SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

760 Lower Road Souderton, PA 18964

A regular public meeting of the Souderton Area Board of School Directors was held Thursday, February 22, 2007 at the District Administrative Office in the Tinner Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by President Eric MacDougall, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner Eric R. MacDougall

William J. Brong
Tracy G. Cole
Bernard S. Currie

R. Bud Miller
Dr. Jack A. Parry
Victor M. Verbeke

ABSENT: Mark D. Leer

SOLICITOR: Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.

Also present at the meeting were: Dr. Charles Amuso, Karen Berk, Brenda J. Bray, Donna Brown, Brad Clemens, Linda Clemens, Grace Eves, Robin Fox, Frank Gallagher, Karen Giannini, Glenn Keller, Van Le, Laurie Reynolds, Gail Ryan, Jack Silva, Colleen Wegimont, representatives from *The Arrowhead, The Reporter*, Radio Station WNPV, and the public.

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Amuso called on Gail Ryan, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Instruction, who read a letter from Dr. Linda Larson, Principal at Oak Ridge Elementary School. Dr. Larson praised **COLLEEN WEGIMONT**, Health and Physical Education teacher at Oak Ridge Elementary School, who was selected as the 2006 Elementary Physical Education "Teacher of the Year" by the Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (PSAHPERD). Colleen is recognized for her outstanding achievements, being a positive role model to the students, and someone who is sensitive to the needs of all students. Miss Wegimont has organized the *Jump Rope for Heart* Program at Oak Ridge Elementary School for many years and is also co-founder of the *Tree House Program* that helps students before school with reading and movement.

There was a motion by Mr. Verbeke, second by Mr. Currie.

Mr. Verbeke read a congratulatory letter from his daughter, Allyson, one of Miss Wegimont's former students.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board recognize Colleen Wegimont for her achievements.

EXHIBIT A

RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

Report of the Student Representatives to the Board

Van Le, Junior Class representative to the Board, reported on recent and upcoming events at the high school such as: SAVE organization has recently won two awards; Environmental Summit on March 10th; Coffee House opening at the Connections building; Prom Fashion show on Feb. 28th. Miss Lee also mentioned that the High School Boys Basketball team has advanced to the second round of playoffs.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

David Scheuren, from Lower Salford Township, shared his dislike for Act 1 Tax Relief. He indicated that the Act does not address tax reduction.

Donna Scheuren, from Lower Salford Township, expressed her concern about the tax referendum turning residents against each other and would prefer to see industry in the area to help lower taxes.

Bruce Harris, from Lower Salford Township, shared his concern about how the referendum question will be worded on the May 15th Primary Election ballot.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Eric R. MacDougall

An Executive Session was held on February 14, 2007 to discuss potential litigation. The meeting lasted 35 minutes.

An Executive Session was held this evening prior to the Board meeting to discuss personnel items, real estate, and potential litigation. The meeting lasted 90 minutes.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

<u>Education-Personnel Committee</u> – Mr. Mark Leer, Chairperson Mr. Currie reported in Mr. Leer's absence.

- Mr. Silva reviewed two planned courses, Clay Studio 3 and Printmaking, both of which are revisions to existing courses.
- Mr. Silva gave an overview of how academic programs and courses are reviewed and developed. He explained how the *High School Curriculum Review Cycle* is divided into three-phases: research and mapping the scope and sequence, revision and implementation and monitoring and adjustment. Mr. Silva reviewed the historical development of courses and programs at the High School since 2001.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education-Personnel Committee (continued)

- A "plan to plan" was introduced for consideration as a format to use when developing a long-term technology strategic plan. As presented, the strategic plan would be divided into two sections Instructional Technology and Non-Instructional/Systematic Technology. Priorities would be established within each of these areas and target dates assigned. Mr. Currie mentioned that over \$300,000 has been reduced so far in the technology area of the budget.
- Dr. Amuso and Mr. Gallagher reviewed the historical background concerning funding for the School Resource Officers (SRO) and the recommendation that the District begin paying half of the salary for the two SROs (one from Lower Salford Township and one from Franconia Township) beginning in 2007-2008. An explanation of the impact these officers have at Indian Valley and Indian Crest was also given.
- Out-of-state and overnight field trips were also reviewed and are included for action later in tonight's agenda.

<u>Operations Committee</u> – Mr. R. "Bud" Miller, Chairperson No report.

Finance Committee – Dr. Jack Parry, Chairperson

Mr. Currie presented the Finance report.

- There was a report on the recently approved borrowing and stand alone variable rate bonds.
- Presentation of the 2007-2008 proposed North Montco Technical Career Center budget. Souderton's portion will increase by \$23,996.
- Discussion regarding an installment plan for taxpayers to pay their taxes. The committee asked for further information on this item.
- The Committee was to discuss technology currently in use, but the topic was postponed.
- There was discussion on personnel staffing.
- It was reported that there is a surplus in receipts over budget of \$3261 million and an under spending to budget of \$2780 million, combined with an unused budgetary reserve of \$.504 million, totaling \$6545 million of surplus funds from fiscal 2005-2006. The administration was asked to come back with suggestions on how to use the surplus.
- Several other items were moved to tonight's agenda for action.

<u>Policy Committee</u> – Mrs. Tracy Cole, Chairperson

- Mrs. Cole indicated that the Committee took a last look at the Broadcasting Policy.
- The next meeting will include further discussion on Professional Growth Guidelines and Job Related Expenses for administrative and professional employees. .

Dr. Amuso presented the action items listed under the consent agenda:

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0 it was

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

• Approval of Minutes from the February 8, 2007 School Board Meeting.

EXHIBIT B

Approval of Financial Statements and Check Listings for January 2007.

EXHIBIT C

• Requests to Attend Conferences/Workshops

CAROLYN ROSENBERGER Units of Study Across the Year

Fourth Grade, Vernfield Elem. Philadelphia, PA

February 23, 2007 (Friday)
Est. Expenses: \$179.00
Sub. Expenses: <u>103.00</u>

Total Expenses: \$282.00

RACHEL STROHECKER Reading Instruction That Gets Results

Learning Support, Salford Hills Drexel Hill, PA

JENNIFER WORTHINGTON March 5, 2007 (Monday)

ESL, Oak Ridge & Salford Hills Est. Expenses: \$413.16 (combined)

Sub. Expenses: 103.00 (Strohecker only)

Paid from Title III Funds. Total Expenses: \$516.16 (combined)

LYNN CONNERY-ORCUTT About the Authors, Writing Workshop With

Literacy Coach K-2 Our Youngest Writers

NAOMI DONOVAN Essington, PA

First Grade, Vernfield Elem. May 1, 2007 (Tuesday)

SABRINA GODSHALLEst. Expenses:\$ 927.00 (combined)First Grade, Salford Hills Elem.Sub. Expenses:1,690.00 (combined)ANGIE MOORETotal Expenses:\$2,617.00 (combined)

First Grade, Lower Salford Elem.

SHERYL MOYER

First Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.

TESSA NOLTE WENDY SPAIDE

First Grade, Franconia Elem. First Grade, E. M. Crouthamel Elem.

TIA SCHWAB BETSY STONE

First Grade, E.M. Crouthamel Elem. First Grade, West Broad Street Elem.

MICHELE SMITH

First Grade, Oak Ridge Elem. *Paid from Accountability Block Grant Funds.*

Curriculum Items – Requests for Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips

1. <u>Souderton Area High School – Girls High School Soccer Team</u>

Date: March 17, 18, 2007 (Saturday-Sunday)

Destination: JNC STATZ, Inc., Jessup, PA (near Scranton)

Purpose: Team building and team training in an indoor athletic facility.

Number of Students: 35

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 4 parents/4 teachers or staff

Requesting Teacher: Terry Underkoffler

Students will be responsible for cost of the trip - \$35.00 each

2. <u>Souderton Area School District – Fifth Grade Challenge Students</u>

Date: April 30 to May 1, 2007 (Monday-Tuesday)

Destination: Pocono Environmental Education Center, Mt. Pocono, PA

Purpose: Extension & culminating activity of environmental education studies.

Number of Students: 50

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 15 parents/3 teachers or staff

Requesting Teachers: Stacy Zanine, Jean Frey and Heather Williams

Students/parents will be responsible for the cost of the trip

3. Souderton Area High School – German Students – Grades 10-12

Date: May 12, 2007 (Saturday)

Destination: The Cloisters, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Heidelberg

Restaurant, New York City, NY

Purpose: To present students of the German culture.

Number of Students: 33

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 9 parents/2 teachers or staff Requesting Teachers: Neil Lindenfelser and Tina Ziegler Students/parents will be responsible for the cost of the trip.

4. West Broad Street Elementary School – Fourth Grade Students

Date: June 4, 2007 (Monday)

Destination: Adventure Aquarium, Camden, NJ

Purpose: To learn more about the ocean and ocean life.

Number of Students: 85

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 32 parents/5 teachers or staff

Requesting Teachers: Coleen Heary, Todd Burns, Chris Gigon, Denise

Kirsteier

Students/parents will be responsible for the cost of the trip.

Curriculum Items – Requests for Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips

5. <u>Franconia Elementary School – Fifth Grade Students</u>

Date: June 6, 2007 (Wednesday)

Destination: Ft. McHenry, Aquarium and Inner Harbor area of Baltimore, MD Purpose: Enrich science and social studies curriculum by seeing micro and

macro worlds and site of War of 1812.

Number of Students: 98

Number of Chaperones/Teachers: 37 parents/6 teachers or staff

Requesting Teachers: Lauren Canning, Betty Shoemaker, Joe Pallozzi,

Heather Hiester and Tammy Lelii

Students/parents will be responsible for cost of the trip - \$26.00 each per student/\$39.00 each per chaperone. Home and School Association will also be assisting in funding the trip.

Application Request for 2007-2008 Dual Enrollment Grant

The Souderton Area High School has made application for a "Dual Enrollment Program" Grant to the PA Department of Education in the amount of \$4,500. The purpose of this grant is to allow districts to partner with post-secondary education partners to offer high school juniors and seniors, who can show they qualify a chance to earn college credit while completing their high school requirements. If awarded, the Souderton Area High School will use the funds to reimburse parents and students for the Montgomery County Community College's \$75.00 transcript fee for the four courses that will be offered for both high school and college credit.

• Personnel Items

- 1. Professional Staff
 - a. Retirement

KATHLEEN PECK Second Grade Teacher, West Broad St.

Effective: March 13, 2007

Years of Service with SASD: 36 years

b. Requests for Childrearing Leave

NICOLE HARNER Social Studies Teacher, Senior High Beginning approximately May 22, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year, following Family Medical Leave. Mrs. Harner is planning to return to work for the 2007-2008 school year.

JENNIFER ODENWALD Science Teacher, Indian Valley M. S. Effective for the first semester of the 2007-2008 school year. Mrs. Odenwald is planning to return to work for the second semester of the 2007-2008 school year.

• Personnel Items

1. Professional Staff

b. <u>Requests for Childrearing Leave</u>

KARAH ZIFF Third Grade Teacher, Oak Ridge Elem. Beginning approximately June 6, 2007 through the end of the 2006-2007 school year, following Family Medical Leave. Mrs. Ziff is planning to return to work for the 2007-2008 school year.

2. Support Staff

a. Resignations

JOHANNA KULP Study Hall Aide, Senior High School

Effective: February 8, 2007

WANDA SAMMONS-BENNER Title I Aide, West Broad Street

Effective: February 28, 2007

JEAN ZOLA Second Shift, Full-time Custodian, Senior High

Effective: February 23, 2007

b. Transfers

ETHAN SHOEMAKER From: Custodial Substitute

Replacement for To: Part-Time Custodian, West Broad St.

Cassaundra Hurst (resigned) Beginning: February 23, 2007

Hourly Wage: \$9.21 -- Hours: 4 per day

RANDA DIETTERICH From: Substitute Teacher

Replacement for To: Title I Aide, West Broad Street Elem.

Wanda Sammons-Benner Beginning: March 1, 2007

(resigned) Hourly Wage: \$13.15 -- Hours: 6 per day

c. Recommendation for Employment

NANCY RUGEL Title I Aide, West Broad Street Elem.

Replacement for Beginning: February 23, 2007

Jeanmarie Weir (resigned) Hourly Wage: \$12.65 -- Hours: 6 per day

• Supplemental Contracts for Coaching Positions - 2006-2007 School Year

THOMAS JERNIGAN	Head Baseball Coach (IV)	\$2,264.00
JOSHUA PENNINGTON	Head Baseball Coach (IV)	1,973.00
MARK MAZUREK	Head Softball Coach (IV)	2,690.00
ADAM KAYSER	Head Softball Coach (IV)	2,332.00

• Supplemental Contracts for Coaching Positions - 2006-2007 School Year

LEIGH VOIGT	Head Lacrosse Coach (IV)	\$2,032.00
TARA AMBRUCH	Head Lacrosse Coach (IV)	2,032.00
JONATHAN BLAIR	Head Track Coach (IV)	2,198.00
KEITH BUSSOM	Head Track Coach (IV)	2,264.00
TINA BACHMAN	Assist. Lacrosse Coach (HS)	2,980.00

• Additions to the 2006-2007 Substitute Teacher Listing

EXHIBIT D

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve North Montco Technical Career Center 2007-2008 Budget

Dr. Amuso presented the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget for North Montco in the amount of \$8,950, 014.

This figure represents a 1.76% increase in their budget. Souderton's contribution for the year, \$1,805,645, represents a \$23,996 increase from 2006-2007.

There was a motion by Mr. Currie, second by Mr. Brong to approve the 2007-2008 proposed budget.

Mr. MacDougall recognized and commended Michael Lucas and his staff for their hard work on this budget. Mr. Lucas, Executive Director, and Gail Kolhe, Business Manager, were present to answer questions.

The motion was put to a vote, and with a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2007-2008 Proposed North Montco Technical Career Center Budget as presented. **EXHIBIT E**

<u>Acknowledgement of Submission of PlanCon K – Project Refinancing – General Obligation Bonds</u> There was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie to acknowledge receipt of PlanCon K.

Mrs. Bray explained that this is an obligation that is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). This action is to notify PDE of this submission of project refinancing of the 2001 Series of General Obligation Bonds.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board acknowledge submission of PlanCon K to PDE as required. **EXHIBIT F**

Recommendation to Rescind Subsequent Resolutions Dated February 8, 2007 Upon a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board rescind the Subsequent Resolutions dated and approved on February 8, 2007 authorizing approval of a General Obligation Notes, Series of 2007 and a Supplement to the Bond Purchase Agreement from the Authority as presented.

EXHIBIT G

Recommendation to Approve HVAC Bid for Indian Valley Middle School Project

Dr. Amuso presented the HVAC bids for approval for the HVAC project at Indian Valley.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the bids were opened last week and there were only three (3) bidders. The recommendation is to award the HVAC contract to N. B. Rodgers on a base contract of \$1,920,000, less the deducted alternate for Trane equipment of \$40,000, which equals a net price of \$1,880,000,

and award the electrical contract to ETK Electric for \$180,000.

There was a motion by Mr. Miller, and a second by Mr. Brong to accept the bids as presented.

Mr. Miller commented on the electrical contract bids and the spread between the low and high bid.

The vote was taken, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the HVAC bid for the Indian Valley Middle School project as recommended. **EXHIBIT H**

Recommendation for Third Reading and Approval of Policy – Broadcasting Board Meetings

Dr. Amuso indicated that the Board and the administration have been working on this policy for a long time and is now ready to be presented for a final reading and vote.

There was a motion by Mrs. Cole, second by Dr. Baumgartner to approve the policy.

Dr. Parry asked for clarification on the legal liability of the policy.

Dr. Amuso responded that it addresses the possibility of someone in the audience using the video tape to break the law in some way. The intention is to video tape the meetings gavel to gavel.

Mr. MacDougall explained instances that may occur.

Bonnie Sheehan, Esq., from Fox Rothschild, explained the possibility of knowingly re-broadcasting a defamation or inappropriate matter that appears on the video tape.

Mr. Miller indicated that he did not support the broadcasting of meetings.

Mrs. Cole added that the administration was asked to put an evaluation piece to this policy.

Dr. Parry questioned if the video taping could be used as a lab project for students in a communications/media class.

Mr. Silva suggested that this topic should be discussed at either an Education-Personnel Committee or Operations Committee meeting.

Recommendation for Third Reading and Approval of Policy – Broadcasting Board Meetings Mr. Gallagher explained that the students could be used on the back end of the production. They could assist in sound, lighting, and technical aspects for getting the video tape on the air.

Mr. Currie expressed concern that the policy contain provisions for the Board to edit the video tape.

The Board discussed who would decide if editing was needed.

Mr. Miller asked when video taping would begin.

Dr. Amuso indicated that if all the pieces can be put together in time, March 29th would be the first taped meeting.

The motion was put to vote, and on a vote of 7 to 1, with Mr. Miller voting no, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Broadcasting of Board Meetings policy as presented. **EXHIBIT I**

Recommendation to Approve Proposed Ballot Question, as Required by Act 1, for the May 15, 2007 Primary Election

Dr. Amuso presented the Referendum Question Resolution for action by the Board. He stressed that the amount of the tax relief for qualified homesteads and farmsteads will continue to be revised as more information is received from the county and the state.

There was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Brong to approve the proposed ballot question.

Mr. MacDougall questioned if the Board could continue to craft and finalize the question after tonight's vote.

Bonnie Sheehan responded no, the question must be decided prior to the vote.

Mrs. Bray indicated that the statement follows PDE guidelines.

Board discussion followed regarding the wording of the question. Items discussed were future gaming funds, wording the question so people would understand, and what to include in the non-legal clarifying statement.

Mr. Currie made a motion to amend the original motion by ending the question at "...The property tax reduction amount may go up or down in subsequent years." The amended motion was second by Dr. Baumgartner.

Mr. MacDougall indicated that this revision would require subsequent approval from our legal team. He mentioned that this is the last meeting before the deadline and the question must be kept to 75 words.

Recommendation to Approve Proposed Ballot Question, as Required by Act 1, for the May 15, 2007 Primary Election

Bonnie Sheehan reviewed the basics that are required in the referendum question. She read a sample question provided by PDE.

The vote was taken to approve the question ending at "...The property tax reduction amount may go up or down in subsequent years." With a vote of 0 to 8, the amended motion failed.

The initial motion to approve the Referendum Question Resolution, as written, was withdrawn.

Then there was a motion by Dr. Parry to use the PDE statement as read by Ms. Sheehan, with necessary adjustments for the Souderton Area School District, and add "a portion of the revenue generated..." to the question, and also add the current income tax rate of .5% for the school district. The motion was second by Dr. Baumgartner.

David Scheuren expressed that something should be added to the question that lets people know they will get a reduction only if they earn over \$65,000. People need to understand what is going to happen.

Mr. MacDougall and Ms. Sheehan indicated that the clarifying statement will explain some of his concerns.

Dr. Parry and Mr. Currie both spoke about how people ask for clarification prior to voting at the polls.

Bruce Harris, from Harleysville, shared a comment about wording the question in a way that would manipulate the outcome.

Donna Scheuren asked why the Board could not state that the total percentage would be 2%.

Nick Broccio questioned if the rate listed on the resolution was by municipality or an average of all the municipalities in the Souderton Area School District.

Brenda Perrie, from Lower Salford, shared a comment about people who work in Philadelphia and the Philadelphia wage tax.

David Lord, from Telford, questioned if the law drafted a proposed question.

The Board continued discussion about wording of the referendum question and agreed to the following:

"Do you favor the Souderton Area School District imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? A portion of the revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce school district taxes on qualified residential properties by an estimated \$612. The current school district earned income tax rate is .5%."

Recommendation to Approve Proposed Ballot Question, as Required by Act 1, for the May 15, 2007 Primary Election

Mr. Miller spoke about the difference between Earned Income Tax (EIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT), and added that he supports a PIT at 0.9%.

Dr. Parry agreed that he supports going to a PIT.

Mr. MacDougall stated that the motion on the floor is to accept the PDE statement as edited.

Mr. MacDougall asked Mrs. Bray for a roll call vote.

Dr. Baumgartner – Yes
Mr. Miller - No
Mr. Brong – No
Dr. Parry - No
Mrs. Cole – Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes
Mr. Currie – Yes
Mr. Leer – Absent
Mr. MacDougall - Yes

On a vote of 5 to 3, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board use the following as the referendum question in the May 15 Primary Election:

"Do you favor the Souderton Area School District imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? A portion of the revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce school district taxes on qualified residential properties by an estimated \$612. The current school district earned income tax rate is .5%."

First Reading of Policies – Discussion Items Only

Dr. Amuso presented the following policies for a first reading:

- 1. Policy 333 Professional Growth Guidelines (Administrative Employees)
- 2. Policy 433 Professional Growth Guidelines (Professional Employees)
- 3. Policy 331 Job Related Expenses (Administrative Employees)
- 4. Policy 431 Job Related Expenses (Professional Employees)

Mrs. Cole added that these policies would be discussed at the next meeting.

INFORMATIONAL

Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 7:45 PM **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors Meeting** in Conference Rooms B3/B4, Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, 1605 West Main Street, Norristown, PA.

Operations Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM. The **Finance Committee Meeting** will start immediately following the 6:30 PM Operations Committee Meeting in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

INFORMATIONAL

Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:30 PM North Montco Technical Career Center Joint Operating Committee Meeting in the Administrative Conference Room, North Montco Technical Career Center, 1265 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA.

Policy Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2007 beginning at 6:30 PM. The Education-Personnel Committee Meeting will start immediately following the 6:30 PM Policy Committee meeting, with the Finance Committee Meeting immediately following Education-Personnel. All meetings will be held in the Tinner Board Room of the Souderton Area School District Administrative Office Building, 760 Lower Road, Souderton, PA.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cole indicated that she would prefer not to receive the FS Direct report. The report was only informational and needed no Board action. Other Board members agreed with the suggestion of not receiving the report in the future.

BOARD COMMENTS

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hugh Donnelly, from Franconia Township, expressed concern about residents turning against each other over the Act 1 legislation.

Mr. MacDougall announced a brief Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, there was a motion by Dr. Parry, second by Mr. Currie, and on a vote of 8 to 0, it was

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

SOUDERTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brenda Jones Bray Board Secretary