

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, May 14, 2014, at the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by President Scott C. Jelinski, followed by instructions on meeting protocol and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PRESENT:	Jill S. Basile	Scott C. Jelinski
	Nicholas A. Braccio	Ken R. Keith
	William J. Brong	Thomas A. Kwiatkowski
	Janet M. Flisak	Donna M. Scheuren
	Matt Holliday	

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Stacey Aronow, Maryellen Brousseau, Donna Brown, Stephen Bukowski, Michael Cahill, Renai Cardillo, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Lisa Gurgick, Dr. Christopher Hey, Elisa Snedaker (Treasurer), William Stone, Jr. (Secretary), Dr. Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter* and Radio Station WNPV, and members of the community.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Gallagher introduced Dr. Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, who directed the Student Recognition portion of the meeting.

A. Souderton Area High School – Arrowhead Editorial Board

Dr. Aronow spoke about the *Arrowhead*, which is 100 percent student generated. Students brainstorm ideas, write articles, headlines and captions, take photos, secure advertisements, and complete all layout and design using 21st Century desktop publishing technology. The staff is lead by teacher/advisor Dr. Stacey Aronow.

The *Arrowhead* recently received recognition for their 2012-2013 editions by claiming numerous ratings and awards for high achievement:

Pennsylvania School Press Association Gold Medal and All-State Award

This award is the highest scholastic honor awarded to a Pennsylvania school by a Pennsylvania scholastic press organization.

Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Medal, by scoring 956 points out of a possible 1,000 points as well as “All Columbian Honors” in the categories of Essentials and Verbal.

National Scholastic Press Association’s First Class Award with an Honor Distinction for coverage/content.

American Scholastic Press Association’s First Place Award with special merit.

STUDENT RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

A. Souderton Area High School – Arrowhead Editorial Board (Continued)

In March, the *Arrowhead* staff sponsored their fourth annual Zumba fundraiser in support of the Ronald McDonald Adopt-A-Camper Program. The staff raised over \$3,500 which will help them “adopt” seven campers this summer. In the last four years, the *Arrowhead* staff has raised nearly \$14,000, allowing them to help support 28 kids for camp.

Editorial Staff

SIERRA LAMBETH (12 th) Co-Editor-in-Chief	MEGAN FREED (11 th) Features Editor
CASEY TOBIAS (12 th) Co-Editor-in-Chief	EMMA KRATZ (11 th) Copy Editor
VICTORIA BULGIER (12 th) Opinion Editor	MATTHEW MASSINA (11 th) Business Manager
TAYLOR MORAN (12 th) Entertainment Editor	RACHEL SMITH (11 th) News Editor
MATTHEW PARASTINO (12 th) Sports Editor	ANGELICA SAVOCA (10 th) Photography Editor
ALYSSA TOMASIC (12 th) Online Editor	

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second by Mrs. Basile, to recognize the award-winning *Arrowhead* staff for their achievements. The vote was taken, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes, it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the *Arrowhead* Editorial Staff for their award-winning newspaper.

EXHIBIT A

Mr. Gallagher asked the parents of the *Arrowhead* Editorial Staff to stand for recognition.

B. Montgomery County Regional Academic Competition Champions

Mr. Michael Cahill spoke about the 2013-2014 Academic Challenge Team who won first place in their league for the third year in a row. They also competed in the league’s annual TV Tournament that is airing on SATV. At the 2014 Montgomery County Tournament, the team improved on last year’s second place finish by winning the County Championship. The team defeated Spring-Ford and last year’s champion Upper Dublin to take the title.

On May 2nd, the team competed in the State Championship Tournament held at the State Capitol building in Harrisburg. The students answered difficult questions about Literature, History, English, Mathematics, the Arts and Current Events. Advisor for the Academic Challenge team is Michael Cahill.

Academic Team Roster

NICHOLAS HAUSLER (12 th)	GURJASON SINGH (11 th)
NATHAN KORSEN (12 th)	EMMA FARRELL (10 th)
ALEXANDER CROSS (11 th)	AVERY PRICE (10 th)
ALEXANDER KOZITZKY (11 th)	ERIN SOLOMON (10 th)
CAROLINE PRITCHARD (11 th)	

There was a motion by Mr. Kwiatkowski, with a second by Mrs. Scheuren, to recognize the High School Academic Challenge winners for their achievements in the county and state competitions. The vote was taken, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes, it was . . .

STUDENT RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

B. Montgomery County Regional Academic Competition Champions (Continued)

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the High School Academics Challenge students for winning the Montgomery County Academic Competition Championship, and their achievement at the state competition. The team is also recognized for moving up to the National Competition. **EXHIBIT B**

Mr. Gallagher asked the parents of the Academics Challenge Team to stand and be recognized.

Dr. Varano announced that the Souderton Area High School was well-rounded when it comes to winning titles. The high school girls lacrosse team recently won the Suburban I Continental Lacrosse Championship, and last night the high school girls softball team won the Suburban I Continental Softball Championship.

C. Pennsylvania Economics Challenge Champions

Mr. Cahill spoke about the 2014 State Regional round of the PA Economics Online Challenge, where Souderton qualified five teams to participate in the state finals. Three of those teams were in the Adam Smith Division (designed for Advanced Placement students) and two teams were in the David Ricardo Division (designed for students enrolled in general Economics courses). The Adam Smith Team finished fourth in the state.

In the David Ricardo Division, Team Two finished second in the State. The reason they finished second was because Souderton's Team One finished first in the State out of over 125 entries.

David Ricardo Team #2

VALERIE BRAZZO (12th)
RILEY NAFZIGER (12th)

TYLER DIPIETRO (12th)
NICHOLAS STULB (12th)

David Ricardo Team #1

BRYAN GIDARO (12th)
MICHAEL RAGAINI (12th)

NICHOLAS HAUSLER (12th)
CONNOR WALSH (12th)

The team of DiPietro, Hausler, Nafziger and Walsh competed in the National Semi-Final Round on April 15th against other state champions. The top four teams advanced to the National Finals. Souderton was one of the top four. The National Finals will be held from May 17th to 20th in New York City. This is the third time Souderton has advanced to the National Finals. No other Pennsylvania team has ever reached this pinnacle. Michael Cahill is the Economics Challenge advisor.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second by Mrs. Scheuren, to recognize the High School's Pennsylvania Economics Challenge team for winning the Economics Championship. The vote was taken, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes, it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the Economics Challenge teams for winning the state Championship and moving on to national competition. **EXHIBIT C**

STUDENT RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

C. Pennsylvania Economics Challenge Champions (Continued)

Mr. Gallagher asked the parents of the Economics Challenge team to stand and be recognized.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Lisa Kern, president of the Board of Trustees for the Souderton Charter School Collaborative, addressed the School Board about the sale of the Lower Salford Elementary School property. She asked the School Board to re-examine their decision to sell the Lower Salford property to a developer. Mrs. Kern stated that the Charter School remains interested in discussing the topic further and also suggested that the Charter School add an enrollment cap.

Ms. Charl Wellener, resident of Souderton Borough, shared her concern about the proposed tax increase.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA

Mr. Gallagher offered a recommendation to the Board to approve Consent/Action items V-A to V-E as presented. Board members were invited to remove items from the consent/action agenda if further discussion was needed.

Mr. Jelinski called for a motion. There was a motion by Mr. Brong, with a second to the motion by Mr. Kwiatkowski. The vote was taken, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes, it was ...

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

A. PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

1. Motion to Approve Retirement
CATHERINE ORGERA

Mathematics Teacher, Souderton Area H. S.
Effective: At the end of the 2013-2014
school year
Years of Service in SASD: 16 Years

2. Motion to Approve Employment

DIANA BRISSON
Replacement for
Stephanie Schuman (resigned)

Education
Oakland Univ. (BA) 2003
Univ. of Memphis (MA) 2008

District Speech and Language Clinician
TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL
Beginning: May 19, 2014
Experience
June 2011–Present–Abington Speech
Pathology Services
Aug. 2008–March 2011–Speech-Language
Pathologist, Catoosa County Schools, GA

Recommended Salary: \$51,195 – M (3)

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

B. Requests for Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

1. Souderton Area High School Robotics Team – Grades 10-12

Destination: Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dates: May 16, 17, 18, 2014 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Purpose of Trip: SeaPerch National Championship -- Robotics Engineering Practice
Intrinsic competition for the High School team.

Number of Students: 4 to 10

Number of Chaperones: 4

Requesting Advisor: Phil Cerami

Trip will be financed by the Robotics Club and students.

2. Souderton Area High School Economics Challenge Team – Grade 12

Destination: New York City, New York

Dates: May 17, 18, 19, 20, 2014 (Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)

Purpose of Trip: Economics Challenge Team will participate in the National
Economics Challenge Competition

Number of Students: 4

Number of Chaperones: 1

Requesting Advisor: Michael Cahill

Trip will be financed by the students.

C. Recommendation to approve a three-year renewal of the Gorman & Associates Contract for auditing services at a total cost of \$23,100 per year.

D. Recommendation to approve the North Montco Technical Career Center 2014-2015 Budget.

EXHIBIT D

E. Motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local #384 regarding summer work hours.

EXHIBIT E

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA

Mr. Gallagher read a statement that reviewed the budget process. He noted that approval of the Proposed Final Budget is a required step in the Act 1 process. The Board will approve the Final Budget on June 19, 2014. The administration continues to work on the budget to lessen the tax increase. The Proposed Final Budget will be available for public inspection on Thursday, May 15th on the Souderton Area School District website or by contacting Mr. William Stone, Director of Business Affairs at the administration office.

A. Motion to approve the 2014-2015 Proposed Final Budget and make it available for public inspection no later than May 30, 2014.

Mr. Jelinski called for a motion to vote on the Proposed Final Budget for 2014-2015. There was a motion from Mr. Holliday, with a second from Mr. Keith. The vote was taken, and with a vote of eight (8) affirmative votes to one (1) negative vote (Mrs. Scheuren), it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2014-2015 Proposed Final Budget as presented and make it available for public inspection.

EXHIBIT F

DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Mr. Gallagher commented on the agreement of sale of the former Lower Salford Elementary School property. The school was closed at the end of the 2012-2013 school year due to declining enrollment. There were seven (7) parties that showed interest, with four (4) parties entering written statements of interest for the property. The agreement of sale is with Maple School Associates, LLC of Narberth, for a sale price of \$1.9 million. Settlement will take place within the next 12 months. Mr. Gallagher indicated that the PA School Code requires the filing of a petition with the Montgomery Court of Common Pleas to sell the property.

Finally, Mr. Gallagher explained that the proceeds from the sale could only be used for paying down debt or fund Capital Projects.

- B. Motion to approve a Resolution for an Agreement of Sale between the Souderton Area School District and Maple School Associates, LLC for the sale of the Lower Salford Elementary School and to authorize the administration to file a petition with the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas for the sale of the property.

At this point Mr. Jelinski called for a vote. There was a motion by Mrs. Basile, with a second by Mr. Braccio.

Mr. Jelinski added his comments about making the best decision with the community and taxpayers in mind. The decision was not an easy one to make.

The motion was put to a vote, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes, it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Agreement of Sale for the Lower Salford Elementary School to developer Maple School Associates, LLC and authorize the administration to file a petition with the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas for the sale of the property.

EXHIBIT G and **EXHIBIT H**

INFORMATIONAL

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

- A. The schedule for the May/June 2014 meetings of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors is listed below:

Thursday, May 29, 2014 – Monthly Board Action Meeting – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, June 11, 2014 – Board Committee Meetings – 6:30 PM

Finance Committee will present the 2014-2015 Proposed Final Budget.

Thursday, June 19, 2014 – Monthly Board Action Meeting – 7:00 PM

The Board must approve the 2014-2015 Final Budget.

INFORMATIONAL (CONTINUED)

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

- A. 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.
- B. The next meeting of the North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee (JOC) will be held on Monday, May 19, 2014 beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.
- C. The next meeting of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in Conference Rooms B3/B4 at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Office Building, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

There was no report from the Solicitor.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

There was no unfinished or new business from the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Mrs. Basile, with a second from Mr. Brong to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken, and on a vote of nine (9) affirmative votes to zero (0) negative votes it was . . .

RESOLVED, That the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully,

William Stone, Jr.
Board Secretary