

On January 28, 2013 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and Willard D. Cromley
Region II: Clara M. Gudolonis, Dawn R. Heine and Julie A. Mullin
Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi and Mark P. Dehnert
Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

Board President, Mr. DiBello, opened the meeting with the call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello announced that the second marking period will end tomorrow, Tuesday, January 29th, and report cards will be available on the Skyward System at 4 p.m. on Friday, February 8th. He advised parents that there will be a Superintendent's/Parents' Advisory Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 31st in the Hurda Learning Center of the Spring-Ford Area Senior High. Mr. DiBello announced that if area business owners were looking for a great way to advertise their business and support the Spring-Ford Area School District they can visit the district's website to learn more about the Partnership Program and see how their business can get the most from their advertising dollars. Mr. DiBello announced that the Spring-Ford Area School District is on Facebook! You can like the page and stay up-to-date on district happenings by going to Facebook.com and searching for "Spring-Ford Area School District." Mr. DiBello reminded parents to check their children's individual building websites for news on activities and events taking place in their schools. They can also receive information about events taking place in the district by visiting www.spring-ford.net.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were none.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Goodin stated that January is Board Appreciation Month and prior to the meeting this evening the administrators hosted a dessert social for our School Board to express their thanks for all that they do, the time they give in serving the district, and the leadership they provide. Dr. Goodin thanked the Board for all they do and presented a PowerPoint that recapped some of the highlights from this past year and initiatives that the Board has been a part of and approved. Dr. Goodin thanked the Board for their service, their leadership and for volunteering their time to help the district become something every-

one can be proud of. Dr. Goodin presented the Board Members with certificates of appreciation in honor of Board Appreciation Month.

Mr. DiBello, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Administration for recognizing them with a dessert social this evening and stated that it is always a pleasure getting together with them in a social situation to catch up and find out how everyone's families are doing. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board appreciates everything Dr. Goodin and the Administration are doing in working with them to move the district in a positive direction. Mr. DiBello stated that there has been a lot of hard work done over the past year but at the end of the day the end result is starting to be recognized especially in the state rankings where we have moved up. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board is proud of the work they and the Administration have done.

- A. Presentation honoring the **Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors** who volunteer their time for the betterment of public education in our community.

Dr. Goodin explained the process for a school receiving a Keystone Achievement Award. He introduced all of the principals of those buildings that were recipients of the Keystone Achievement Award and presented them with their award.

- B. Presentation of the **Keystone Achievement Awards** to the following schools:

Brooke Elementary	Upper Providence Elementary
Evans Elementary	5/6 th Grade Center
Limerick Elementary	7 th Grade Center
Oaks Elementary	8 th Grade Center
Royersford Elementary	9 th Grade Center

Dr. Goodin presented a PowerPoint on the 2012 SAT scores. The presentation provided a comparison of SAT scores between the state's average scores and Spring-Ford's scores. The Philadelphia Inquirer rated the 2012 Senior Class of 652 schools this year and Spring-Ford ranked 77th in state and 39th in the county. Dr. Goodin next showed a slide which gave Spring-Ford's 2012 Senior Class SAT scores broken down into ranges. He also showed the ranges for all Spring-Ford students taking the SAT's which included students in grades 8-12.

Mr. Cirese asked what the administration's plan is to move the district from 77th on the chart and 39th up to the top 10. Dr. Goodin stated that the SAT is a cumulative test that looks at the acquisition of knowledge through a student's educational career. Dr. Goodin added that they have started to look into what can be done and he explained some of the steps they will follow to accomplish this such as focusing on time management strategies, making sure students understand the content and testing format, ways to reduce testing anxiety, and also focus on practice testing. Dr. Goodin commented that one of the things they plan on doing to help achieve the previously mentioned four goals is to set up test prep seminars which would be six hour seminars offered in-house. Mr. Cirese asked if the district has looked into what other districts who are achieving top rankings are doing internally and curriculum wise. Dr. Goodin replied that this has not been done as of yet.

Mr. DiBello stated that a lot was mentioned regarding test taking strategies and there is a lot of stress when it comes to taking SATs which could be why some kids take them two

or three times. Mr. DiBello asked if we need to look at strategies for introducing different courses or enhancing certain courses at the 8th and 9th grade levels so that the kids are more comfortable. Dr. Goodin responded that Spring-Ford is on a constant track of change as new things are being put in place through the work of the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Goodin stated that as he looks at the scores he would be more concerned if we were a district that had no representation in the upper tiers but we do have quite a number of students who are scoring in the 2000 and above range then that is encouraging. Dr. Goodin said there is no doubt that we are constantly examining the curriculum to see how we can tweak it. Dr. Goodin stated that we certainly want to take a closer look at the intensive 6 hour prep seminar for students taking the SAT test. Mr. DiBello asked if there was anything from the administrative standpoint that will be needed or that you may want to ask from the Board in the near future. Dr. Goodin stated that he does have some ideas that would be targeted specifically at the SAT's and would be handled through the Curriculum Committee.

Mr. Dehnert asked about the SAT trends over the past five years and Dr. Goodin replied that last year the district average was 1558 so this year's group was a little bit lower than last year's group. Mr. Dehnert asked if the Board could get this information and Dr. Goodin stated that Dr. Floyd had presented this at a previous meeting but he would certainly get the information out to the Board in the weekly memo.

Mr. Dressler stated that taking the SAT's are a step one must take to get into a university. He commented that he would like to see what numbers students need in order to get into an upper tier school such as The University of Pennsylvania or Penn State Main Campus. Mr. Dressler added that the ranking is important but the numbers and what the numbers mean in terms of getting into college is the most important factor.

Mrs. Heine commented that from a parent perspective that information is provided to parents from the College Career Center where there is a chart on the back of information that goes out to parents which does list out requirements for colleges with regards to different scores for different colleges so it should be easily available.

Mrs. Mullin stated that she is glad that they are addressing test taking strategies and test anxieties as this was a part that they have overlooked. Mrs. Mullin stated that she did not believe it was ever mentioned that this could be a part of what is going on. Mrs. Mullin commented that as a parent of two high school students she is understanding more and more that this all plays a part. She stated that she is glad that we are addressing this piece. Dr. Goodin said he would let the Board know when the seminar would be conducted.

Mr. DiBello stated that the goal as a Board is to look at the trends as there will be swings up and down each year. Mr. DiBello said the goal is to look at state averages, look at demographics, look at our neighboring districts and where they are performing with regards to their scores in order to see what we could be doing to perform at those same levels. Mr. DiBello reported that as a parent in the district he attended a meeting which indicated that sometimes students mess up in taking the tests as they feel they must answer every question when in reality if they do not know the answer they should not fill in any answer. Mr. DiBello stated that there are a lot of test taking techniques that we have to be sure we are coaching students on when conducting these seminars in order to help students as they prepare for the SATs.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he believes it is important to find out what the top performing districts are doing as he is not sure how much improvement we would get out of strategies. He believes that most improvement comes from knowing the material, having a good vocabulary, being good at the math and having good reading comprehension.

Mr. Ciresi said he would like to see us hold some type of symposium with top districts since they are within our area so that we do not have to completely invent the wheel. Mr. Ciresi stated that he does not believe there is any reason why our scores cannot be in the 1900-2000 range for a majority of our students. Mr. Ciresi stated that the goal of the Administration and the Board is to not settle for mediocrity and to move the pendulum as far as we possibly can each year. Mr. Ciresi said that he hoped in the next 3 months that they can get a report back with a real road plan with where we can end up at and how we can move forward. Mr. Ciresi stated that the recommendations need to be done before the budget goes out in case we need to add anything.

Mr. DiBello commented that strategy is important as in the past there was no strategy or focus and Spring-Ford was performing average or above average when compared with other neighboring districts which was great but now we are raising the bar. Mr. DiBello stated that he somewhat agrees with Mr. Dehnert that content also important but there are a lot of other things that play into it. Mr. DiBello said we need to look at this from every direction and put forward a strategy on what mechanisms we need to put into place.

Mr. Dressler stated that we need to make sure that our students understand the basics of some simple test taking strategies. Mr. Dressler said it makes all the difference in the world and if we can teach them this now as it will serve them well throughout the rest of their high school and college careers.

Mr. Pettit stated that Mr. Dressler is absolutely correct with his comments on test taking strategies. He added that this is something that should carry through with our classes as well since students take tests every day and he questioned whether students were taking those tests properly. Mr. Pettit stated that we need to prioritize how to take a test within the school curriculum itself. Dr. Goodin agreed and stated that this is something we definitely need to take a look at as we have 8th graders taking the Sat's as well.

Mr. DiBello stated that the other thing we need to look at is our ACT scores as some colleges are looking at those scores more than the SAT scores. Mr. DiBello added that we also need to monitor this and know which colleges are looking at which scores. Dr. Goodin reported that he did not have those numbers in front of him but as he recalls from a previous presentation the district's ACT scores are very high.

Mr. Dehnert asked if there was any comparison of ACT scores from district to district. Dr. Goodin responded that he was not sure how this information was reported out to us but he would certainly look into this and possibly Mrs. Bhalla could assist with this.

C. **Dr. David Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, to present on Spring-Ford's 2012 SAT Scores.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-D and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the November 19, 2012 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the November 26, 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

NEW APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- C. The Board approved the December 3, 2012 Reorganization Meeting minutes.

ADDENDUM APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- D. The Board approved the December 3, 2013 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Relations Joseph Ciresi 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Community Relations Committee met last Tuesday night where Dr. Goodin presented an overview of the Partnership Program. Communication Solutions reported on the type of media attention from this past year and the scope of the work they have been doing. Mr. Roche reported on the school colors and the variety that exists in the district as well as the district logo so that the committee could discuss coming up with a brand that would be consistent throughout the district. The committee also discussed the implementation of a Spring-Ford App. Mr. Roche provided the committee with an update on the number of Facebook likes which was at the time over 300. Mr. Roche also gave an update on the District's Twitter Program. Mr. Bonetz provided an update on the television station programming and how it has expanded as well as the potential for the future to move it beyond where we are.

Extracurricular Thomas DiBello 2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on 1/14/13 where each month one club is invited to attend the meeting to talk about their group. This month the Anchor Club gave a presentation on what the club is and their philosophy which is to make a difference. Mr. DiBello reported that the Anchor Club is part of the Pilot Club of Valley Forge which is basically the parent club of the Anchor Club. The emphasis of the Pilot Club is on brain related disorders. Students go around to different homes such as the Golden Age Manor where they recently hosted a prom for the residents which included music, desserts, light snacks and soft drinks. Students also hosted events such as bingo, a Christmas party, and a holiday bus lighted tour. The students also visited the Golden Living Center in Phoenixville, hosted a holiday party and went caroling. They visited Parkhouse and Providence Point where they helped with the annual carnival which helped raise money for wheel chairs for the residents. Mr. DiBello reported that the students also visited the Veterans Center and conducted Veteran's Day Programs with those residents as well. Mr. DiBello stated how impressed he was with how quick the group mobilized and got out thank you grams to benefit the Hurricane Sandy victims. Mr. DiBello reported that the reason they have the groups come to the Extracurricular Committee meeting is because we have over 300 clubs throughout the district where the students are doing very impressive things which is nice to know from a Board's perspective. The committee next received an update on fall/winter athletics from Mr. McDaniel who reported that 467 students participated in fall athletics and 280 students are currently participating in winter athletics. Mr. Roche presented the end of season activity survey where students will go in and provide their feedback to questions pertaining to the activity they participated in. The purpose of the survey is to determine that the activity is successful and receive input to determine where changes may be

required. Mr. Roche created a few pilot surveys using a tool called Survey Monkey which was rolled out to three or four different groups and it was determined that this is something that is definitely going to be a very useful tool moving forward. Mr. DiBello reported that the current plan is to have the winter extracurriculars fill out the survey and then move onto to spring sports and the music groups. Mr. Roche confirmed this was correct and stated that the hope is to be ready to go full force at the start of next year's sports seasons.

MCIU

Thomas DiBello

4th Weds. 7:45 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that it is the start of a new year and the first part was focused on the budget which was presented last week. Mr. DiBello reported that there are some changes taking place in Harrisburg and the primary focus by each of the legislators going is looking at holding committee hearing regarding special education and policies related to this. Mr. DiBello commented that the legislators are also looking into making changes to the PSERS Program and we will anxiously wait to see if any of that becomes true this year. Mr. DiBello reported that revenue collections for the state were about 4.8% higher than what was anticipated for December and the Department of Revenue has reported that year to date the collections of \$12.2 billion which about \$175 million or 1.4% above estimated. Mr. DiBello said the state is doing better than what was originally estimated so we will have to see where that money goes in 2013. Mr. DiBello commented that it was reported that slot machine revenues have outpaced all other states with the exception of Nevada but again we have heard that we would get all of this gaming in place in Pennsylvania which would lead to the start of property tax reform. Mr. DiBello stated that we still have to watch the fiscal cliff which is going on down in Washington and Sequestration which no one knows what it is or how it will affect us. Mr. DiBello reported that Spring-Ford gets less than 2% of funding from the Federal Government and depending on what occurs there may be up to a 9% reduction of that 2% that we receive. Mr. DiBello said he believes this will have a bigger impact on entities like the Intermediate Unit.

Mr. Dressler stated that in reference to legislation the district does have a new state representative and it might be time for us to invite our state representatives to come and speak to us in order to address some of these issues and legislation they have that pertains to education.

Personnel

Bernard Pettit

(As Needed)

Mr. Pettit reported that the Personnel Committee met with Met with the Teacher's Union to discuss ongoing contract negotiations. He stated that they will be meeting again in February and hopefully we will see where it goes.

Property

Joseph Ciresi

2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Property Committee met on 1/8/13 where there was a presentation by Spring City American Legion to use the baseball field at the 7th Grade Center for practice. He reported that they have already done over \$10,000 worth of improvements on the field and are looking to install a batting cage and a storage facility for the baseball equipment. The committee discussed the Health and Wellness Center at the high school and how it would look for future possibility. They also spoke about the display board at the high school in the gymnasium which would help with different aspects of the Partnership Program and would be paid for with funds that came through the Life-Touch Program. Mr. Ciresi also stated that there was an extensive program in reviewing all of the district's security procedures and we are looking to see what we need to have.

One item discussed was the need for a gator in order to get around quicker and easier. The committee also discussed the relocation of the sign at Upper Providence Elementary in order to encompass not only the elementary school but also the 5/6/7 Grade Center which currently does not have a sign. Discussion also took place on placing the name on the back of Oaks Elementary School so that it is visible on Black Rock Road as well what the ability would be of putting a marquee sign on Black Rock as currently the only way to see the school's sign is by driving up to the front of the building. Mr. Ciresi reported that tonight the Ad Hoc committee met to interview realtors for the purpose of selling the Bechtel Road property. The Committee finally discussed putting a shed on the high school property near the Godshall barn for the storage of football equipment.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin

Dr. Goodin reported that last week there was a question regarding the mid-term exam schedule at the high school. Following that meeting, Mr. Roche went back and investigated this. Dr. Goodin reminded the Board that this year we transitioned from the PSSA Exams to the Keystone Exams. Dr. Goodin said due to this being a first year for the Keystone Exams we found ourselves in a situation where we had to catch up all of the students who for example may have taken Algebra in 8th or 9th grade, or whatever the case may be, but may not have taken the Algebra Keystone Exam. Dr. Goodin stated that due to this there were 4 days of testing scheduled for the Keystone Exams in the beginning of December. He added that on top of this if you then add in the time for the mid-term exams then we would have missed 9 days of instruction due to testing so the Senior High Administration made an adjustment to the mid-term exam schedule so that students would not lose quite as many days of instruction.

Mr. Roche added further explanation saying the adjustment in the schedule was about maintaining time in class in terms of having students continue to see their teachers during this time or we would have had 9 days of lost instruction in a 42-45 day marking period.

Mrs. Mullin asked if this was a one-time thing due to the Keystone Exams or will this be ongoing. Mr. Roche replied that next year we will be faced with the same challenge with the Keystone Exams as we will have another catch up piece. Mr. Roche stated that he knows Mr. Nugent as well as the other High School Administrators have been hearing feedback from both students and teachers which runs the gamut from positive through negative. Mr. Roche stated that feedback is still being collected and decisions will be made based upon this but he is not sure a decision can be made at this point for next year until they see how things pan out. Mrs. Mullin stated that she would very much like to hear the feedback from teachers and students as well as how this may have impacted the mid-term scores before a decision is made for next year. Mrs. Mullin stated that she is struggling to see how this helped instructional time because you have both extremes that some teachers backed off and did not use class time so that they would not burden the kids when they were taking mid-terms. Mrs. Mullin relayed that other teachers plowed along and banged kids with exams and presentations during the mid-term period. Mrs. Mullin stated she would like to hear the feedback and see some data on the mid-term results in order to determine if the recommendation will be to move forward with this or go back to how it was done before or go another way. Mrs. Mullin stated that she has yet to hear any positive feedback although there may be. Mr. Roche stated that the 90 minute session was broken into two 45 minute blocks and some of the positive feedback was that students could focus on one portion in terms of a 45 minute block instead of being overwhelmed by the entire 90 minute piece. Mr. Roche added that there were some teachers that were able to continue instruction as they were able to see their students either every day or every other day and continue to teach.

Mr. Roche stated that in the past teachers may have seen their students on a Monday and then not again until Friday. Mr. Roche stated that he did hear some of the same concerns that Mrs. Mullin shared but there were positive pieces along the way.

Dr. Goodin commented that one of the things he wants to report out to the Board is that both he and Mr. Roche do observations of all untenured staff and at this point right now they have been able to complete 20 observations on those staff members. Dr. Goodin stated that there are 35 remaining observations that they need to complete before the end of the school year. Dr. Goodin further reported that the administrative staff are continuing, through the Administrator With Class Program, to go into the classrooms and teach classes and while they are in teaching the classes the teachers are able to go out and do observations. Dr. Goodin stated that they are finding this program to be very productive.

Mr. Dressler asked what Dr. Goodin's observation of a teacher looks like and Dr. Goodin replied that it is a regular clinical observation. He further explained that they use the same form that the principal's use and then meet with the teacher afterwards. Mr. Dressler asked if the teachers are informed ahead of time that Dr. Goodin or Mr. Roche will be coming into their classroom and Dr. Goodin replied yes but that only applied to Mr. Roche and him as far as the scheduling in advance.

V. **PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-K and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Ciresi commented Item A1, the retirement of Flossie Chomyn, saying that some of the Board has worked closely with Flossie who is retiring and has given the district a lot of time and energy. Mr. Ciresi wished her luck in her retirement and stated that he knows Bruce Cooper feels that this is a loss to his department. Mr. Ciresi stated that it is time that Flossie takes some time for herself and he thanked her for her service to the district.

The motion passed 9-0.

A. **Resignations:**

1. **Florence R. Chomyn**, District; Executive Secretary, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last day of employment, March 1, 2013.
2. **Emily McGranahan**, District; String Ensemble K-12, effective January 28, 2013.
3. **Hilary Tutrani**, 8th Grade; Basketball Coach – Girls', effective November 1, 2012.

B. **Leaves of Absence:**

1. **Sue Bani**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, unpaid leave per Board Policy, effective January 14 through May 8, 2013.
2. **Dale P. Bergman**, 9th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective January 9, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
3. **Sandra Bernat**, High School; Technical Support, per Board Policy, effective November 29, 2012 up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

4. **Ashley Bilotti**, High School; Business Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective December 12, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Sarah S. Dibbern**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively February 6, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
6. **Valarie A. Dubbs**, 9th Grade Center; Mid-Level Mathematics, per Board Policy, effective tentatively April 19, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks. Ms. Dubbs is also requesting an *extended* leave of absence until the beginning of the second marking period of the 2013/2014 school year.
7. **Barbara L. Halphen**, Brooke Elementary School; Administrative Assistant, per Board Policy, effective November 20, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
8. **Helen E. Johnstone**, 9th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective January 8 through February 4, 2013.
9. **Eileen McGrory**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective December 5, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
10. **Rebecca R. Novia**, Evans Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively March 3, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
11. **Marylu M. Onorato**, Spring City Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective January 8, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
12. **John Podbielski**, Spring City Elementary School; Head Custodian, per Board Policy, effective December 3, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
13. **Indira Pothukuchi**, High School; Instructional Assistant, unpaid leave per Board Policy, effective January 28 through April 26, 2013.
14. **Jessica A. Rusinski**, Royersford Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively February 11, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
15. **Lindsay Shaner**, Limerick Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, unpaid leave per Board Policy, effective January 7, 2013 through January 25, 2013.
16. **Renee H. Wielgomas**, 8th Grade Center; Mid-Level Citizenship Teacher, per Board Policy, effective November 29, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
17. **Christine Wike**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively March 15, 2013 until the end of the 2012/2013 school year.
18. **Margaret A. Wright**, High School; Family & Consumer Science Teacher, per

Board Policy, effective January 16, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

New Leaves of Absence:

19. **Colleen E. Antal**, 8th Grade Center; Science Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively March 25, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
20. **Amanda M. Tamaki**, High School; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective January 21, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
21. **Donna Viscuso**, High School; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective February 13, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Long Term Substitute Employees:

1. **Stephanie Fidler**, Oaks Elementary School; Gifted Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Ellen Luchette who will be on an extended leave of absence until the end of the 2012/2013 school year. Compensation will be set at M+18, Step 1, \$49,000, prorated, with benefits.
2. **Dawn E. Starolis**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Emotional Support Teacher. Compensation will be set at M+30, Step 1, \$51,000, prorated, with benefits, effective January 16, 2013.

D. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Elizabeth B. Daley**, Evans Elementary School; Administrative Assistant, replacing Anne Rowland who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.50 per hour with benefits as per the Secretarial Plan, effective January 2, 2013.
2. **Ashley Habbel**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, replacing Kelli Ferreri who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36/hour (\$16.36/hour during first 6 months) with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective January 2, 2013.
3. **Kathy A Huston**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Food Service, Part-time 3-hour position, replacing Kathleen Maier (6 hr/day) who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.67 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective December 10, 2012.
4. **Lisa Tomarelli**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Food Service, Part-time 3-hour position, replacing Kathleen Maier (6 hr/day) who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.67 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective December 10, 2012.

- E. The following position has been eliminated effective December 21, 2012 and as a result, the following employee has been terminated: Melissa Wilson, Spring City Elementary School, Part-time (.50) Instructional Assistant.

F. Change in Status for Support Staff:

1. **Andrew R. Whitmore**, District; from Custodian to Maintenance I position, replacing Robert Bortz who retired. Compensation will be set at \$19.95 per hour with benefits as per the Maintenance Plan, effective January 14, 2013.

G. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Colabroy-Foulke, Kathryn J.**, Stage/Scenery – All Productions, 1/2 position, \$552
2. **Mea, Bradley E.**, Marching Band Program Co-Planner, \$1,813
3. **Nice, Katharine A.**, Assistant Play Director for Musicale, \$402
4. **Nice, Katharine A.**, Theater Orchestra Director, \$1,104
5. **Oblak, Aimee**, Stage/Scenery - All Productions, 1/2 position, \$552

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

6. **Lumley, Kimberly**, Choreographer, \$1,104
7. **Katzianer, Kristen**, District String Ensemble K-12, ½ position, \$1,107.50
8. **McGranahan, Emily**, District String Ensemble K-12, ½ position, \$1,107.50

H. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

1. **Bernstein, Elizabeth**, Basketball Coach – Girls', \$3,186
2. **Mascaro, John**, Baseball Coach – Boys', \$2,772
3. **Mitchell, Lauren**, Assistant Color Guard Coach 7th/8th, \$1,104
4. **Zimmerman, Rhiannon**, Computer Club – 3rd MP, \$402

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

5. **Custer, Rachel**, Spring Play Director, \$1,471

I. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Brennan, Stacey | Elementary Education, Early Childhood |
| 2. Carter, Amber N. | Mathematics |
| 3. Champion, Jean M. | Elementary Education, Mid-Level Mathematics |
| 4. Davila, Gina M. | Elementary Education |
| 5. Duncan, Mark | Social Studies, General Science, Secondary Principal |
| 6. Francisco, Melissa J. | Elementary Education, Art |
| 7. Horenci, Susan M. | Elementary Education |
| 8. McCarron, Michael | English, Social Studies |
| 9. McGoldrick, Kelsey | Health & Physical Education |
| 10. Thieme, Brenda L. | Early Childhood |
| 11. Tornetta, Dana M. | Elementary Education |
| 12. Vohra, Suman | Elementary Education |
| 13. Weller, Erin L. | Elementary Education |

New Professional Staff Substitute

14. **Bayley, Jennifer** Mathematics

J. Support Staff Substitutes:

- 1. **Houck, Patricia** Cafeteria
- 2. **Megella, Jannette** Cafeteria
- 3. **Oslon, Marlo** Cafeteria
- 4. **Robillard, Elizabeth** Cafeteria
- 5. **Rosebrook, Tammy** Cafeteria
- 6. **Svenkeson, Debra L.** Support
- 7. **Yanulevich, Susan** Cafeteria

New Support Staff Substitutes

- 8. **Buckwalter, Viktoria F.** Cafeteria
- 9. **Frassenei, Mary A.** Cafeteria
- 10. **Pingon, Kathleen** Cafeteria
- 11. **Smith, Andrea** Cafeteria
- 12. **Sullivan, Eileen** Cafeteria

K. The individuals listed below have completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employees and are, therefore, granted tenure status:

- 1. **Capperella, Elizabeth** Elementary Education
- 2. **Cooper, Kara** Special Education, Elementary Education

VI. FINANCE

***DENOTES NEW PAYMENTS SINCE THE WORK SESSION**

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item P be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-O and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Cromley commented on Item I saying he would like to commend Mr. Anspach, Mr. Francella and the Business Office staff for their efforts on this as it speaks well of the financial piece here in the district as well as the professionalism of the staff. Mr. Anspach said he would take Mr. Cromley's comments back to the Business Office staff.

The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **JANUARY** in connection with the **SERIES A of G.O.B. 2007**:

1. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval

***December**

*Check No. 32765 – 32766 \$ 65,436.00

***January**

*Check No. 32767 – 32771 \$ 147,025.82

B. The Board approved next month's payroll, taxes, all benefits, transportation contracts, IU contracts, Vo-Tech payments, debt service payments, utility bills, maintenance agreements, copier leases, equipment maintenance, Federal grants, insurance, and discounted invoices.

C. Checks:

1. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
<u>November</u>	
Check No. 148103 – 148155	\$ 246,491.18
ACH 121300193 – 121300200	\$ 1,230.69
<u>December</u>	
Check No. 148156 – 148411	\$1,539,770.97
ACH 121300201 – 121300251	\$ 9,716.42
<u>January</u>	
Check No. 148412 – 148619	\$2,010,535.98
ACH 121300252 – 121300259	\$ 3,179.04
2. <u>Athletic Fund</u>	
<u>November</u>	
Check No. 305213 – 305247	\$ 10,372.46
<u>December</u>	
Check No. 305248 – 305402	\$ 55,995.79
3. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
*Check No. 148620 – 148672	\$ 162,159.39
4. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
*Check No. 148673 – 148699	\$ 18,664.12
*ACH 121300260 – 121300314	\$ 72,317.75

D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Dr. Pat Cautilli – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide an evaluation for a special needs student with visual impairment as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$450.00.
2. **Lapreziosa Occupational Therapist Services – Pottstown, PA.** Provide occupational therapy evaluations and meetings for Early Intervention Students. The contract is effective from 1/9/13 through 6/30/13. Funding will come from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$6,556.00.
3. **The Martin Luther School – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 135 days at a rate of \$224.00 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$30,240.00.
4. **The Melmark School – Berwyn, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 106 days at a rate of \$465.76 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$49,370.56.
5. **Kid Power Cares, Inc. – Wichita, KS.** Provide an assembly for students at Brooke Elementary School entitled, "Kid Power's Operation Lunch Line 3D". Funding will be provided by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$1,400.00.

6. **Magic Touch Entertainment – Canadensis, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “The Brain Show (Healthy Choice Questions) for students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be provided through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$1,500.00.
7. **Benmor Enterprises – Mike and Roberta Straka - Bushkill, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Rocks, Minerals and Fossil Show” and two (2) digs for students at Brooke Elementary School. Funding will be provided by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$525.00.
8. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four (4) assemblies for kindergarten students at Brooke Elementary School, entitled, “Winter Secrets...Animals in Winter”. Funding will be provided by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$440.00
9. **Magic by Taddo, LLC - Todd Kupper – Huntingdon Valley, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “The Magic of Nutrition” at Oaks Elementary School. Funding will be provided through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$900.00.
10. **Magic Assemblies – Ithaca, NY.** Provide two (2) assemblies for students at Evans Elementary School entitled, “Healthy Choices Student Presentation: Anti-Smoking Show”. Funding will be provided by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association in the amount of \$550 and \$500 from the Dental Grant, for a total not to exceed \$1,050.00.
11. **Bradley Richman – Assistant District Attorney for Montgomery County – Norristown, PA.** Provide an assembly for the students at the 9th Grade Center which raises awareness of the dangers of DUI. This program is made available as a public awareness program and there is no charge to the school district.
12. **Magic by Taddo, LLC - Todd Kupper – Huntingdon Valley, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “The Magic of Nutrition” at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be provided from the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$900.00.
13. **Benmor Enterprises – Mike and Roberta Straka - Bushkill, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Rocks, Minerals and Fossil Show” and two (2) digs for students at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be provided by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association in the amount of \$525.00.

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

14. **Matt Novak – Carlisle, PA.** Provide a week long “Artist in Residence Program” for all students at Limerick Elementary School. The program will focus on the writing process. Funding will be provided by The Spring-Ford Educational Foundation and shall not exceed \$850.00 per day or a total of \$4,250.00.
15. **Dr. Michele Robins – Rosemont, PA.** Conduct a neuropsychological evaluation including testing, scoring, review of records and a written report for a high school student. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$4,200.00.

- E. The Board approved **Resolution #2013-01** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Administrative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.
- F. The Board approved **Resolution #2013-02** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.
- G. The Board approved **Resolution #2013-03** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Legislative Services and Grant Development Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.
- H. The Board approved **Resolution #2013-04** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Technology and Information Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.
- I. The Board approved the Independent Audit Report as submitted by Maillie, Falconiero & Company LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The audit examined the financial statements, tested evidence supporting the amounts, examined internal controls, insured evidence of proper documentation, compliance with laws, regulations, and in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The audit was without findings or material weaknesses. A display copy of this audit is available at the district office.
- J. The Board approved the submission of PlanCon K for the General Obligation Bonds Series A of 2012 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. GOB Series A of 2012 refinanced GOB Series of 2006 and will generate a one-time savings of \$1,131,831 for the 2013-2014 budget.

NEW FINANCE

- K. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
 - General Fund
 - Money Market – November/December 2012
 - PSDLAF – November/December 2012
 - PSDMAX – November/December 2012
 - Checking Account – November/December 2012
 - PLGIT Account – November/December 2012
 - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - November/December 2012
 - Payroll Account – November/December 2012
 - Tax Account – November/December 2012
 - Activity Accounts
 - Elementary Activity – November/December 2012
 - 7th Grade Activity – November/December 2012
 - 8th Grade Activity – November/December 2012
 - High School Activity – November/December 2012
 - Athletic Account – November/December 2012
 - Bond Funds
 - Note of 2007A – November/December 2012
 - Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – November/December 2012
- Debt Service Fund – November/December 2012
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – November/December 2012

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – November/December 2012
- Cafeteria Checking Account – November/December 2012
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – November/December 2012
- Investment Account – November/December 2012

L. The Board approved the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:

NOVEMBER

Check No. 11001- 11030 \$ 209,023.45

DECEMBER

Check No. 11031- 11071 \$ 226,034.60

M. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:
Permits No. 4316 – 4372

N. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2012-2013 school year:

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 046 – 052
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 101 – 110
Spring City Borough Exonerations	No. 030
Upper Providence Township Exonerations	No. 265

O. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** to the per capita tax for the 2012-2013 school year:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 012 - 130
Limerick Township Deletions	No. 720 - 783

Mrs. Mullin made a motion for Item P and Mrs. Heine seconded it.

Mr. Ciresi asked where this motion came from and what the justification for this is and Mr. Anspach replied that by law compensation for tax collectors has to be done every four years. He further stated that additional compensation does not have to be given but once you vote on it the compensation is locked in for the four year term that the tax collector is in office. Mr. Anspach stated that it has been approximately 12 years since an increase in compensation was voted on and in the meantime there have been some inequities in the number of residents moving into the district which also relates to the number of parcels. He pointed out the difference in the number of parcels in Limerick Township and Upper Providence Township. Mr. Anspach stated that the tax collectors were not compensated for the increase in the number of parcels. Mr. Anspach gave an explanation on the way the tax collectors are paid and pointed out the disparities between the compensation for the different municipalities. Mr. Ciresi asked what the salaries were for the various tax collectors and Mr. Anspach replied, Upper Providence is

\$23,000, Limerick is \$22,600, Royersford is \$9,500 and Spring City is \$8,500. Mr. Ciresi asked why we do not have one per property fee that is equal for all. Mr. Anspach responded that if he did this, and he gave an example for using an amount of \$2.00 per property, then the Royersford and Spring City Tax Collectors would actually make less than they currently do due to the difference in number of properties. Mr. Ciresi stated that when you look at Mr. Anspach's proposal and compare it with the current compensation it appears that there is almost a 21% increase for Limerick and Upper Providence and roughly a 5% increase for the tax collectors of Royersford and Spring City. Mr. Ciresi stated that there is a massive inequity that sits within those numbers and he does not know how we justify those differences.

Mr. DiBello addressed this saying there is an area of base cost that we are paying for the services they are providing as the amount of set up work is the same no matter how many parcels they are handling. Mr. DiBello stated that he feels the compensation for Royersford and Spring City is somewhat antiquated and should be raised using that 21% rate because they have to purchase the same software and pay the same maintenance costs in order to do their jobs successfully. Mr. DiBello stated that on the flip-side we are rewarding other tax collectors beyond what the collectors in Royersford and Spring City are receiving. Mr. DiBello commented that he thinks what Mr. Ciresi is saying is that there should be a base starting point for each municipality and then have a formula in place beyond that.

Mr. Dehnert asked if a decision on this needed to be made by the 15th of February and the response was yes, it was required by law. Mr. Anspach replied yes that it needed to be made tonight or through a special board meeting since the next regularly scheduled meeting is after February 15th.

Mr. Ciresi stated that his issue with this is that it has not been looked at over the past 10 years then we should have looked at it over the past three or four months rather than have it given to them in this past Friday's Board Packet. Mr. Ciresi added that they are all looking at this and questioning what it is. Mr. Ciresi commented that last week they were talking about how unsatisfied they were with the tax collector in Upper Providence and this week we are talking about giving that position a raise. Mr. Ciresi stated that he knows this will not take effect until after the election but if it has not been talked about for the past 12 years and he feels like they are being shoved into making a decision and if they do not make a decision it looks bad for those people who are collecting the taxes that they are not being compensated properly. Mr. Ciresi said if they do make a decision tonight then it looks like they did not put the time in to properly do this. Mr. Ciresi stated that he is voting no because he does not feel this is something we should be rifling through. He suggested tabling it and calling a special meeting as they are looking at numbers in front of them and wondering where the numbers came from. Mr. Ciresi stated that he is frustrated by this.

Mr. Pettit stated that although he missed last week's meeting he understands that this was not even brought up and now here we are saying this must be voted on tonight. Mr. Pettit asked what the downside would be to saying no to this motion and would that mean a shortage of people applying for the job of tax collector. Mr. Pettit questioned whether they were being properly compensated now and said he does not know what their earnings are. Mr. Anspach stated that we are only one part of the compensation and he said it took him awhile to pull the figures together on what the individual townships are paying. Mr. Pettit stated that we do not even have those numbers and he has no idea

what we are paying our tax collectors at this point. Mr. Anspach replied if you want the numbers now I have them as well as handouts for the Board. Mr. Pettit argued that they are being asked to make a decision in five minutes which does not make sense to him. He voiced his agreement with Mr. Ciresi and said he would rather table this thing and have a special meeting than just say okay because he will vote no tonight against it because he has no clue as this is just coming out of the blue.

Mr. Dehnert suggested tabling the motion and taking it back to the Finance Committee and then hold a special meeting right after that meeting because that is right before the 15th.

Mr. DiBello said we could do a special meeting before the 15th because it will give an opportunity to have a first round conversation regarding some of the personnel related items that are budget discussions. Mr. DiBello stated that the special meeting could then be held and it could be opened up to the public for further discussion.

Mr. Dressler asked if it is not voted on then the compensation stays the same but if we chose during the year to raise their salaries would this be permitted and Mr. DiBello replied no you cannot do that.

Mr. Fitzgerald commented that the Board did not act before the 15th then would have to wait two more years until the next municipal election.

Mr. Dehnert stated that when you look at the compensation for the Royersford Tax Collector you are looking at a \$500 increase over the last 16 years and he does not know too many jobs that do not get an increase for 16 years and then get a \$500 increase.

Mr. DiBello asked if someone wanted to table this motion. Mr. Ciresi said we would have to withdraw the motion and the second. Mrs. Mullin and Mrs. Heine withdrew their motion and second.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to table Item P and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

P. The Board tabled **Resolution 2013-05** revising the compensation for the Tax Collectors of Limerick Township, Royersford Borough, Spring City Borough and Upper Providence Township beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approved Item A and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Administration recommends approval to send eleven (11) students: **Abbie Moore, Liesel Sarfert, Ta'tiana Foote, Jon Palmer, Megha Keshav, Allison McLaverty, Kaseba Chibwe, Trisha Raman, Tim Reppert, Nikhil Bhat** and **Drew Reimund** and their advisor, **Ms. Kelly German**, to compete at the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference and Competition in Hershey, PA from April 15 through April 17, 2013. These students qualified to participate in the state FBLA competition as a result of their performance on event tests administered at the FBLA Regional Competition. The total student cost which

includes their registration fees, lodging and meals shall be \$346.91 per student, not to exceed a total of \$3,816.00.

VIII. PROPERTY

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert asked about Item A saying if we are going to take the money for this out of the Capital Reserve Account and then reimburse it with money from LifeTouch can this be made part of the motion. Mr. Dehnert asked about the amount of time to replenish the initial expenditure and whether it was correct that it would be two years. Dr. Goodin replied yes, that the high school received a grant for \$60,000 which would be spread out over 3 years and this is exactly how a sign was put out in front of the building by using part of that money and the plan was to also use a portion of the money to put a display board in the gym.

Mr. Pettit asked if we could sell advertisement on the display board and Dr. Goodin replied yes.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he would like to amend the motion that we would take the money from LifeTouch over the next two years and put that into the Capital Reserve.

Mr. DiBello said he still has questions related to this and whether purchasing the board is the right decision at this point or is it better off to lease the board and what options are there with regards to the board. Mr. DiBello stated that once this board is up it will stay up and he does not want to be in the position where the board is just growing verbiage because that is not advertising. Mr. DiBello commented that with what we are trying to do with the community as far as the Partnership Program is concerned then we need to be able to provide commercial grade advertising. Mr. DiBello stated that he does not want to be a position where it is like the high school board which is just a scrolling banner because no one is reading that.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Reynolds to speak about the quality of the board and what can be put up on it from a technology standpoint. Mr. Reynolds replied that if you are asking about the quality of the images and the advertisements that can go on the Daktronics Board which is part of the quote then he has not seen the specifications as of yet but he could get back to the Board after a little bit of research.

Mr. Dehnert stated that we could table Item A until next month because even if it was approved now the sports seasons are almost over for those that use the gym. Mr. Anspach stated that he believes Mr. Cooper knows more about what the board can and cannot do.

Mr. DiBello stated that based on all of this he must agree with Mr. Dehnert and table the motion as there are a lot of questions and a couple of weeks are not going to matter. Mr. Cromley seconded Mr. DiBello's motion to table Item A.

Mr. Ciresi commented that technology must understand what this board does and what the capability of the board is. Mr. Ciresi stated that if they get a report back on how we are moving forward he would like recommendation to come from the head of the Technology Department and tell the Board what this is capable of and what we can do. Mr. Ciresi added that possibly a demonstration can be done. Mr. Ciresi said the next time

they meet he would like the comment to come from the Technology Department as he had asked at the Property Committee meeting for Mr. Reynolds to have an in on what this board was and what its capability was.

Mr. Dressler stated that he would like to see someone have a commitment to advertising on this board before we move ahead with it because there are a lot of school districts who have this type of technology which is being paid for by advertising beforehand rather than buying the sign before we know how it is paid for.

Mr. DiBello said there are a lot of questions and that is one that should be discussed at the Property Committee meeting as well as the specs on the board so that an informed decision could be made.

Mrs. Mullin asked if Steve Bonetz needed to be involved with the discussions and the response was no that it was something that fell under Steve Reynolds.

The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board tabled the motion to have a video display board (6 ft. x 10 ft.) installed in the main gymnasium at the High School 10-12 Grade Center. The board will be used to display district informational items and also advertisements. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account and shall not exceed \$30,000.00.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items B-C and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The Board approved having exterior letters installed on the facade of Oaks Elementary School so that it can be easily identified from Black Rock Road. Funding will come from the General Maintenance Fund and shall not exceed \$1,996.00.

C. The Board approved having a shed installed at the High School practice field behind the Gottshall Barn to ensure the football practice equipment is protected from the weather when not in use. Funding for the 10 ft. x 20 ft. shed will come from the Athletic Budget and shall not exceed \$3,365.00 plus a \$40.00 permit fee.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-P and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

The following individuals were approved for attendance at the following conferences and workshops:

CODE: 580 Account: Conference/Training, registration, food, and accommodations

DISTRICT OFFICE

A. **Elizabeth Leiss**, Human Resource Director, to attend "*PA Association of School Personnel Administrators – State Conference*" in Harrisburg, PA from February 26 through March 1, 2013. There is no cost for this conference since Mrs. Leiss serves on the Executive Board. No substitute is needed.

- B. **Allyn Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, **Elizabeth Leiss**, Human Resource Director, and **Daniel Currie**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend "*Greater Philadelphia Teacher Job Fair*" at Neumann University in Aston, PA on March 6, 2013. The total cost for this job fair is \$525.00 (\$425.00 for registration and \$100.00 for mileage). No substitutes are needed.
- C. **Deborah Smith**, Administrative Assistant Child Accounting, to attend "*The Spring Child Accounting Conference*" in Hershey PA from March 25 through March 27, 2013. The total cost for this conference is \$832.00 (\$719.00 for registration, lodging, meals and \$113.00 for mileage). No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- D. **Jeffrey Kollar**, House Principal, to attend "*Student Assistance Program (SAP) Training*" at the MCIU from March 13 through March 15, 2013. There is no cost to the district for this training as it is being funded through a grant from PDE. No substitute is needed.
- E. **Ashlee Adams**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend "*PASA ½ Day Webinar Training*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on January 23, 2013. There is no cost for the training other than \$75.00 which is the cost for a ½ day substitute.
- F. **Kelly German**, Business Teacher and FBLA Advisor, to attend "*FBLA State Competition and Leadership Conference*" at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA from April 15 through April 17, 2013. The total cost for this is \$1,014.00 (\$564.00 for registration, lodging, meals and \$450.00 for a substitute for 3 days).
- G. **Khrystin Herb**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*PASAP Eastern Regional Workshop*" at the Caron Foundation in Wernersville, PA on January 31, 2013. There is no cost to the district for the workshop other than \$150.00 for a substitute.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- H. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend "*Massachusetts School Librarians Conference*" in Sturbridge, Massachusetts on March 4 and March 5, 2013. Mrs. Kardick has been invited to speak at the conference and as a guest speaker all her expenses will be covered. The only cost to the district shall be \$300.00 for a substitute for the two days.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- I. **JoAnn Sibley**, Teacher, to attend "*Step Up to Writing*" at the MCIU on February 5, 2013. The total cost of this conference is \$441.39 (\$291.39 for registration, mileage and \$150.00 for a substitute). Funding will be paid from the Curriculum Budget.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- J. **Kristin Beideman** and **John Hughes**, Guidance Counselors, to attend *“BrainSTEPS – ½ Day Concussion Management Team Training”* at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on January 15, 2013. There is no cost for this training other than \$36.93 for mileage. No substitutes are needed.
- K. **Matt Koneski**, Lead Grounds Crew, and **Greg Detweiler**, Grounds Crewman, to attend *“2013 Eastern PA Turf Conference & Trade Show”* at the Crowne Plaza Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA on January 8 and January 9, 2013. The total cost for this conference is \$390.00 for registration and a 2013 membership for the PA Turfgrass Council. No substitute is needed.
- L. **Kathleen Gebhard**, **Jason Miller** and **Janette Pymer**, Teachers, to attend *“Lindamood Bell – Visualize and Verbalize Workshop”* at the MCIU on January 16 and January 17, 2013. The total cost for this workshop is \$1,797.46 (\$1,497.46 for registration, mileage and \$900.00 for substitutes for the 2 days).
- M. **Joseph Nugent**, HVAC Specialist, and **Denise Whitmore**, Lead Custodian, to attend *“Metasys HVAC ASC Operations/Troubleshooting Training”* at Johnson Controls Inc. Training Center in Baltimore, MD from March 25 through March 29, 2013. This training will aid in lowering the district’s service costs. The total cost for this training is \$1,410.60 for lodging and meals. No substitutes are needed.
- N. **Debora Zelle** and **Jacquelyn Raco**, Certified School Nurses, to attend *“PASNAP Annual Education Conference - Building Relationships for Student Success”* at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA from April 12, 2013 through April 14, 2013. The total cost for the conference is \$1,146.00 (\$846.00 for registration, lodging, meals and \$300.00 for substitutes for one day) and is being paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant.

NEW CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- O. **Barbara O’Brien**, Librarian, to attend *“PA School Librarian’s Association Conference”* in Hershey, PA from May 2 through May 3, 2013. Ms. O’Brien is paying all her expenses for registration, transportation, lodging and meals. The total cost to the district will be \$300.00 for a substitute for two days.
- P. **Darrin Lenhart** and **Cristina McCoach**, Teachers, to attend *“Teaching About Climate Change & Sustainability Workshop”* at the Montgomery County Community College on February 1, 2013. The total cost for this workshop is \$335.40 (\$35.40 for transportation, meals and \$300.00 for substitutes).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and addendum Item D. Mrs. Heine seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert asked about Item D wondering if there was any plan to allow teachers or staff who had planned vacations for that time off to be able to take that time off.

Dr. Goodin responded that the situations would be addressed on an individual basis. Mr. Dehnert asked what that meant and if someone had plans would they be granted the time off. Dr. Goodin replied yes that if someone had airline tickets they would be given the time off.

The motion passed. 9-0.

A. The following policy was approved:

1. Policy #910 – COMMUNITY – Community Relations/Dissemination of Printed Materials

B. Information Item

1. Spring-Ford Area School District Communication Guidelines (second communication)

C. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #210 – PUPILS: Use of Medications
2. Policy #210.1 - PUPILS: Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto Injectors

ADDENDUM ITEM

D. The Board approved Option 2 as presented at the January 22, 2013 Work Session for the 2012-2013 school calendar. Option 2 proposed designating some of the days that are scheduled to be off or in-service days as “snow days to be used if necessary”. Between now and February 18th, if we miss a day, it would be made up on February 18th (President’s Day). If any additional days are missed they would be made up as missed on March 27th, (In-Service Day), March 28th and April 1st (Spring Break). This option gives us 4 additional snow days built into the calendar “if needed”. The end of the school year will not be impacted and the last student day would be June 14th, unless we were to miss more than the additional 4 days.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Administration recommends approval for **Sandra Capeci** to spend her senior year in college. Sandra is a strong student ranked in the top ten percent of her class and meets the qualifications under the Spring-Ford Guidelines for Early College Admissions. The High School Guidance and Professional Staff feel that Sandra will succeed in college and endorse her application.
- B. The Limerick Township Board of Supervisors has appointed Ryan P. Wall as the new tax collector replacing Mark Painter.
- C. Effective January 1, 2013, the IRS mileage rate will increase to .565 cents per mile. Currently the rate is .555 cents per mile.

XII. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

No report.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Michael Alexander stated that he a Legislative Assistant with State Representative Mark Painter. He stated that his focus will be on this district and working with this Board throughout the term. He added that he can speak with Mr. Painter about attending a Board meeting in the future. Mr. Alexander reported that they recently opened their office in Sanatoga on 600 Heritage Drive. Mr. DiBello said he appreciates Mr. Alexander for coming out tonight and introducing himself to the Board and he asked him not to take what he is about to say personally. Mr. DiBello stated that he is disappointed that Mr. Painter did not come out this evening. Mr. DiBello added that we are the 2nd largest school district in Montgomery County and he knows that Mr. Painter did take the time to go out to other districts. Mr. DiBello commented that he feels that Mr. Painter should have been here this evening to introduce himself to the Board especially since he lives in this district and he should not have needed an invite. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board looks forward to working with Mr. Painter.

Jessica Fontiane-Burgess and David Burgess, Parents of a 5 year old PM kindergarten student who attends Royersford Elementary School. Mrs. Burgess stated that they are having an issue with the Transportation Department and are looking to the Board for help. Mrs. Burgess commented that they have talked with the Transportation Department who has been extremely difficult and somewhat arrogant to work with. Mrs. Burgess stated she was really disheartened with the arrogance displayed with treating children almost as numbers and bus stops and not as individuals. Mrs. Burgess reported that her child is currently being dropped off at, what she considers a somewhat travelled road, 3rd and Vaughn. She stated that a bus was passing her house every day for a majority of the school year and they requested that their child be put on that bus and dropped off at the bus stop which is at New Street and Maple Avenue. Mrs. Burgess reported that she spoke to Transportation and they said there was a reason why that student was being dropped off at the other location. Mrs. Burgess said that when she went and spoke to the parent of that student she was told that there was no exception and that she had just made the request. Mrs. Burgess reported that they had a meeting with Dr. Goodin and Mrs. Sanderson. She added that she has with her Google Maps, the bus routes that transportation has approved and the routes that the bus driver was travelling which she believes was an approved route prior to Mrs. Sanderson being hired. Mrs. Burgess stated that she is shaking, nervous and very frustrated as her 4 year old had to receive stitches while walking home with her from the bus stop because there are no sidewalks, only a curb. Mrs. Burgess added that this is frustrating as a bus was passing her house every day and the district and transportation does not want to work with her. Mrs. Burgess stated that she did go and speak with her State Representative Mike Vereb and they told her they would email the Board. Mrs. Burgess indicated that Mr. Vereb's office told her to come to the board meeting and speak and then come back to their office if she did not get any help. She stated that it is Bus 737 which was passing her house every day. The bus her daughter rides is Bus 667 with a bus stop at 3rd and Vaughn and she is requesting that the bus stop be at 3rd and New Streets. Mrs. Burgess commented that after she pursued this several times, now transportation has rerouted themselves so that they are going on Second Avenue and Union Street unnecessarily where there are no stops just to avoid passing her house. Mrs. Burgess relayed that earlier this year she had mentioned to other parents about the bus travelling down her street and how strange it was that it was not picking up the students there and she was told not to even try talking to transportation as they are difficult to talk to and you will get nowhere with them. Mrs. Burgess stated that right now she has to deal with this ten times per week but next year she will have a first grader and a kindergartener so it will be fifteen times per week.

Mr. DiBello asked for clarification on where the current bus stop is and Mrs. Burgess stated 3rd and Vaughn. He asked where her house is and Mrs. Burgess replied 253 New Street which is at the end of 3rd and New. Mr. DiBello asked what the distance was between the two locations she is referring to and Mrs. Burgess said roughly a block. Mrs. Burgess stated that she originally requested that her daughter be dropped off at the bus stop that was at 3rd and Maple and she was told no, they would not put her daughter on that bus. Mrs. Burgess commented that New Street is safer as it is not as travelled as Vaughn Road is especially since the Highlands were developed. Mr. DiBello asked about the bus that is going past her house and where it is coming from and Mrs. Burgess replied Royersford Elementary and it is going to a stop at 4th and Union which is about 2 blocks from her house. Mr. DiBello stated that the bus she wants to put her child on actually drops off 2 blocks further from her house and Mrs. Burgess replied no and offered to show the Board a map.

Mr. Dehnert asked if their daughter was the only student on that bus stop and Mrs. Burgess replied no there were three students total.

Mr. Burgess stated that their original question was regarding a bus that was coming down and crossing right in front of their house. Their big question to transportation was why wasn't their child on that bus and the answer they received was that the bus was deviating from its route and there was not supposed to be a bus on New Street. Mr. DiBello stated that if there is a bus that is not taking the route it is supposed to then that is something transportation needs to look into and secondly he does sympathize with the parents when they say they have one student and the district is treating them as a number. Mr. DiBello reported that the district in the beginning of the school year receives a hundreds of calls from parents asking that their child's bus be changed, bus stops be moved, as well as pick up and drop off times be changed. The volume of requests that come in make it appear that a student is a number. Mr. DiBello commented that from a Board perspective they do not deal specifically with one bus stop incidence. He then encouraged administration to have additional conversations with Mr. and Mrs. Burgess so that everybody is on the same page and if the bus is going up a Second Street and it is not supposed to then administration needs to follow up on that as well. Mr. Burgess gave an explanation on the neighborhood around New Street, 2nd Avenue and 3rd Avenue. He said that he does not understand the bus route that it was taking and he explained the turns that the bus was making.

Mrs. Burgess stated that she understands about the children and the numbers but she has made a conscious effort on this as she has followed Bus 737 to see the route it takes and she does not believe she should have to be on espionage for this. Mrs. Burgess said next year there will be six children on this bus stop and when they told the Director of Transportation they said you can go to the Board but they were not going to do anything or change your bus stop. Mrs. Burgess said she is appalled as that is truly arrogant. Dr. Goodin clarified the conversation he had with the parents stating that he knows what he said to Mrs. Burgess regarding her going to the Board and that was that administratively her request was reviewed, the situation has been looked at as he has been out there numerous times, and that it is his understanding that the Board does not get involved in establishing bus stops because of the number of bus stops we have in the district. Dr. Goodin stated that our goal is not to have door to door service so we establish mass bus stops. Dr. Goodin added that he has driven New Street the street that the Burgess Family lives on and he does know where the proposed bus stops are and the bus should not be running down New Street. Mr. Burgess asked if the bus should be running down

Union Street and Dr. Goodin replied it should not be running down New Street. Mrs. Burgess stated that it is so why is that? Dr. Goodin replied that the decision to establish the bus stop at Maple and New was made before came to the district and before Mrs. Sanderson came onboard. Mrs. Burgess stated that the two of them are proving to be very difficult over this because it is extremely upsetting that next year there will be six students on New Street and you are already saying that this is not going to happen. Mrs. Burgess said as a parent it is upsetting and disheartening as she volunteers as a parent at Royersford and she will do anything positive to uplift Spring-Ford and this is just a simple request. Mrs. Burgess stated that she assumes that next month if she brings in other parents that they can come and do this again. Mrs. Burgess stated that it is very hard to hear the first week of school all of the parents saying don't even attempt to talk to transportation as they are so difficult and not willing to work with anybody. Mrs. Burgess said that comment alone says something negative. Dr. Goodin stated that it says we do not do door to door stops and Mrs. Burgess interrupted and stated except for the exceptions. Dr. Goodin continued and said we try to establish mass bus stops and yes there are exceptions along very busy roads. Dr. Goodin further explained that there are bus stops along Township Line Road and students standing along Township Line Road which is a much busier road than Vaughn.

Mr. Fitzgerald said that for the public comment portion of the agenda, rather than have cross arguments, he believes that administration should just put their decision in writing for the parents. Dr. Goodin indicated that this had already been done.

Mr. DiBello said he apologizes that Mr. and Mrs. Burgess feel the district was short in their response to them and he would request that we make sure the busses are following the routes they are supposed to be following. Mrs. Burgess invited the Board Members to meet her at 3rd and Vaughn to see what it is like to walk down the street with two younger children and a kindergartener. She again emphasized that her 4 year old has a laceration on her chin and six stitches because there are three of them trying to walk while staying off of other's people properties. Mr. DiBello stated that he appreciates Mrs. Burgess' frustration and directed the Administration to look at this a little bit further to see if anything could be done.

Mr. DiBello commented that the Board will meet in an Executive Session following tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues. Mr. DiBello said the second thing he would like to put on the table regards the Spring-Ford Ice Hockey Team at the high school level. Mr. DiBello stated that this was looked at last year and their main request was to have one page in the yearbook where they can put photos of the teams. Mr. DiBello said he wanted to put it out there so the Board can discuss it. Mr. DiBello said from his perspective he thinks we should put two pictures in the yearbook and be done with it. Mr. DiBello said this is something that can be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Ciresi said he does not know why we even need a discussion as he is with Mr. DiBello. Mr. Anspach commented but did not have his microphone on so his comments could not be heard. Mr. Ciresi stated that the Board got a legal wrangling on this, that and the other thing which said if you put their picture you are liable for the activity, the students cannot write it in their synopsis next to their name because they can only pick five or six items to write. Mr. Ciresi stated this is ridiculous, put a picture into the yearbook. Mr. Ciresi added that they were told before when they had this discussion that it

is the student's yearbook, it belongs to the kids and if the kids want to put a picture then let them put a picture. Mr. Ciresi stated that this is ridiculous for this Board to argue over this again and again. Mr. Ciresi commented that it about 4 years that this topic has come up and been argued over. Mr. Ciresi asked if Mr. Fitzgerald wanted to comment on this and he replied that he will have to look at what the legal wrangling's were from a year ago.

Mr. Ciresi said they were told that if they put the picture in the yearbook then we are liable for anything that may happen during the activity. Mr. Fitzgerald said he would refrain from comment until he can look into it further.

Mr. DiBello stated that we are talking about one page; two pictures on the page so put the pictures in the yearbook and be done with it. Mr. Fitzgerald said he would definitely look into it.

Mr. Pettit urged Mr. Fitzgerald to make it happen.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Heine made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary