

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 20, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by President Eric R. MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT:	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Eric R. MacDougall
	William J. Brong	R. Bud Miller
	Tracy G. Cole	Dr. Jack A. Parry
	Bernard S. Currie	Victor M. Verbeke
	Mark D. Leer	

SOLICITOR: Jeffrey Sultanik, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brandon Bilohlavek, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, R. Bradley Clemens, Grace Eves, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Scott Jelinski, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, David Thayres, Sam Varano, representatives from *The Reporter*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

RECOGNITIONS

National Merit Scholars

Dr. Amuso introduced Sam Varano, principal of Souderton Area High School, who spoke about this year's National Merit Scholars and introduced each student who was present.

National Merit Scholars – Semi-Finalist Students

The following Souderton Area High School seniors have been named as National Merit Scholars – Semi-Finalists:

**ROBERT DAUBENSPECK
MICHAEL NELSON
MEGAN PIETRUSZKA**

National Merit Scholars – Commended Students

The following Souderton Area High School seniors have been named as National Merit Scholars – Commended Students:

**DEBORAH CIBOS
MICHELE FEINDLER
ZACHARY HUSSONG
NATHAN LANAN
JULIE MOKRZYCKI
ERIC STROM**

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

National Merit Scholars (Continued)

There was a motion from Mr. Brong, second from Mr. Currie to recognize these Souderton Area High School students for their academic achievement. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize this year's National Merit Scholars for their achievement. **EXHIBIT A and B**

Dr. Amuso recognized the parents who were present and thanked them for their encouragement and support.

Recognition of School Board Members **TRACY G. COLE** and **DR. JACK A. PARRY**

Dr. Amuso started this portion of the recognition by speaking about Mrs. Cole's and Dr. Parry's service on the Board of School Directors over the past few years.

Mrs. Cole was first elected to the School Board in November 2001. She was Vice President during her 2003-2004 term and again from October to December of 2005. Mrs. Cole has also served as Policy Committee Chairman, a member of the Education-Personnel Committee, the District's representative on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board, a Federal Legislative Representative, and a representative to the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network. Tracy has also served as a member of the Act 48 Committee, the Curriculum Council, the Wellness Committee, and the Parent Safe School Committee.

Dr. Parry was elected to the School Board in November 2003 and has served as Vice President for two years: 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. He has also served as a member of the Policy Committee and Finance Committee, the District's Legislative Representative, and has chaired the Finance Committee for the last two years.

Dr. Amuso indicated that all Board members serve as volunteers and put in many long hours all for the good of our students and community.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Dr. Baumgartner to recognize Mrs. Cole and Dr. Parry for their years of service on the Board of School Directors. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Tracy G. Cole and Dr. Jack A. Parry for their dedication and service to the students, staff, administration, parents, community and the Board of School Directors of the Souderton Area School District.

Mr. MacDougall spoke about Mrs. Cole's commitment to the Board and students of the district. He indicated that Mrs. Cole brought passion and belief to her role as a board member. He presented Mrs. Cole with a gift on behalf of the Board.

Mr. MacDougall then spoke about Dr. Parry's commitment to the Board and their friendship. He also presented Dr. Parry with a gift on behalf of the Board and administration.

RECOGNITIONS (CONTINUED)

Recognition of School Board Members **TRACY G. COLE** and **DR. JACK A. PARRY** (Continued)

Mr. Currie spoke about Mrs. Cole's preparation for meetings and mentioned that it was a pleasure to work with Mrs. Cole.

Dr. Baumgartner thanked Mrs. Cole for her work and passion.

Mr. Miller thanked Mrs. Cole and Dr. Parry for their service to the Board and also the time involved in the selection of a superintendent.

Mr. Verbeke mentioned Dr. Parry's respect for family and community. He indicated that Mrs. Cole should be awarded the "MVP Award" for the Souderton Area School Board.

Mr. Leer thanked Dr. Parry and Mrs. Cole for their friendship and diligence on the new high school project.

Mr. Brong mentioned that Dr. Parry was his mentor when he was first elected to the Board. He thanked Dr. Parry for making great strides in the district. Mr. Brong also talked about Mrs. Cole being a hard-working director.

Dr. Amuso spoke on behalf of the administration and staff and thanked Dr. Parry and Mrs. Cole for their time on the Board.

Dr. Parry shared some thoughts about why he wanted to serve on the Board. He indicated that he was leaving the Board to spend more time with his family and spoke about working with the administration and staff over the past four years. "The Board is going to do what they want to do" is a comment he often hears in the public and he stated that the public needs to know that this is not the case. This Board labors over making the right decisions and is very receptive to public comments. Dr. Parry also shared comments and kind words about working with Dr. Amuso. Thanks were also given to Jack Silva, Gail Ryan and Karen Berk for their leadership, and Eric MacDougall for his involvement in the community. He ended with thanking Mrs. Cole for her service and shared her motto..."Stand up for what you believe, even if you stand alone."

Mrs. Cole shared comments about serving on the Board and thanked Dr. Parry for his service. She mentioned the respect that she and Dr. Parry had for each other and spoke about the wonderful opportunities that being on the Board has afforded her. It was a pleasure for her to spend time with students, staff and the community, and she will continue to volunteer in the schools.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

There was no report.

WORKSHOP ITEM

Discussion on Proposed Draft of Index Resolution for 2008-2009 Budget as per Section 311(d)(1) of Act 1 of 2006.

Mrs. Bray presented a PowerPoint on the proposed draft of the Index Resolution for the 2008-2009 Budget. The index for the Souderton Area School District for 2008-2009 is set at 4.4%. She talked about the timeline involved with the budget and that the Board would be voting on the Index Resolution at the December 20th Board meeting. The district will not be able to apply for exceptions next year, nor will the voters be deciding on a referendum question. The 2008-2009 proposed final budget will be approved by May 8th, and the final budget approved on June 19th, 2008.

Mrs. Cole questioned if the Board would be able to go back and change the resolution if something catastrophic developed.

Mrs. Bray stated that once the resolution is passed, the Board could not go back and revisit the resolution.

Mr. Sultanik agreed with Mrs. Bray's statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held on Thursday, November 8, 2007 following the Board meeting to discuss negotiations and a litigation matter. The meeting lasted one hour and thirty minutes.

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel items and a matter of litigation. The meeting lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Mr. MacDougall announced that at the Board Reorganization meeting on December 6th the Board would be nominating a PSBA Legislative Representative and a MCIU Board Representative. He also indicated that an Executive Session would be held after tonight's meeting to discuss board governance.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee – R. "Bud" Miller, Chairperson

Mr. Miller presented a brief report on the new high school progress.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Education-Personnel Committee – Mark D. Leer, Chairperson

No report.

Finance Committee – Dr. Jack A. Parry, Chairperson

Dr. Parry commented on how the committee had focused on an expenditure-based budget for next year. He said he enjoyed being on the Finance Committee and how serving on the committee was a tremendous learning experience. Dr. Parry thanked Mrs. Bray for her leadership and insight.

Policy Committee – Tracy G. Cole, Chairperson

Mrs. Cole thanked the administration who were part of the Policy Committee for their hard work and support.

North Montco Technical Career Center – William J. Brong, Representative

Mr. Brong read a letter from North Montco that addressed their successful budgeting for next year. He indicated that there would be a 0% increase for next year's North Montco budget, which would decrease the Souderton Area School District's portion by \$34,202. He commended the personnel at North Montco for bringing in a 0% increase.

Dr. Amuso mentioned that the Board would be voting on the 2008-2009 North Montco Budget on December 20th.

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Amuso presented the consent agenda for action.

There was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong. The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the consent agenda items as presented:

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the November 8, 2007 School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings for the Month Ending October 31, 2007.

EXHIBIT C

Recommendations to Approve Requests for Conferences/Workshops

CASSIE HAMMER

Third Grade, Franconia Elem.

BRENDA KRUPP

Staff Development Coach

Teaching the Qualities of Writing

Cherry Hill, NJ

December 6, 2007 (Thursday)

Est. Expenses: \$357.88 (combined)

Sub. Expenses: 103.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$460.88 (combined)

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendations to Approve Requests for Conferences/Workshops (Continued)

DAVE RAMAGE	Governor's Institute for Innovation in Education
Coordinator of Technology	State College, PA
Staff Development	December 16-19, 2007 (Sunday-Wednesday)
	Est. Expenses: \$600.00
<i>Paid with Accountability Block</i>	Sub. Expenses: <u>0.00</u>
<i>Grant funds.</i>	Total Expenses: \$600.00

TIA SCHWAB	Powerful Strategies for Strengthening the Literacy
First Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.	and Academic Performance of ELL
	Allentown, PA
	January 14, 2008 (Monday)
	Est. Expenses: \$195.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u>
	Total Expenses: \$298.00

DIANE MAZZIOTTA	PAGE Differentiation Simplified, Realistic, and
Gifted, Indian Valley M. S.	Effective Conference
	Harrisburg, PA
	April 17, 2008 (Thursday)
	Est. Expenses: \$125.00
	Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u>
	Total Est. Expenses: \$228.00

Recommendations for Supplemental Contracts for Mentors

<u>New Teacher</u>	<u>Mentor</u>	<u>Contract</u>
Kathleen Farrell	ALEXANDRA ALMAGUER	\$600.00 (prorated)
Jaclyn Duffy	COURTNEY PANACHYDA	\$600.00 (prorated)
Samantha Kemps	DREW JOHNSON	\$600.00 (prorated)

PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation for Employment

SARAH WENGER	Fifth Grade Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary
Replacement for	LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
Janet Smith (childrearing)	Effective: November 26, 2007
<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Philadelphia Biblical Univ.	September 2007-Present-Souderton Area S.D.
(BS) 2006	Salford Hills Elementary-Title V Teaching
	Assistant & Substitute Teacher
	March-June 2007-Warwick S.D.- John R.
	Bonfield Elem.-Per Diem Extended Substitute
	Sixth Grade

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL STAFF (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Employment (Continued)

SARAH WENGER Fifth Grade Teacher, Salford Hills Elementary
Experience (Continued)
January-March 2007- Substitute Teacher Service
August-September 2006–Student Teaching-Grace
International School, Thailand
October–December 2006–Central Bucks S.D.-Mill Creek
Elem.–Student Teaching-Sixth Grade
Recommended Salary - \$37,323 (pro-rated) – B (1)

PERSONNEL - SUPPORT STAFF

Recommendations to Accept Resignations

KRISTIN KELLY Secretary to the Asst. Principals, Senior H. S
Effective: To be determined

MAX SCHWYTER Part-Time Custodian, Lower Salford Elementary
Effective: November 8, 2007

Recommendations for Transfer

BETH ANN MULFORD From: Substitute Teacher
Replacement for To: Title I Teaching Asst., West Broad St. Elem.
William McKown (resigned) Beginning: November 26, 2007
Wage: \$12.77 per hour
Hours: 6 per day

NANCY TROXEL From: Substitute Café/Playground Aide,
Replacement for West Broad St. Elementary
Dina Moore (transfer) To: Cafeteria/Playground Aide,
West Broad St. Elementary
Beginning: November 26, 2007
Wage: \$9.62 per hour
Hours: 1.5 per day

Recommendations for Employment

CHRISTOPHER WESTOVER Part-Time Substitute Custodian
Beginning: November 26, 2007
Wage: \$9.46 per hour
Hours: as needed

JEFFREY ZALETA Audio/Visual Aide, Souderton Area High School
Replacement for Beginning: November 26, 2007
Anthony C. Colelli Wage: \$9.57 per hour
(resigned) Hours: 7 per day

ACTION ITEMS/CONSENT AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation for Transfer - Contracted Services for Band Instructor

JEFF COUGHENOUR From: Marching Instructor (Paid by Band Boosters)
To: Marching Instructor (District Paid) \$1,386.00
(Replacement for David Fry – resigned)

Additions to the 2007-2008 Substitute Teacher List

EXHIBIT D

Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Souderton Area School District and the Souderton Area Education Association effective January 1, 2008, with respect to modifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement's provisions with respect to the flexible spending account plan.

EXHIBIT E

Recommendation to approve the Resolution prepared by Security Benefits Corporation for the implementation of the flexible spending account plan effective January 1, 2008.

EXHIBIT F

Recommendation to approve the 2007 Per Capita Tax Exonerations.

EXHIBIT G

ACTION ITEMS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

There were no discussion items.

INFORMATIONAL

The next scheduled School Board Meeting will be the Reorganization Meeting held on Thursday, December 6, 2007 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.

The next North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 17, 2007, 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, January 23, 2008, 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 from Mr. Sultanik.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Dr. Parry commented on upcoming negotiations with the teachers. He shared his thoughts about teachers being paid for performance, not longevity and also their health care package.

Mr. Cole mentioned that the costing-out study has finally come to fruition. She referenced an article in the newspaper where the study listed Souderton Area School District as one of the districts that should be spending more money on students than what is currently spent. This independent study, funded by the legislature, shows that school districts are under funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie to adjourn the meeting. On a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully,

Brenda Jones Bray
Board Secretary