

Souderton Area School District
760 Lower Road
Souderton, PA 18964

A special public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held on Wednesday, June 2, 2010 in the Tinner Board Room at the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENT:	Jill S. Basile	Scott C. Jelinski
	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Ken R. Keith
	William J. Brong	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski
	Bernard S. Currie	R. Bud Miller
	Matt Holliday	
SOLICITOR:	No Solicitor Present	

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Brandon Bilohlavek, Robert Bruchak, R. Bradley Clemens, Joseph Deady, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Lisa Gurgick, Christopher Hey, Dr. Jack Silva, representatives from *The Souderton Independent*, and *The Reporter*, and the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

There was no report.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Amuso presented the Minutes of the May 27, 2010 School Board meeting for approval.

Upon a motion by Mr. Brong and a second by Mr. Keith, the vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2010 School Board Meeting as presented.

Dr. Amuso presented the administration's recommendation of the 2010-2011 Budget for adoption.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

2010-2011 Final Budget (Continued)

The Finance Committee recommended adoption of the 2010-2011 Final Budget in the amount of \$104,841,157 and local taxes to support this budget are established as listed:

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 25.9274 mils and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

The following Act 511 taxes are continued for the 2010-2011 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 \$189.11 in real estate tax bills. This is due to gaming revenue.

Dr. Amuso spoke about the reductions that the administration made in the budget without any reduction in programs.

There was a motion by Dr. Baumgartner, second by Mr. Miller.

Mr. Miller thanked the administration for a job well done in reducing costs as much as possible. However, he mentioned the increased costs in pension funds and health care costs that will face the district in future years. With that said, Mr. Miller expressed his hope that the tax increase would only go as high as 3.50%, thus making it easier for the taxpayers. For that reason, Mr. Miller stated that he would be voting no on the budget.

Dr. Baumgartner expressed his concern about escalating expenses in the budget, and noted that he would be voting no on the budget. He indicated that the Board and administration could have worked harder to lower expenses. Dr. Baumgartner also spoke about finding non-tax ways to fund the budget, such as fees for participating in sports and activities, and increase parking fees.

Mr. Currie clarified the Board’s authority to raise taxes and talked about the use of the fund balance to balance the budget.

The motion was put to a vote, and on a vote of 7 to 2, with Dr. Baumgartner and Mr. Miller voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve and adopt the 2010-2011 Final Budget in the amount of \$104,841,157 and that local taxes to support this budget are established as listed:

The REAL ESTATE TAX of 25.9274 mils and a PER CAPITA TAX of \$5.00 under Section 679 be levied, and,

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

2010-2011 Final Budget (Continued)

The following Act 511 taxes are continued for the 2010-2011 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 \$189.11 in their real estate tax bill. This is due to gaming revenue.

Dr. Amuso thanked the Board and the administrative staff for the amount of work done on the budget.

First Reading of Policies

Policy #123.1 – Student Activity Fees

This is a new policy which will enable the District to implement a student activity fee for certain extra-curricular activities per the 2010/2011 school year budget. If the policy is approved by the Board this evening, the policy will move forward for a Second Reading at the June 24, 2010 School Board meeting.

Dr. Amuso explained the reason for pursuing this policy for student activity fees. He noted that it will be a one-time annual fee of \$50.00, no matter how many activities the student participates in throughout the year.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked a question regarding the wording of the student activity fee policy.

Mr. Gallagher will review Mr. Kwiatkowski’s concern with the solicitor.

Policy #204.1 – Foreign Exchange Student Guidelines

This policy is being revised to include the acceptance of an additional foreign exchange agency – Youth For Understanding (YFU). If the policy is approved by the Board this evening, the policy will move forward for a Second Reading at the June 24, 2010 School Board meeting.

INFORMATIONAL

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

The schedule of June 2010 meetings of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors are listed below:

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 – Education-Personnel and Operations Committee Meetings have been canceled.

INFORMATIONAL (CONTINUED)

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

Thursday, June 24, 2010 - 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.

The next North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2010 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, June 23, 2010 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.

There was no report.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

No unfinished or new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully,

Robert P. Bruchak
Board Secretary