The October 4, 2010, Program Committee meeting of the South Western Board of School Directors was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Ann B. Dietz.

A. Attendance

Board members present:
   Ann B. Dietz               Dale E. Myers
   Harriett A. Gaither       M. Ann Rinker
   Richard W. Halter         Robert L. Williams, Jr.
   Ray M. Mummert            Thomas M. Zimmerman

Administrators/Supervisors
   Barbara A. Rupp, Superintendent
   Barbara S. Kehr, Assistant Superintendent
   Jeffrey A. Mummert, Business Administrator
   Alma P. Row, Director of Data and Instructional Technology

Others:
   John Carley and Bryan Tayman

II. Matters for Which Board Action is Required

A. Student & Community Relations--Mr. Williams, Chairperson

   1. William/m, Zimmerman/s, to approve the recommendation of the Student and Community Relations Committee in the matter of the student disciplinary action against a 12th grade male student at the South Western High School as follows:

      a. The student is expelled from the South Western High School from October 4, 2010, through the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

      b. While expelled, the student must not participate in any school activities, extra-curricular activities or be present on School District property without written permission from Administration. This would include athletic events, school dances, Prom, and Commencement exercises. If he needs access to school property, he must first receive written permission from the high school administration.

      c. The student will participate in the Student Assistance Program.

      d. In accordance with School Board Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion, Title 22, Sec. 12.6 the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for the student’s education during the first thirty (30) days of his expulsion. The administration is willing, if requested by the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), to give him access to instruction in South Western School District’s night school during the period of expulsion. Should the student
enroll in the South Western School District’s night school he is subject to random drug and alcohol screening(s).

e. The student will not be permitted on School District property for the duration of the expulsion unless prior permission is granted by the high school Administration. Failure to comply will result in trespassing charges being filed through the Penn Township Police Department.

f. The student will agree to random drug testing while enrolled in the South Western School District Night School Program.

g. With regards to additional consequences related to this situation: The School Board further directs the Administration to have a meeting with the parents to explain the expectations that the School District has with the student’s conduct and performance while in the South Western Night School program. The Board directs that the Administration monitor the behavior and progress of the student while the student is in the night school class. The Board gives the Administration discretion to remove the student from the South Western Night School program in the event that the student fails to comply with night school rules and regulations or is disruptive in any way to the instructional process while in the night school program. The Board authorizes the Administration to remove the student permanently from the South Western School District Night School program and any other South Western educational program should the Administration in its sole discretion believe that the student has become disruptive, has been a disciplinary problem or in any way fails to follow the rules and regulations of the South Western School District program. The Board directs that the student may be removed from the South Western program at the Administration’s sole discretion without the need of the additional expulsion hearing before the Board.

h. The student may choose to participate in the Expulsion Early Return Program from Night School if he agrees to the conditions outlined in the Expulsion Early Return Contract.

i. Upon successful completion of the requirements in the Expulsion Early Return Contract, it will be the student’s responsibility to contact the high school administration two weeks prior to January 10, 2011, and prior to the end of the expulsion date to request a meeting. During the meeting an assessment will be conducted by the administrative team to determine if the student is eligible to return to the high school setting.

j. The student will agree to random drug testing once he returns to South Western High School.

k. Upon successful completion of the Expulsion Early Return Program, the student will be permitted to attend all second semester extra-curricular activities, school functions, including events, programs, prom and the 2011 Graduation Ceremony.

Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No
Williams/m, Zimmerman/s, to approve items 2 and 3:

2. Approve request from Park Hills Athletic Association to use the Park Hills Elementary gymnasium on Saturday evenings, October 16 and 23, and Sunday evenings, October 17 and 24, 2010, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., to hold Zumba workshop fundraisers. The fee charged will be $25.00 for each day used.

3. Approve request from People to People Student Ambassadors for free use of the middle school library and cafeteria on Saturdays October 2, 9, and 16, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; and Sundays December 4, 2010, and January 15, February 19, March 26, April 30, and June 6, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to conduct interviews and hold orientation meetings.

Roll Call: 8 Yes, 0 No

III. Items for Discussion

A. Acceleration Through Summer School - John Carley presented the idea of having a summer academy where students could preview courses that they would be taking during the next school year, through the use of computers and software. The district could offer 40-45 different courses that would center on the core curriculum. The district would hire a teacher at a cost of approximately $500 plus benefits, and charge the students approximately $50 to take the course. Financially, the program would be designed to break even. The program could run from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Monday to Thursday for 12 hours or Monday to Friday for 15 hours. It was thought this program would be beneficial to all students.

B. Compass Learning for Remediation and Acceleration - Bryan Tayman demonstrated the Compass Learning software the district would use to implement the accelerated summer school program. While the students would not receive any credit towards graduation for taking these program classes, it is a step towards the development of online courses. This approach can meet any student’s needs in grades 6 through 12. There was some discussion regarding the start times of the various summer school programs and the costs that we currently charge for students to attend the remedial summer school programs. There was also discussion that the district may want to stagger the dates for the accelerated courses so that students taking remedial summer school programs could also take part and benefit from the accelerated programs. If approved, the district plans to preview these programs at parent conferences in the spring. The Committee directed the administration to put together some ideas and to come back to the Board in March with a proposal.

C. STEEDS Update - Dr. Rupp reported that the district currently has ten students in the STEEDS program. Of that number, about half will be going back to the high school at mid term. Dr. Renehan and Ms. Bush are working on their transition back into the regular school setting. At the middle school level, we currently have students in the program. While that number of students is low, it tends to grow throughout the year.

D. Night School Update - Dr. Rupp provided the Committee with a chart reflecting the statistics from the Night School program. Of the 31 students who have participated in the program, 15 have graduated from SWS&D or the York-Adams Academy, and 7 are still currently attending school at SWS&D. Only six students have withdrawn (dropped out) from the program and three students have been expelled. This program is working exactly how the district
envisioned when it was created by offering students who would have likely dropped out of school a different route to get their diploma.

E. Saturday School - Dr. Rupp reported on the Saturday School program at the high school. This is a program operated by the high school administrators for students who cannot fit in their after school detention due to conflicts with jobs. The students are monitored by teachers who do this as one of their assigned duties. The program runs from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. twice each month. The high school has about 20 students participating in this program every other Saturday.

F. Keystone Exams - Dr. Kehr distributed to the Committee information regarding the Keystone Exams. She reported that these exams will replace the PSSA tests in 2013, saving 18 testing hours for our juniors. These tests are meant to be part of the grade for the course, counting for 1/3 of the final course grade. Eighth grade students taking Algebra I this year will be the first to take the Keystone Exams this year. Current 6th graders will be required to pass two English, two math, one science and one social studies exam. Students who do not score proficient or above may take the exam on the next available testing date. These exams will be given three times a year.

G. PDE’s Standards Aligned System - Dr. Kehr demonstrated the Standards Aligned System that is on PDE’s website. While it is still a work in progress, this provides a very good resource for educators as it relates to the state standards. Through this software, teachers have the ability to design their own assessments and download teaching resources such as materials and videos to assist in their education of students. They even have the ability to design a webpage for their use through this software.

H. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. by general consensus.

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Jeffrey A. Mummert, Secretary