

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, May 21, 2009 at the District Administrative Offices in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by President Bernard S. Currie, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

SOLICITOR: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brandon Bilohlavek, Robert Bruchak, Michael Cahill, Joseph Deady, Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Lisa Gurgick, Christopher Hey, Joseph McElwee, Krista Pierce, Steve Pollack, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Steve Strom, representatives from *The Reporter*, *Souderton Independent*, *The Intelligencer*, and the public.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Dr. Amuso called on High School Interim Principal Christopher Hey to introduce the students and advisors.

Souderton Area High School – Economics Challenge Team

Mr. Cahill began with a brief history of Economics Challenge Competitions.

Members of the High School Economics Challenge Team participated in the 2009 National Economics Challenge Competition David Ricardo Division for single semester general economics courses. The team of **STEPHEN HAUSLER** (12th), **VICTOR MANN** (12th), **SAMANTHA SAVICKI** (12th), and **MONICA SCHMIDT** (12th) placed first at the Pennsylvania State Semi-Finals and Pennsylvania State Finals Competitions. These students, with **DENIS PASSARELLA** (12th) replacing Samantha Savicki, represented Souderton at the North East Regional Finals held in Baltimore Maryland. The team finished second among all schools participating in the Northeastern USA. Michael Cahill is the advisor for the team.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong and a second by Mr. MacDougall to recognize these students for their achievement.

Mr. Currie thanked Mr. Cahill for this service and support to the team.

STUDENT RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

Souderton Area High School – Economics Challenge Team (Continued)

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the High School Economics Challenge Team for their accomplishments.

EXHIBIT A

Dr. Amuso also recognized the parents of the Economics Challenge team members.

Mr. Hey introduced Steve Strom, parent advisor for the Robotics Team for the past several years.

Souderton Area High School – “Sea Perch” Robotics Team

Mr. Strom explained the background of the “Sea Perch” Competition and how the students worked together as a team to achieve their goal.

The Souderton Area High School Robotics Team recently took home a second place trophy from the Sea Perch Competition in the category of presentation and innovation. This is the fourth year of competition at the event.

Sea Perch is an underwater robotics competition sponsored by the U. S. Navy and hosted by Drexel University. Each year, teams are given a “kit” of parts and an underwater challenge to perform. Teams compete in performance, presentation, notebook, and team spirit. This year’s team designed the robot, generated CAD drawings, did 3D rendering, and wrote a presentation. The team practiced in the school pool for five hours to perfect their robot. Parent advisors are Steve Strom and Andy Mokrzycki. Members of the Robotics Team are:

JAN BOBAK – 12th Grade

ANDREW CAMPMAN – 11th Grade

DAVID CLYMER – 10th Grade

BRIAN LANTZ – 11th Grade

AARON LOWE – 10th Grade

JAE PARK – 10th Grade

MARK PENNY – 11th Grade

KATRINA SABOCHICK – 11th Grade

JUSTIN SOWERS – 11th Grade

There was a motion made by Mr. Kwiatkowski, with a second from Mr. Miller.

Mr. Currie asked if the U. S. Navy had purchased the robot from the high school this year.

Mr. Strom responded that the U. S. Navy had purchased the robot in the past, but not this year. This year’s robot was too spectacular to let go.

Due to Dr. Baumgartner’s illness, Mr. Verbeke read his statement of congratulations.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize the High School Robotics Team for their accomplishment.

EXHIBIT B

STUDENT RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)

Souderton Area High School – “Sea Perch” Robotics Team (Continued)

Dr. Amuso thanked the parents of the Robotic team members for their support of the program.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Krista Pierce and Joseph McElwee – Class of 2010

Joseph McElwee spoke about LINK Crew’s orientation at the new high school and the number of new members. Senior Week of Recognition will be taking place, along with finals.

Krista Pierce reported on the “Kool-Aid and Kram” that is coming up prior to the final exams. Graduation will take place on June 12th.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS

Operations Committee – William J. Brong, Chairman

Mr. Brong began by thanking the administration for the wonderful Scholars Banquet held on Wednesday evening.

High School Maintenance Garage (Shell Only) Bid

A 40’ x 60’ pole barn to be built on the high school property to hold maintenance equipment. Low bid was from Graber Supply, in Atglen, PA, in the amount of \$38,875. Mr. Pollack explained the process that will be used to finish the project. A bid is currently out for the foundation and set up of utilities to the garage. This bid will be open on June 4th.

Mr. Brong was concerned about the low bid of the project. Mr. Pollack explained that all aspects of the project were checked to make sure that everything was included in the bid price.

Mr. Miller asked about the drawings that were being prepared. Mr. Pollack responded that Graber is preparing the drawings for the shell only and need to be certified by PDE. The other drawings for the utility lines and interior were prepared by another firm.

Mr. Donnelly, resident of Franconia Township, asked for clarification of the project.

Mr. Brong responded that the total cost of this project would be substantially less than the original building that was proposed.

RECOMMENDATION: Move this item forward to the Discussion/Action section of tonight’s agenda.

New High School Technology Education Equipment Bid

This equipment is planned for the three Technology Education labs in the new high school facility. Mr. Pollack explained that the bid includes the freight, delivery, set-up, and training on the equipment. Only one complete bid and one partial bid were received for the project.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Operations Committee (Continued)

New High School Technology Education Equipment Bid (Continued)

The administration is recommending awarding the contract to Allegheny Educational Systems, Natrona Heights, PA, in the amount of \$376,488. The partial bid did not include all of the equipment. Allegheny Education Systems has worked with the high school in the past. The amount is in line with the budgeted amount.

RECOMMENDATION: Move this item forward to the Discussion/Action section of tonight's agenda.

High School Maintenance Garage (Site work/Utilities) Bid Report

The bid for the preparation and planning of the maintenance garage will be opened on June 4, 2009.

Review of Proposed Budget for 2009-2010

Dr. Amuso began the presentation on the Proposed Budget for 2009-2010 by highlighting the timeline required for the budget, which includes the posting of the proposed budget for the public to view prior to the Board vote on the final budget.

Dr. Amuso explained the Board Policy that was followed for the development of the budget. The administration developed the budget by comparing last year's expenditures to this year's budgeted expenses, and by considering the local index, what our taxpayers can afford in taxes, and income tax reports. The administration works by reviewing the proposed expenditures and sorting out what is required to continue programs for students. Debt service figures or mortgage payments are not included in the expenditures at this time.

For 2009-2010, the proposed budgeted expenditures increase would be 3.3%, which is below the local index of 3.56%. All budget categories have been examined to see where reductions can be made. The administration is recommending the proposed budget, with the district using a combination of fund balance and a tax increase to fund the expenditures for next year's budget.

Mr. Bruchak spoke about the formulation of the total proposed budget coming in at \$99,977,098. This is a decrease of 0.98% from what was projected for this year. The Board and administration have acted to correct the refinancing of bonds due to the problems of the current national economy.

The proposed budget has 19 new positions in the budget. They are: 5 regular education teacher positions; 2 special education teacher positions, 1 ESL position; 5 special education assistants; 1 secretary at the high School; 1 staff nurse; 3 custodians at the high school, and 1 maintenance position at the high school. The ESL position will be covered by Title II funds. Most of the positions are due to the transition to the middle level program and the new high school.

Mr. Bruchak reviewed the revenues projected for 2009-2010. He reviewed local, state, and federal revenue, including the Stimulus Funds (Stabilization Grant) and Basic Education funding. The district is still waiting for the actual revenue numbers from the state government. Real estate taxes, transfer taxes, and interest investments are down. Revenue is a very serious concern.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Review of Proposed Budget for 2009-2010 (Continued)

The proposed millage increase is 0.7093 mills, a millage increase of 2.9%. Millage for a home assessed at \$150,000 would see an increase in their real estate tax of \$106.40 per household. The property tax reduction from Act 1, is \$191.69, which leads to a net decrease of \$85.29 in property taxes. Mr. Bruchak shared that the average tax bill would go from \$3,473.00 in 2008-2009 to \$3,584.39 in 2009-2010, an increase of \$111.39. The difference (\$111.39-\$106.40) is due to a lower payout of State Gaming Funds.

Dr. Amuso stated that the administration's recommendation for the Board to adopt the Budget Proposal this evening. The Board would not be voting on the final budget at this time.

Mr. Miller, as Finance chair, opened the floor for questions from the Board members.

Mr. MacDougall asked what the effect would be on the fund balance if those funds were used to balance the budget.

Mr. Bruchak stated that the fund balance would still have a balance of approximately \$6 million.

Dr. Amuso explained that there is a capital reserve of \$8 million that would be sufficient for emergencies and the administration will keep a watch on expenses.

Mr. Miller added that the district would be receiving funds from the sale of the old high school in the near future.

Mr. Currie spoke about the budget having expenditures for the opening of the new high school, which will not be needed in years to come. This budget puts us more in line for normal operations and increases.

Mr. MacDougall asked where the funds from the sale of the high school would be used.

Dr. Amuso indicated that the funds can be used for capital expenditures only.

There was some discussion on payroll costs involved in the new budget.

Mr. Miller asked Dr. Amuso to review discussion items for the June 3rd Finance Committee meeting.

Dr. Amuso indicated that revenue would be discussed, along with state stabilization funds, and the governor's budget. With the state Senate's version of the budget and the state House's version of the budget a final budget may take longer than June 30th.

Mr. Miller pointed out the increase in payments to charter schools that the district is required to pay. Tuition paid to charter schools.

Mr. Bruchak stated that payment to charter schools is a problem for all school districts.

WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEMS (CONTINUED)

Review of Proposed Budget for 2009-2010 (Continued)

Mr. Miller addressed vocational technical school funding, which has already been approved by the Board.

Mr. Brong asked about the 2009-2010 decrease in federal funding figures that was distributed to the Board. Mr. Bruchak apologized for the error and corrected the federal revenue figure \$1,158 million, which is an increase in federal funding?

Mr. Miller stated that discussions on the budget will continue on June 3rd, with the final vote on the budget set for June 25th. He also suggested that the administration look at using more of the fund balance to put toward the taxpayers' portion of real estate taxes to soften the increase during this economy.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Otto Liepin, resident of Harleysville, asked if Souderton would be involved in school district consolidation if approved by the Pennsylvania legislators.

Mr. Currie responded that the decision would be made in Harrisburg, not by the Souderton School Board and suggested Mr. Liepin contact his local legislators on the issue.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Bernard S. Currie

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 presented the consent/action agenda recommendations for Board approval. He invited the Board to withdraw any item from the agenda if further discussion was needed.

There was a question regarding the Supplemental Contract item on the agenda.

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

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the items listed below as presented:

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the April 23, 2009 School Board Meeting.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Approve Minutes of the May 6, 2009 Special School Board Meeting.

Recommendation to Approve Financial Statements and Check Listings for April 2009.

EXHIBIT C

Recommendation to Ratify/Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

Ratification:

BRENDA KRUPP

Professional Development Coach

GAIL RYAN

Director of Elementary Education

Interim Principal, Franconia Elem.

Building Deeper Readers Conference

Doylestown, PA

May 4, 2009 (Mon.)

Est. Expenses: \$220.00 (combined)

Est. Sub. Expenses: 0.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$220.00 (combined)

Approval:

DANIEL GLATTS

Technology Education, High School

Adobe Premiere Pro Introduction – Future Media

Concepts

Philadelphia, PA

June 1, 2, 3, 2009 (Mon., Tues., Wed.)

Est. Expenses: \$1,582.50

Est. Sub. Expenses: 309.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$1,891.50

RACHEL STROHECKER

Learning Support, Salford Hills Elem.

Special Olympics State Games

State College, PA

June 4, 5, 6, 2009 (Thurs., Fri., Sat.)

Est. Expenses: \$ 0.00

Est. Sub. Expenses: 206.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$206.00

Paid by IDEA Funds

ROBERT P. BRUCHAK

Director of Business Affairs

PA Institute of CPAs School District Conference

Malvern, PA

June 11, 2009 (Thurs.)

Est. Expenses: \$340.52

Est. Sub. Expenses: 0.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$340.52

PATRICIA GIDARO

Physical Therapist, District

Assistive Technology-Occupational Therapy-

Physical Therapy Summer Institute

Hershey, PA

June 15, 16, 2009 (Mon., Tues.)

Est. Expenses: \$543.48

Est. Sub. Expenses: 0.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$543.48

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to Ratify/Approve Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops (Continued)

Approval (Continued):

NATE BENDER

Technology Education, High School

JAMES RUGARBER

Technology Education, High School

Amatrol Technology Training

Jeffersonville, IN

June 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2009 (Mon.-Fri.)

Est. Expenses: \$2,560.00 (combined)

Est. Sub. Expenses: 412.00 (combined)

Total Est. Expenses: \$2,972.00 (combined)

DARLA BERGEY

Health & Phys. Ed., E. M. Crouthamel Elem.

WILLIAM GROSS

Health & Phys. Ed., Vernfield Elem.

ANDREA LYSTAD

Health & Phys. Ed., Salford Hills Elem.
and Lower Salford Elem.

Boyertown Area School District Health and Physical
Education Conference

Boyertown, PA

June 18, 2009 (Thurs.)

Est. Expenses: \$420.00 (combined)

Est. Sub. Expenses: 0.00

Total Est. Expenses: \$420.00 (combined)

BRIAN PENDERGHEST

Salford Hills Elem. and E. M. Crouthamel Elem.

DAN STOVER

Health & Phys. Ed., West Broad Street Elem.

SANDRA WALTER

Health & Phys. Ed., Franconia Elem.

PERSONNEL – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Recommendation to Accept Resignations

TRACEY HEMMERLE

Science Teacher, Indian Valley Junior High

Effective: End of the 2008-2009 School Year

RYAN HUMES

Social Studies, Indian Crest Junior High

Effective: End of the 2008-2009 School Year

Recommendation to Approve Requests for Compensated Professional Leave

SHAWN HANRAHAN

Mathematics Teacher, Indian Crest Junior High
2009-2010 School Year

SUZANNE WRIGHT

Art Teacher, Souderton Area High School
First Semester, 2009-2010 School Year

Recommendation to Approve Request for Childrearing Leave

BETH ANN MULFORD

.5 Kindergarten Teacher, Salford Hills Elem.

Beginning June 8, 2009 through the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

Mrs. Mulford is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year.

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL – SUPPORT STAFF

Ratifications/Recommendations for Transfer

JAY FAUBERT From: Full-Time, Second Shift Custodian, E. M. C.
Temporary Replacement To: Full-Time, Second Shift Custodian, Indian Valley M. S.
for Sharon Marsh (leave) Beginning: May 11, 2009
Wage: \$18.25 per hour
Hours: 8 per day

MARK WALDSPURGER From: Part-Time Substitute Custodian
Replacement for To: Full-Time, Second Shift Custodian, E. M. C.
Jay Faubert (transfer) Beginning: May 13, 2009
Wage: \$18.25 per hour
Hours: 8 per day

Ratification/Recommendation for Employment

BERNADETTE FARNISH Substitute Cafeteria/Playground Aide, Lower Salford Elem.
Beginning: May 11, 2009
Wage: \$9.38 per hour
Hours: As Needed

Recommendations for Supplemental Contracts for 2008-2009 District Coordinators

Amounts are pro-rated from \$1,500 per year.

Art 6-12	VIRGINIA PERRY	\$250.00
Business	KATHRINE DOLL	250.00
Family & Consumer Science	MICHELE NEFF	250.00
Guidance 6-12	DANIEL BARBER	250.00
Language Arts 6-12	DONA ITALIANO	250.00
Math 6-12	EDWARD GALLAGHER	250.00
Music 6-12	DANIEL KUJALA	250.00
Physical Education 6-12	CHRISTINE NENSTIEL	250.00
Science 6-12	PATRICIA BERGER	250.00
Social Studies 6-12	JAMES ROSSNAGEL	250.00
Technology Education	JOEL BERGER	250.00
World Languages	ARLENE BUCHMAN	250.00

Recommendations for Employment of 2009 Summer Sports Camp Staff.

EXHIBIT D

Recommendation to approve listing of colleges and universities who partner with the Souderton Area School District for placement of student teachers:

Arcadia University
Cabrini University
East Stroudsburg University
Eastern University
Gwynedd Mercy College

Kutztown University
Lock Haven University
Penn State University
Philadelphia Biblical University
Slippery Rock University

CONSENT/ACTION AGENDA (CONTINUED)

Recommendation to approve listing of colleges and universities who partner with the Souderton Area School District for placement of student teachers: (Continued)

Immaculata University
Indiana University of PA

Temple University
Ursinus College

Second Reading of Policy #815.1 – Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications, and Information Systems. This policy has been reviewed to be in compliance with the Federal E-Rate Program, which requires districts to include language on the proper use of the Internet. RECOMMENDATION: Move to June 25, 2009 Board meeting for final adoption.

Recommendation to appoint Fox Rothschild LLP as Solicitor for the Souderton Area School District for the 2009-2010 school year based upon for the following:

- a. A retainer of \$24,313.00 for school year 2009-2010.
- b. A base hourly rate of \$180.00 for school year 2009-2010.
- c. Alternate rates in accordance with the fee letter dated March 23, 2009.
- d. Rates as established by the insurance carrier where Fox Rothschild LLP is an approved provider.

EXHIBIT E

Recommendation to Change 2009-2010 School Year Calendar by moving the October 14th Act 80 Day to **October 13, 2009** due to a PSAT testing conflict.

Appointment of Board Treasurer

Recommendation to appoint Joseph Deady as the Board Treasurer for a one-year term of office, starting July 1, 2009 and concluding June 30, 2010.

Recommendation to Approve Resolution for the Program Change/Reorganization of the Secondary Configuration.

EXHIBIT F

Recommendation to Approve Confidential Settlement and Release Agreements regarding Student I. D. #**260472**.

EXHIBIT G

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Amuso presented the recommendation to award the contract for the new Souderton Area High School Technology Education Equipment to Allegheny Educational Systems, Natrona Heights, PA, in the amount of \$376,488.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. Jelinski. The motion was put to a vote, and with a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board award the technology education equipment bid for the new high school to Allegheny Educational Systems, Natrona Heights, PA in the amount of \$376,488.

EXHIBIT H

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)

The next recommendation was to award the contract for the High School Maintenance Garage (shell only) to Graber Supply, Atglen, PA, in the amount of \$38,875.

There was a motion by Mr. Brong, second by Mr. MacDougall. The motion was put to a vote, and with a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board award the contract for the High School Maintenance Garage (shell only) to Graber Supply, Atglen, PA, in the amount of \$38,875. **EXHIBIT I**

Dr. Amuso presented the administration's recommendation for the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget as listed:

Pursuant to Section 687 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended, 24 P.S. §6-687, the Souderton Area School District ("District") Board of School Directors (the "Board") adopts the District's Proposed Annual General Fund Budget for the 2009-2010 school year ("Proposed Budget"). The Proposed Budget, in the amount of \$99,977,098 is an increase of \$2,873,155.47 or 3.30% from the prior year. The Proposed Budget as prepared, balances revenues with projected expenditures with an anticipated increase to the current real estate tax rate of 2.90% to a real estate tax millage rate of 25.1693 mils.

To permit the Board to adopt the Annual General Fund Budget ("Final Budget") and any necessary appropriations on June 25, 2009, the Administration is directed to make the Proposed Budget available as soon as practical on the uniform form furnished by the Department of Education, but no later than June 5, 2009, and to advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Final Budget no later than June 15, 2009.

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Jelinski. The vote was taken, and with a vote of 9 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget as detailed above and as required by Public School Code.

INFORMATIONAL

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

The schedule of June 2009 meetings of the Souderton Area School District Board of School Directors are listed below. 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.

Wednesday, June 3 – Policy Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM
Finance Committee Meeting immediately following the Policy Committee Meeting.

Wednesday, June 17 – Education-Personnel Committee Meeting – 6:30 PM
Operations Committee Meeting immediately following the Education-Personnel Committee Meeting.

Thursday, June 25 – Board of School Directors Meeting – 7:00 PM

INFORMATIONAL (CONTINUED)

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

The next North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2009 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 24, 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.

There was no report from the solicitor's office.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Brong commented on the High School Scholars Banquet held on May 20th.

Mr. Verbeke commented on Dr. Amuso's performance at a recent Indian Crest concert.

Mr. Currie also spoke about the students and families who were recognized at the Scholars Banquet, and then thanked the teaching staff for helping the student scholars succeed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully,

Robert P. Bruchak
Board Secretary