

On February 24, 2014 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: Willard D. Cromley, Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II: Dawn R. Heine and Todd R. Wolf
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Rep.: Taylor M. Auman

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Fern asked students if there was a teacher that they will never forget in the Spring-Ford Area School District and then asked parents if there had been a teacher who made a difference in the life of their student. She advised them that they had an opportunity to nominate those teachers for the 2014 Freedom's Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence. A nominated teacher could be selected as one of three winners for the Freedom's Voices of Inspiration Award and \$500 cash prize. The school with the most nominations will also win a \$500 cash prize. She urged students and parents to start submitting their entries now, because the deadline is March 24. Additional information and a nomination form can be found on the district's website.

Mr. Ciresi, on behalf of the Board, expressed condolences to the Williams' Family and asked for a moment of silence out of respect for Donna Williams. Mrs. Williams served on the School Board for 16 years and sadly passed away on February 21, 2014.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATION

Mr. Nugent announced that two seniors have been proclaimed as finalists in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Nugent introduced Christina M. Ferrari and Eric D. LaCava. He spoke about the process that students must go through in order to achieve semi-finalist and finalist status. Mr. Nugent expressed pride in the student's accomplishments on behalf of the district. The students came forward and were recognized for their accomplishments.

- A. Presentation to **Christina M. Ferrari** and **Eric D. LaCava** on being named as “Finalists” in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the January 27, 2014 Board Meeting minutes.
- B. The Board approved the February 5, 2014 Special Board Meeting minutes.
- C. The Board approved the February 10, 2014 Special Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum/Technology Dawn Heine 1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Heine reported that the Curriculum and Technology Committee met on February 4th and received an update on the Spring City Hybrid Learning Center. She advised the public of the video that is posted on the district’s home webpage which provides an overview of the Hybrid Learning Center. Mrs. Heine reported that the floor plan model was reviewed and the model of the hybrid learning was also discussed with 2nd and 4th grade teachers joining in the discussion. The PSSA training that Dr. Floyd and Mrs. Bast attended earlier in the week was discussed and the dates for PSSA Testing were reviewed. The committee also discussed the communication plan for the two new programs; STEM and Global Studies. She reported that a presentation was done for the 8th graders and these programs will appear in the course catalog for next year. Mrs. Heine reported that students are still enrolling in courses so final numbers are not known yet. Mrs. Heine commented that they are still looking at and redesigning and defining what curriculum is covered in what areas and grades based on the Common Core Standards and the Keystone Exams. The committee reviewed the technology refresh and, based on the Evans refresh from last year, all other elementary schools will be outfitted as follows: Grades K-1 will have six iPads and charging stations per classroom, Grades 2-4 will have six 11 inch laptops with charging stations, the reading specialists will have six iPads and charging stations per classroom, the learning support, ESL and autistic classes will have iPads and notebooks assigned based on grade level. Mrs. Heine reported that the administrative refresh is scheduled to start soon along with 375 other staff and student laptop computers. The Smart Classroom was also discussed and the committee reviewed the \$250,000 that was allocated to increase the Smart technologies within the classrooms. All schools have been reviewed and the needs for this \$250,000 have been identified. The committee discussed the need for support in data and reporting and this need continues to grow based on the inputs and reports that are required. The committee reviewed the responsibilities and how they could be divided up as well as cross training two individuals. Mrs. Heine stated that the district is very vulnerable in this area and that is due to the amount of data that is input as well as the number of reports that one person in the district is responsible for. Mrs. Heine stated that as the district continues to grow so do the input fields that this particular person has to insure are accurate. Mrs. Heine said this will continue to be discussed as well as the possible addition of this position.

Mr. Dehnert stated that back when Hybrid Learning was approved there was discussion on measurements and benchmarks and he wondered if there could be a presentation in the coming months on the performance we have had in the first year and what it looks

like today in comparison with those benchmarks. Dr. Floyd replied that the data they have is only for this past year and they will be happy to share that information.

PSBA Liaison Kelly J. Spletzer

Mrs. Spletzer reported that she will be attending the legislative update in March and she welcomed other board members to join in as well. Mrs. Spletzer stated that she will report back to the entire board on whatever information she receives there. Mrs. Spletzer stated that during last week's meeting there was mention of Spring-Ford supporting PSBA's change in school funding but she did not see it on the agenda for this evening. She added that she knows that the district is supporting PSBA moving forward with this request.

Solicitor's Report Mark Fitzgerald

There was no report.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin reported that Spring-Ford Area Chamber of Commerce will be having their Business 2 Business Trade Show on Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Pope John Paul II High School. Dr. Goodin stated that Spring-Ford will be presented at the event by himself and Dr. Roche. Dr. Goodin advised everyone that there will be free lunch served by the Chamber of Commerce and if anyone is interested in attending should RSVP via spring-fordchamber.com/events. Dr. Goodin advised the Board that he and Dr. Roche are in the midst of conducting observations of the new teaching staff. He added that they do this once per year, every year, until the teacher is tenured. With regards to the Comprehensive Plan, Dr. Goodin reported that they have been meeting with the Leadership Team to begin to identify possible goals for the next six-year comprehensive planning cycle. Dr. Goodin stated that once they get some of those goals identified there will then be a larger comprehensive planning meeting with members of the community to review and take a look at the goals as well as get input and direction from the School Board. Dr. Goodin reported that with regards to the Comprehensive Plan, the Special Education Plan is due in May so there is a meeting scheduled for February 27th at the 7th Grade Center from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Dr. Goodin commented that the first week in February was National School Counselor's week and a video was put together to highlight the work that school counselors do. The video was shared with everyone.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. Resignations

1. **Krista L. Calvin**, Variety Show – IMS, 5/6/7 Grade Center. Effective: January 24, 2014.
2. **Mark D. Consolo**, Lacrosse Coach-Boys, 8th Grade Center. Effective: December 10, 2013.
3. **Jeffrey J. Mast**, Asst. Track Coach-Girls & Boys-HS-Spring, Senior High School. Effective: February 10, 2014.

4. **Crystal McArthur**, Instructional Assistant, 7th Grade Center. Effective: February 7, 2014.

New Resignation

5. **Russell W. Boyer**, Maintenance, Maintenance & Operations Building. Effective: February 19, 2014.

B. Leave of Absence

1. **Mary T. Roberts**, Learning Support Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; is requesting a sabbatical leave of absence per Board Policy. Effective: January 30, 2014 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

C. Support Staff Employees

1. **Matthew J. Ricci**, Instructional Assistant, Oaks Elementary School; replacing Leigh Ann Sisson who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour with benefits as per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: February 17, 2014.
2. **Trisha Smith**, Registered School Nurse, Brooke Elementary School; replacing Kerry L. Mihalcik who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$28.63/hour with benefits as per the Registered Nurses' Plan. Effective: February 17, 2014.

New Support Staff Employee

3. **Mary A. Frassenei**, Part-time Food Service (3 hours/day), Senior High School – 9th Grade Center; replacing Melissa Salamone who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$12.67/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: to be determined

D. Professional Staff Substitutes

1. **Margaret T. Lewis** Certification: Social Studies 7-12
2. **Flora P. Quevedo** Certification: Math 7-12
3. **Jessica L. Skone** Certification: Elementary, Math Mid-Level

E. Support Staff Substitutes

1. **Marcie L. Callahan** Instructional Assistant, Office/Clerical
2. **Susan M. Maryanski** Instructional Assistant

- F. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts.

New Personnel Motion

G. Long Term Substitute Employee

1. **Lindsey M. Mentzer**, Learning Support Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; replacing Mary T. Roberts who is on a leave of absence. Compensation will be

set at BS, Step 1, \$43,200.00, prorated with benefits. Effective: retroactive to January 6, 2014 through the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

VI. FINANCE

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-H and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

A. 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.

B. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

January

Check No. 152488 – 152578	\$ 465,231.77
ACH 131400316 – 131400319	\$ 2,194.72

February

Check No. 152579 – 152676	\$ 807,630.76
ACH 131400320 – 131400326	\$ 383.91

2. Athletic Fund

January

Check No. 306563 – 306745	\$ 33,508.91
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3. *Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

February

Check No. 152677 – 152722	\$ 706,620.79
ACH 131400327 – 131400328	\$ 118.60

4. *Board Checks held for approval

Check No. 152723 – 152737	\$ 6,915.17
ACH 131400329 – 131400351	\$ 1,355.10

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

1. ***OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval

February

Check No. 32849 – 32849	\$ 2,566.54
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D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Robyn Burckhardt, Art’s Alive – Spring City, PA.** Provide an Artist in Residence Program for students at Upper Providence Elementary to design and create a courtyard mural. Funding will be split between the Upper Providence Home and

School Association and the Upper Providence Assembly Budget and shall not exceed \$660.00.

2. **Joy Brewster and Associates – LaGrangeville, NY.** Provide Applied Behavioral Analysis Training in the home for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct Intervention Services will be provided for 240 hours at a rate of \$35.00 per hour and 60 hours of ABA consult services at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$14,100.00.
3. **Dr. Karen Kelly – Wayne, PA.** Provide an independent neuropsychological Evaluation for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,900.00.
4. **Cristaldo Interpreters – Blue Bell, PA.** Provide Portuguese Language Interpreter services for meetings and events within the school for a special needs student and family as per the IEP. Services will be provided to a total number of hours not to exceed 12. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,405.00.

New Independent Contract

5. **Maureen O'Brien – West Chester, PA.** Provide Orton-Gillingham Reading Instruction for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 200 hours at a rate of \$75.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

NEW FINANCE

- E. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved by the Board:

General Fund

- Money Market – January 2014
- PSDLAF – January 2014
- PSDMAX – January 2014
- Checking Account – January 2014
- PLGIT Account – January 2014
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - January 2014
- Payroll Account – January 2014
- Tax Account – January 2014

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – January 2014
- 7th Grade Activity – January 2014
- 8th Grade Activity – January 2014
- High School Activity – January 2014
- Athletic Account – January 2014

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – January 2014

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – January 2014
- Debt Service Fund – January 2014
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) - January 2014

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – January 2014
- Cafeteria Checking Account – January 2014
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – January 2014
- Investment Account – January 2014

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

JANUARY

Check No. 11556- 11578 \$ 223,619.65

G. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2013-2014 school year:

Upper Providence Township Exonerations No. 390

H. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 4747 – 4762

VII. PROPERTY

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Cromley seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert asked about Item C questioning if the High School Café will be run by the cafeteria why the money to fund it was not coming from the reserve from the cafeteria as opposed to the Capital Reserve Account. Dr. Goodin replied that it was drawn from the Capital Reserve as start-up money but the funding will come from the money received from Lifetouch. Mr. Dehnert asked if the money from Lifetouch is going into the Capital Reserve Account and the response was yes.

The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved having a Security Alert System installed at Spring City Elementary School. This system will assist with a higher level of security and also provide faster notice to all emergency responders. Cino Ltd. Securities will install the system for a trial period at no cost to the district for the installation, parts, set-up, monitoring and removal if necessary of the system after the trial period.
- B. The Board approved purchasing a vehicle for School Police and Resource Officers to use to assist with safety and security district-wide. The vehicle will be purchased through the PA Co-Star Municipal Contract. The total cost of the vehicle is \$27,673; the additional security equipment will bring the total to \$33,973. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account.
- C. The Board approved moving forward with the High School Café Project in the Media Center at the 10-12 Grade Center. The total cost for this project shall not exceed \$20,000 and will be funded from the Capital Reserve Account.

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

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

MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES

- A. **Barry Ziegler**, Supervisor of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend the “*Asbestos Building Inspector Certification Course*” in New Cumberland, PA from April 14 through April 16, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$982.00 (registration, mileage, lodging and meals) from the Maintenance and Operations Budget. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Gregory Detwiler** and **Edward Koneski**, Maintenance Staff, to attend “*18th Annual Keystone Athletic Field Managers Organization/PA Recreation and Park Society Athletic Field Conference*” at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg, PA on February 21, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$110.00 (registration) from the Maintenance and Operations Budget. No substitutes are needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- C. **Beth Happ** and **Debora Zelle**, Certified School Nurses, to attend “*PA Association of School Nurses and Practitioners Educational Conference*” at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA from March 28 through March 30, 2014. There is no cost to the district for this conference as all expenses are being paid from the 2013-2014 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant.

New Conference and Workshop Recommendations

- D. **Denise Emel**, Technology Applications Teacher, to attend “*MCIU Computer Fair*” on the morning only of April 1, 2014. The total cost to the district is \$67.50 for a ½ day substitute.
- E. **Diana Ward**, Family & Consumer Science Chair/Teacher, to attend “*PAFCS 2014 Annual Conference*” in Lancaster, PA on April 4, 2014. The total cost to the district is \$150.00 for a substitute. All other costs are being paid by the employee.
- F. **Patricia Stroop** and **Vicki Ellis**, Teachers, to attend “*Supporting Students with High Functioning Autism in the General Education Classroom*” at PaTTAN on February 26, 2014. The total cost to the district is \$164.69 (mileage and a one day substitute).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The following policy was approved:
 - 1. Policy #204: PUPILS: Attendance

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

B. The Board approved the following annual report of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.

1. Spring City American Legion Baseball, Inc.

X. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Amy Beebe, Limerick, PA. Ms. Beebe read a statement that expressed concern about the level of knowledge and qualifications that children are exposed to in the field of sports. She felt that it was imperative that for the safety and well-being of the children that they learn and clearly understand the fundamentals of sports from those who have lived and loved the sport. Ms. Beebe indicated that there were active community members in the district who want to teach children. Ms. Beebe expressed concern over the district hiring individuals from outside of the community and not knowing the individual's past. Ms. Beebe asked that this situation be investigated and an action plan be put in place. Ms. Beebe stated that she wanted to highlight a community member, Hank King. She provided background on Mr. King and his career in baseball.

Mr. DiBello interrupted Ms. Beebe to get clarification on the issue at hand. Ms. Beebe replied that the issue is the overall process for extra-curricular activity coaching, practice schedules and the processes in place.

Ms. Beebe continued to list the accomplishments of Mr. King. She stated that Mr. King wants to teach kids all he has to offer in the world of baseball but has not had the opportunity to help Spring-Ford kids through coaching which has been frustrating.

Dr. Kellen Kovalovich, Phoenixville, PA. It was determined that Dr. Kovalovich was not a resident of Spring-Ford but practices medicine in the Royersford area. The Board permitted him to speak. Dr. Kovalovich gave some background on his medical practice. He commented that it was his understanding that the 7th grade baseball coach position was up in the air and Hank King was invited to interview. He asked what the policy was in interviewing the head coaching position and should the athletic director interview all candidates or do subordinates interview? Mr. Fitzgerald responded on behalf of the board saying generally when it comes to personnel matters the Board would defer to the decisions of the administration. He added that with regard to filling positions for extra-curricular activities it is sometimes highly prescribed through the teacher's contract with a preference for the teachers of the school to be teaching the extra-curriculars. Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that he did not have a contract in front of him but that is generally the preference on how those positions are filled. Dr. Kovalovich commented that it was his understanding that a gentleman from outside of the school district who teaches for another school district that was hired above Hank King for the position. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that they can hire from the outside but that would be an administrative decision and the Board would defer to that process and the administration. Dr. Kovalovich stated that he would like to read from a letter sent on behalf of Hank King from Dr. Edward Matejkovic, Director of Athletics at West Chester University. Mr. Fitzgerald asked that under the circumstances the letter be submitted to the Board so that it could be placed as part of the record. Dr. Kovalovich stated that he is going to defer to Mr. King's legal counsel on whether the letter could be submitted for the record.

Ms. Beebe provided a written summary of all of Hank King's experience for the record. She stated that she has a copy of the petition with over 100 signatures but will defer to legal counsel for review and submittal.

Hank King, Limerick, PA. Mr. King gave background on his residency in the district. Mr. King said he would like to inform the board of what happened to him as he applied for a coaching job 3 years in a row in the district. Mr. King provided his explanation of the interviews with the district for the 8th Grade Center Baseball Coach position. Mr. King also explained that he was asked how he would eliminate some of those students who go out for the team in order to get down to a smaller roster. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. King if there was a specific issue and if so, in the interest of efficiency, could he please direct that to the Board. Mr. King stated that the issue was academics and if the grades of students who went out for the team were looked at it you could eliminate the 60 kids going out for the team down to 45. Mr. King stated that he would not take a student with 3 D's on his report card and put him on the field because next week that student may have F's which would make him ineligible to play. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if his concerns were brought up to the superintendent or to the principal of the high school or middle school. Mr. King replied yes he brought it up during the interview. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that this is a lot of information for the Board and he believes there is a better way of getting the information from him so that it can be properly looked at. Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. King to wait until after the meeting to talk with either him or the superintendent as this might be a better avenue to specify some of the concerns. Mr. King asked why when he called the principal twice did he not get any action. Mr. Fitzgerald said that is why he thinks they might want to discuss this after the meeting. Mr. King stated that he is agreeable to that. He thanked the Board for their time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Heine made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary