion.

RECOMMENDATION: Move policy forward for a First Reading at the next Board meeting.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Finance Committee
R. Bud Miller, Chairman

Mr. Miller summarized the discussion that took place at the November 19, 2008 Finance Committee regarding Souderton's "Local Index," IRS changes to the district's 403(b) plan for employees, and the status of the financial market on the financing of the new high school project.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. John McLaughlin, Art/English teacher at Souderton Area High School, questioned the salary listed for the Theatre Arts contracted service position, and asked why there was the drastic increase in salary from previous years.

Mr. Miller stated that the administration would review the question.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
Bernard S. Currie

Mr. Miller reported in the absence of Mr. Currie.

An Executive Session was held on November 13, 2008 to discuss personnel items. The session lasted 90 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 stated that the administration recommended Board approval of the items listed under the consent/action agenda and invited Board members to remove any items that needed further discussion.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, and a second by Dr. Baumgartner, to approve the consent/action agenda items as listed. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 7 to 0, it was

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

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the November 13, 2008 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings for October 2008.

EXHIBIT A

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

JACKIE DUGGAN The Reading Workshop: Turn Your Students
Reading Teacher, Indian Valley M.S. into Real Readers
Philadelphia, PA
January 26, 2009 (Mon.)
Estimated Expenses: \$216.55
Substitute Expenses: 103.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$319.55

DANIEL GLATTS LINK Crew Refresher Conference
Technology Education, High School Itasca, Illinois
MATTHEW HAINES March 11-13, 2009 (Wed.-Fri.)
Assist. Principal, High School Est. Expenses: \$4,973.60 (Combined)
ALISON KIRCHER Sub. Expenses: 309.00 (Glatts only)
School Counselor, High School Total Est. Expenses: \$5,282.60 (Combined)
SHAWN MESSMER *Project 720 Funds*
Assist. Principal, High School

THOMAS QUINTOIS Athletic Directors Workshop
Athletic Director, High School Hershey, PA
March 24-28, 2009 (Tues.,-Sat.)
Estimated Expenses: \$931.20
Substitute Expenses: 0.00
Total Estimated Expenses: \$931.20

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignation

CARLA CLARK Speech & Language Pathologist, Vernfield Elementary
Effective: On or Before January 9, 2009

Recommendation to Approve Request for Childrearing Leave

MEGAN DAWES Guidance Counselor, Salford Hills Elementary
Beginning approximately March 17, 2009, following Family/Medical Leave, through the end of the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Dawes is planning to return to work for the 2009-2010 school year.

Recommendation to Approve Request for Extension of Childrearing Leave

CHERI FOGLE Kindergarten, Vernfield Elementary
Through the second semester of the 2008-2009 school year. Mrs. Fogle is planning to return to work for the 2009-2010 school year.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendation to Approve Transfers

SANDRA BLEEKER From: Sub. Café/Playground Aide, Lower Salford Elem.
Replacement for To: Café/Playground Aide, 2 Days/Week, Lower Salford
Bernadette Muhlberger Beginning: November 17, 2008
(transfer) Wage: \$9.37 per hour
Hours: 1.5 per day/ 2 days per week

MAUREEN UNGER From: Receptionist, Indian Crest Junior High
Replacement for To: Registrar/Student Accounting Specialist
Patricia Goodhart (retired) Beginning: TBD
Wage: \$15.70 per hour
Hours: 7.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

KIMBERLY GARDNER Special Education Aide-Autistic Support, Indian Valley
Replacement for Beginning: November 24, 2008
Delores Slater (resigned) Wage: \$10.40 per hour
Hours: 6 per day

COLENE KUZMISSION Cafeteria/Playground Aide, 3 Days/Week,
Replacement for Lower Salford Elementary
Bernadette Muhlberger Beginning: November 18, 2008
(transfer) Wage: \$9.37 per hour
Hours: 1.5 per day/ 3 days per week

STEPHANIE MOYER ABG/Intervention Teaching Asst., Oak Ridge & Salford
New Position per Hills Elementary Schools
2008-2009 Budget Beginning: November 18, 2008
Wage: \$12.77 per hour
Hours: 6 per day

BRIAN REIMERS Audio/Visual Aide, High School
Replacement for Beginning: December 1, 2008
Jeffrey Zaleta (resigned) Wage: \$9.57 per hour
Hours: 7 per day

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

PENNI FARRELL
ERIN RYAN

LINDSAY MILLER
SONDRA SWEDBORG

STEPHANIE MOYER

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Supplemental Contract for 2008-2009 School Year

KAREN FIORILLO	Audio-Visual Facilitator (IV)	\$ 625.00
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Recommendation to Approve Contracted Services for Club Advisors & Facilitators – 2008-2009

VINCENT CORVINO, Jr.	Theatre Arts Co-Advisor (HS)	\$ 812.50
VINCENT CORVINO, III	Theatre Arts Co-Advisor (HS)	812.50
ANDREW MOKRZYCKI	Robotics Club Co-Advisor (HS)	437.50
STEPHEN STROM	Robotics Club Co-Advisor (HS)	437.50
JUSTIN ZIEGLER	Asst. Wrestling Coach (HS)	2,847.00

(replacement for Jeremy Miller – resigned)

Recommendation to approve Compensation Plan for Cabinet Administrators at an average increase of 2.5% for July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

EXHIBIT B

Recommendation to approve Board Resolution, related adoption agreement for the 403(b) plan of Souderton Area School District document, 403(b) compliance services agreement, and 403(b) plan consulting services agreement to comply with new regulations regarding tax sheltered annuity program described in Internal Revenue Code section 403(b), effective January 1, 2009.

EXHIBIT C

North Montco Vocational Technical School Resolution authorizing the Joint Operating Committee to retain professional services and make decisions required in connection with the proposed renovations and alterations project through the design and planning stage. This does not include the letting of bids, until such authority is granted by the participating school districts.

EXHIBIT D

Recommendation for Second Reading of the SAHS Program of Studies for 2009-2010.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

The annual reorganization of the Board of School Directors will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2008, beginning at 6:30 PM. The only business to be transacted that evening will be the reorganization of the Board officers. 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, December 15, 2008 in the Administrative Conference Room at North Montco, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

The next scheduled School Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, 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.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (CONTINUED)

The next meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 7:45 PM in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Mr. Sultanik announced that the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit would be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 7:45 PM.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

No unfinished or new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alison Moran, district speech therapist, spoke about the quality of the speech department at Souderton and shared concern over the number of clinicians that have recently resigned. She urged the Board to consider a fair contract settlement.

Dr. Amuso noted that the administration is currently interviewing speech clinician applicants and will have personnel in place as soon as possible.

Mr. Sultanik addressed the limited supply of speech clinicians in the area. He stated that the Board was willing to address the issue by proposing a separate compensation agreement for speech clinicians.

Christopher Luck, high school science teacher, spoke about teacher turnover in the science department due to teacher salaries.

Christine Jackson, high school physics teacher, spoke about the need for qualified teachers in the district to continue the quality educational program at Souderton. She also addressed the need for an agreement with the teachers' association.

Mr. Miller commented on the series of events that must take place in the arbitration process.

Neil Marshall, resident of Harleysville, addressed the cost of new furniture to be purchased for the new high school. He asked the Board to revisit the competitive bid process in an attempt to save taxpayers money.

At this point, Mr. Clemens stated that the salaries listed for the Theatre Arts contracted services positions were correct. Approximately a year and a half ago, a committee of administrators and association personnel had agreed on increases for certain contracted services for student activities.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary