

On April 24, 2006, the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:42 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit and
Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.

Region II: Ammon G. Morgan, Jr., and Joseph M. Petrowski

Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi, John S. Grispon,
and Robert A. Weber

Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams

Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda

Business Manager: Tim Anspach

Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.

Student Rep.: Kiley Morsch

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that Royersford Scout Troop 406 was in attendance and would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Williams announced that SNAP needs approximately 100 volunteers to help with activities for the after prom party on prom night, May 13, 2006. Interested volunteers can call the high school office and leave their name and phone number and a SNAP member will contact them. On April 22, 2006 a Vo-Tech Convention took place at the Western Center for Vocational Studies in an effort to come to a resolution between Spring-Ford, Pottsgrove and the Upper Perkiomen School Districts. Mrs. Williams said that no further comments would be made on this topic so as not to damage any further discussions.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No questions or comments.

II. PRESENTATION

Mrs. Williams and Mr. Masciandaro on behalf of the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors said goodbye to Kiley Morsch, the student representative to the school board. Kiley was presented with a gift, a plaque and some flowers. Mrs. Williams thanked Kiley for the past year of service to her school and the community. Mrs. Williams introduced Daniel Suraci as the new student representative to the school board.

- A. Farewell to the current student representative to the school board, **Kiley Morsch**. Introduction of the new student representative to the school board, **Daniel Suraci**.

Mr. Anspach gave an overview of the draft of the school district budget for 2006-2007 school year. This draft was available for the public in attendance. Mr. Anspach went through the draft page by page giving a brief explanation of each section of the budget. Mr. Anspach said the budget process started back in November of 2005 and the timeline is to have approval/adoption of the budget at the June 19, 2006 board meeting. Mrs. Williams asked what the actual potential tax increase will be for the community based on this budget. Mr. Anspach said the tax increase on a percentage basis is 5.20, on a dollar value it would be \$207.10 per \$100,000 of assessment. Mr. Petrowski said the 5.20% is preliminary and the Finance Committee hopes to move it downward. Mr. Petrowski mentioned some positive things taking place in the district as part of this budget and they include the hiring of a Coordinator of Public Outreach, the hiring of additional special education teachers, the hiring of another high school assistant principal which will allow the looping of principals and guidance counselors at the high school. Mr. Petrowski said other highlights of the budget are that the Strings Program is being expanded, opening costs for Evans Elementary can be reduced by doing some pre-hiring, the technology program is being increased, the debt service ratio has gone down and public relations costs will be reduced substantially in the coming year. Mr. Masciandaro thanked Tim Anspach and Shirley Rhoads for the great job they did with the budget and commented that he finds it interesting that the state wants school districts to do a better job with budgets but do not give districts the tools to do this. Mr. Rocchio asked about snow removal and field maintenance and the fact that the costs are down from previous years. Mr. Anspach said he was comfortable with these numbers as normally jumps occur in the budget when opening a new building and we are not faced with that for the 206-2007 school year. Mr. Rocchio asked about the sizable increase in worker's compensation claims and Mr. Anspach said this past year claims have gone through the roof, although it does not take many claims to add up to a significant amount, and we need to look at this to figure out how to drive that number down. Mr. Rocchio asked about the \$110,000 reduction in contributions, donations and home and school and he wondered what causes this kind of reduction. Mr. Anspach said the reason for this reduction is that the new auditing firm allows us to do contract expenses which are just a different way of recording the expenses. Mr. Rocchio questioned the increase in indoor air quality maintenance and Mr. Anspach said this is an area that we will probably see an increase in every year as we need to stay on top of this and the service component for this type of service seems to get more expensive every year. Mr. Grispon commented on the state contribution for special education and the fact that this amount is going down every year and probably is not enough to fund a teacher's salary so these costs are being passed down to the taxpayers. Mr. Morgan asked about the repairs and maintenance of buildings and the fact that this budgeted amount went down when we have more buildings and more things to maintain; Mr. Anspach said they looked at actual costs from previous years and found that we were not spending the amounts previously budgeted. Mr. Petrowski said there are two more Finance Committee meetings before the budget is voted on and he wondered which meeting would be better for the board members to attend and Mr. Anspach said the May 11 meeting where the Capital Reserve Budgets will be looked at as well as the past history of the account.

- B. Tim Anspach, Business Manager, and Shirley Rhoads, Assistant Business Manager, to present the Preliminary Budget for Spring-Ford Area School District for the 2006-2007 school year.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The board approved the March 20, 2006 work session minutes.
- B. The board approved the March 27, 2006 board meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Kiley Morsch

Kiley reported that the senior trip was held from 4/7/06 – 4/10/06 and students who attended reported that it was a great trip and well worth the money. The students especially enjoyed the trip to Clearwater Beach Day. The Yearbook was submitted at the beginning of April and should arrive around the end of May. Prom tickets are on sale for \$50.00 and sign ups are taking place for the Post Prom Party. The Prom is Saturday, May 13, 2006. The talent show is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School 10-12 Center. The Senior Impact Awards will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Inn. Seniors had the opportunity to nominate any teacher in the district who had an impact on their life or education. Danny reported on the band trip to Toronto, Canada. The bands and choirs did very well and received many awards which Danny summarized for the board and the public. Danny also reported that Dr. Kreider's two classes traveled to the University of Pennsylvania for the Model United Nations Conference. Kiley thanked the entire board both past and present for their support and said she is grateful for the experience she had while serving as the student representative.

MCIU-Legislative John Grispon 4th Weds. 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Grispon said he received an email from Laurie Stout, Director of Legislative Services, saying that the conference committee members on HB 39 did not release a report as there are still funding issues to be resolved; the gaming versus the lottery. They want to borrow from the lottery fund to make up the gaming money until the gaming money comes in; an agreement is expected this week. Mr. Grispon said the key issue is that if the bill is passed school districts will be required to have an intention to adopt a budget by May 8 and a deadline for adoption of the budget of May 18.

PSBA Ray Rocchio, Jr.

Mr. Rocchio reported that members of the House Committee continued their work on HB 39 although no consensus was reached. The program currently funded by the lottery money would be expanded to include almost twice the number of senior citizens as it does now. Mr. Rocchio reported that the full Senate approved HB 1618 which requires school districts to allow students with disabilities to participate in graduation ceremonies, effective this current school year. Those students with IEP's that require further instruction beyond the traditional four years must receive a certificate of attendance regardless of

whether the student's are satisfactorily progressing towards completion of their IEP. The Senate also confirmed the nomination of Esther Bush to the State Board of Education filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Sam Hayes. The Education Committee is scheduled to conduct an informational meeting on how students may achieve a better performance on state assessments.

V. FINANCE

Mr. Weber asked that Items A and F be separated. Mr. Grispon asked that Item G be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

- A. The board approved the New Personnel List (contained in the Preliminary Budget Book) for the 2006-07 school year in the amount of \$1,972,775.00.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items B, C, D, and E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked if under Item C Crest Environmental was for the new district office and Mrs. Williams said yes. Mr. Masciandaro conveyed his concerns regarding the costs for the new district office and said he would like to take another look at the costs. Mrs. Williams said perhaps the concerns should go back to the Property Committee where all the options for the district office could be redefined and Mr. Masciandaro agreed. The motion passed 9-0.

- B. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **APRIL**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2003:**

- 1. **EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$ 189.00
DLR Group	Professional Services	\$ 5,441.06
US Laboratories Inc.	Soils Inspection	\$ 5,495.00
*SMJ Contracting Inc.	Applic. #6-General Contractor	<u>\$ 975,159.90</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 986,284.96

- 2. **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT**

Nave Newell	Professional Services	<u>\$ 5,503.57</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 5,503.57

- 3. **9th GRADE CENTER**

Medtronic E.R. Sys.	Automatic External Defibrillators and wall cabinets	\$ 4,965.00
Perma-Bound	Library Books	\$ 140.24
Washington Music	King Tuba's w/Case (5)	<u>\$ 17,370.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 22,475.24

- C. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **APRIL**, in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT – Fund 22:**

- Brooke Elementary School-Re-Roofing Project**

Arthur Altemose	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	<u>\$ 44,762.50</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 44,762.50

New District Office

Crest Environmental Professional Services	\$ 800.00
TOTAL	\$ 800.00

D. 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.

E. Checks:

1.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u> <u>March</u> *Check No. 109201 - 109277	\$ 800,342.24
	<u>April</u> *Check No. 109278 – 109397	\$ 488,364.75
2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u> *Check No. 109398 - 109443	\$ 294,757.01
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u> *Check No. 109444 - 109580	\$ 105,413.68
4.	<u>Athletic Fund- February</u> *Check No.	\$ 15,632.57

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item F and Mr. Petrowski seconded it. Mr. Weber asked what the costs were for printing and mailing the newsletter last year and Mr. Anspach said \$51,316. Mr. Weber asked if this amount included the mailing costs and Mr. Anspach said the mailing costs were an additional \$2,800 every time the newsletters went out which was twice last year. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

F. The board approved seeking bids for "**Publications**" (Newsletters - 4 issues, Activity Calendars, Student Handbooks, Crisis Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Plan Flip Chart and Post-Secondary Guidance Handbooks) for the 2006/2007 school year.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item G and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Grispon asked for clarification on what diverse committee means and Mr. Spohn said it was a committee made up of technology staff, administrators, and secretaries who looked at a number of software packages to suit our needs for the future. Mr. Grispon asked if all the systems will be able to communicate with each other and Mr. Spohn said yes. Mr. Pettit asked for clarification on the spike in costs for the second year of the contract and Mr. Spohn said this is because the way the agreement is written we will owe thirty percent of the one time fee when the contract is signed, which if approved tonight will be in this school year,

and the remainder of the one time fee would be incurred next year. The motion passed 9-0.

- G. The board approved licensing and implementing software from Skyward Inc., of Stevens Point, Wisconsin, pending contract review by the solicitor, to replace existing financial, human resource, and student record applications. After a review of software from seventeen vendors, Skyward software was deemed by a diverse district committee to be the best application to position the district for the future. Software implementation will begin in January 2007 following a period of data conversion and training. Initial costs of the software from the **1108-648** account will be distributed over three school years: 2005-2006 approximately \$45,000, 2006-2007 approximately \$207,000, and 2007-2008 approximately \$55,000. This entire item supports the Technology Plan (Section 5.2.1, Goal 1, located in Section 5, bottom of page 3 of 7 and Section 5.3.1, Goal 1, located in Section 5, bottom of page 6 of 7). Funding is allocated within the Technology Budget.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items H, I, and J1-6 and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- H. The board approved of a lease with ePlus Technology of Pennsylvania for computers to replace those due to be refreshed during the summer of 2006. Most of the computers being refreshed reside in the classrooms and labs of Brooke, Limerick, Oaks, Royersford and Upper Providence. The lease will include approximately: 788 HP minitowers (2.8 GHz, 1 GB RAM, 40 GB hard drive, DVD-CDRW, 17" Monitor), 181 HP NC8230 laptops for staff (1.8 GHz, 1 GB RAM, 60 GB hard drive, CD-RW/DVD-ROM, 802.11b/g wireless), 33 HP laptops to refresh one high school wireless lab (1.8 GHz, 1 GB RAM, 60 GB hard drive, CD-RW/DVD-ROM, 802.11b/g wireless), and related support equipment such as port replicators. The total equipment value of approximately \$937,364 will be divided into four annual lease payments from the **1108-448** account of approximately \$167,174 for the minitowers and three annual lease payments of approximately \$112,626 for the laptops. The prices quoted represent significant, voluntary price reductions below the PEPPM (Pennsylvania Educational Purchasing Program for Microcomputers) Contract by the HP Computer Corporation. This entire item supports the Technology Plan (Section 5.3.1, Goal 2, located in Section 5, center of page 7 of 7). Funding is from the 2006-2007 Technology Budget.
- I. The board approved the purchase of eleven new file servers to replace existing, aging servers and to provide servers for the new Skyward software (replacing a leased AS400). The total cost of the project from the **1108-758** account is approximately \$47,418. The cost quoted represents a significant, voluntary price reduction below the PEPPM (Pennsylvania Educational Purchasing Program for Microcomputers) Contract by the HP Computer Corporation. This entire item supports the Technology Plan. Funding is from the 2005-2006 Technology Budget.

- J. The board approved of the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Christine Harte – Pottstown, PA.** Provide reading tutoring using the Wilson Reading System for a special education student as per the IEP. Direct intervention services and consultation will be provided to the staff. This contract is for fifteen (15) hours between 7/5/06 – 8/4/06 at fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00).
 2. **Cathy Grayson – Bala Cynwyd, PA.** Provide a two (2) hour presentation on Asperger’s Syndrome during the summer for professional staff. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed four hundred eighty dollars (\$480.00).
 3. **St. Edmond’s Home – Rosemont, PA.** Provide an eight (8) week program as part of the Extended School Year Program for a special education student as part of the IEP. This contract is for eight (8) weeks of service at a rate of three hundred seventy-five (\$375.00) per week. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00).
 4. **Buxmont Academy – Pipersville, PA.** Provide instruction for special education students as per the IEPs at an approved private placement facility for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2005-2006 Special Education Budget at a rate of one hundred four dollars and forty-seven cents (\$104.47) per student for forty-four (44) students and shall not exceed four thousand five hundred ninety-six dollars and sixty-eight cents (\$4,596.68).
 5. **Dr. Chaya Herzberg – Dresher, PA.** Provide vision therapy services for a student as part of the IEP. This contract is for twenty-four (24) sessions at seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per session, a home computer vision therapy program (HTS) at a cost of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), and a reevaluation following each twelve (12) sessions at a cost of one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$195.00) per reevaluation. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed two thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$2,390.00).
 6. **Betsy Dru Tecco – Collegeville, PA.** Provide “Get Up & Go” health and wellness student assemblies in each of the K-4 schools. Funding will be paid from the 2005-2006 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00).

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items J7-10 and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

7. **Two High Energy Juggling – Macedon, NY.** Provide a seventy-five (75) minute juggling performance at the 5/6 Grade Center on Friday, May 5, 2006 as part of a Family Fun Night. Funding will be paid by the Home and School League and shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).
8. **Great Valley Community Education Foundation – Malvern, PA.** Provide a musical assembly in connection with the Clayton Miller Blues Band at Limerick Elementary on Monday, May 1, 2006. Funding will be paid from the Limerick 2005-2006 Artists in Residence Account and shall not exceed five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00).
9. **Dave Gillies of Give and Take Jugglers – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide an assembly at Upper Providence Elementary on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 which emphasizes making good choices and supports the district's pro-social goals and objectives. Funding will be paid from the 2005-2006 Upper Providence Guidance Account and shall not exceed one thousand seventy-five dollars (\$1075.00).
10. **Brian's House Enterprises – Downingtown, PA.** Provide pre-employment services for a student as part of the IEP. This contract is for fourteen (14) days at thirty-two dollars (\$32.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2005-2006 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four hundred fifty dollars and eighty cents (\$450.80).

NEW FINANCE

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items K-O and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- K. The board approved **Resolution 2006-05** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Administrative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
- L. The board approved **Resolution 2006-06** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Curriculum and Staff Development Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
- M. The board approved **Resolution 2006-07** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit State and Federal Legislative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.
- N. The board approved **Resolution 2006-08** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Instructional Materials Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

O. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – March 2006
- PSDLAF – March 2006
- PSDMAX – March 2006
- Checking Account – March 2006
- PLGIT Account – March 2006
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – March 2006
- Payroll Account – March 2006
- Tax Account – March 2006

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – March 2006
- 7th Grade Activity – March 2006
- 8th Grade Activity – March 2006
- High School Activity – March 2006
- Athletic Account – March 2006

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – March 2006
- Note of 2004 – March 2006

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – March 2006
- Debt Service Fund – March 2006
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – March 2006

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – March 2006
- Cafeteria Checking Account – March 2006
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – March 2006
- Investment Account – March 2006

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The board approved **PECO Energy** to relocate 9 poles along Sunset Road. This relocation is necessary for the widening of Sunset Road in front of the Evans Elementary School Project. Total costs will be **\$59,531.00** with funds coming from Evans Elementary Construction Account.

NEW PROPERTY

Mr. Petrowski asked that Item B be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Petrowski asked if all the work being done in the 2006-2007 school year or is it split. Mr. Cooper said all the work is scheduled to be done the first year and the only reason this would not happen is if the shop drawings were tied up and the delay would cause interruption to the student's. Mr. Ciresi asked if there would be any loss of the playground area from now to the end of the year or the beginning of the next

school year and Mr. Cooper said there would not be any loss during the school year but possibly some loss over the summer months. Mr. Masciandaro said it appears that the HVAC and electrical contractors make up almost 1.5 million of the total expenses and he wondered if these expenses would have been incurred if the board would have gone with a flat roof and Mr. Cooper said the expenses would have been incurred regardless of the roof design as the mechanical systems still had to be replaced due to the condensers being in bad shape. Mr. Ciresi requested that any landscaping that may be destroyed as a result of the roof project be replaced and this should be done at any school that has repair work done. Mr. Petrowski asked if this project includes the geothermal design and Mr. Cooper said it does include geothermal with the exception of the field area. Mr. Cooper said when the field is redone then it will be connected to the building but for right now the volt and all the electronics will be complete in the building and we will be using a temporary tower. Mr. Ciresi asked how long the field will be out of commission when we do the geothermal and Mr. Cooper said one full season. Mr. Ciresi asked if the whole field will be out of commission and Mr. Cooper said no the whole field will not be affected, just the right hand side as this is where the mechanical room is located in the building. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The board approved the contractors listed below for the **Brooke Re-Roof Project** starting the summer of the 2006-2007 school year after solicitor's review and approval and rejecting all alternates and other bids for a total of **\$3,463,761.00**.

C. General Contractor

SMJ Construction Services	\$1,997,461.00	No alternates
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HVAC Contractor

Worth and Company	\$1,391,000.00	No alternates
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Electrical Contractor

Silas Bolef Company	\$ 75,300.00	No alternates
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Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items C-D and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

C. The board approved **Arthur Altemose Architects** to prepare the bid specifications for the purchase of the **New Scoreboard**, including the design, installation, structural supports, electrical specifications, and relocation of the scoreboard. Costs shall not exceed **\$5,000.00**. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account.

D. The board approved **R.J. McCarville Associates, LTD.**, the lowest bidder, to install the new indoor bleachers at the **8th Grade Center** in July, 2006 in the amount of **\$37,700.00** rejecting all other bids. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account.

VII. PERSONNEL

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items A-I and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. Mr. Ciresi commented on Item A1 and thanked Dr. Candeloro on behalf of the

board for her service to the school district and for the accomplishments that have happened under the time she has spent here. He wished Dr. Candeloro luck on all her future endeavors. Mr. Rocchio also thanked Dr. Candeloro on all her work with the Curriculum Committee. The motion passed 9-0.

A. **Resignations:**

The board approved the following resignations:

1. **Dr. Lucille Candeloro**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, for the purpose of retirement, effective with last day worked on May 19, 2006.
2. **Sarah Hett**, Support Technician, effective with last day worked on April 7, 2006.
3. **Alison Milantoni**, Instructional Assistant, effective on April 28, 2006.
4. **Cathy Pfanders**, Instructional Assistant, effective with last day worked on March 31, 2006.
5. **Sherman Robinson**, Custodian, for the purpose of retirement, effective with last day worked, July 3, 2006.
6. **Jaclyn Ritter**, 7th Grade Girls Lacrosse Coach, effective March 24, 2006.
7. **Bevin Seislove**, 5/6th Grade Intramural Track Coach, effective March 14, 2006.

B. The board approved **Stephanie Cooper**, Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective September 8, 2006.

C. The board approved **Chris Heflin**, Maintenance II position, compensation will be set at \$19.28 per hour with benefits, effective April 25, 2006.

D. The board approved the following attached **Job Descriptions:**

1. **School Resource Officer** (attached)
2. **Administrative Assistant for Child Accounting** (attached)
3. **Secretary-Census** (attached)

E. **Extra-Curricular Contracts:**

The board approved the following extra-curricular contracts:

High School:

1. **Bethany Haring**, Assistant Musicale Director, \$337, Code LC

2. **Kori McDaniel**, Girls Assistant Lacrosse Coach, \$2,679, Code F

Middle School:

3. **Jennifer Sinclair**, 8th/9th Grade Assistant Cheerleading Coach, \$784.50, Code I (half-contract)

Intermediate School:

4. **Shayne Tobin**, Intramural Track Advisor, \$337, Code L-C

F. **Professional Staff Substitutes:**

The board approved the following professional staff substitutes:

1. Russell Landis Elementary Education
2. Gilbert Learn Secondary, Social Studies

New Professional Staff Substitute:

3. Laura Anderson Elementary Education
Middle School Math

G. **Support Staff Substitutes:**

The board approved the following support staff substitutes:

1. Joanne Ambroziak
2. Marshall Fields
3. Patricia Nailon

New Support Staff Substitute:

4. Pamela Yerkes

- H. The board approved of a cash payment equivalent to \$250.00 per month or a total of \$3,000 per fiscal year for all eligible Custodial, Maintenance, Administrative, Administrative Support, Nurses, and Instructional Assistant employees who waive the District provided medical and prescription plans, as stipulated in each employee plan or benefit summer, effective July 1, 2006.

New Personnel:

- I. The board approved for **Elise Buckwalter**, Support Technician; compensation will be set at \$15.66 per hour with benefits, effective May 10, 2006.

VIII. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend "*American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Engineering Excellence Award Dinner*" at the Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel in Washington, DC on Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Schiller and Hersch Associates and the Spring-Ford Area School District will be presented with the National Engineering Excellence Award for the Geothermal heating and cooling projects at Upper Providence Elementary and the 5/6/7 Center. The total cost of this event is \$172.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Mary Chrisman**, Administrative Assistant, to attend "*Adobe InDesign CS2 Level 1*" at Springhouse Education & Consulting Services in Malvern, PA on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$293.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Ellen Reilly and Jennifer Farischon**, Teachers, to attend "*Critical Skills for Success for Students with Degrees in the Humanities*" at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. There is no cost for this conference other than \$250.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- D. **Stephen Randolph**, School Resource Officer, to attend "*Beyond Zero Tolerance*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, April 24, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$12.50 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

5TH/6TH GRADE CENTER

- E. **Yvonne Kirby**, Media Specialist, to attend "*Follett Library Resources Spring Workshop*" in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. There is no cost for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK

- F. **Jenna Conroy**, Teacher, to attend "*Responsive Classroom*" at Penn Valley Elementary in Levittown, PA from Monday, July 31 through Friday, August 4, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$645.00 from the 2006-2007 580 account. No substitute is needed.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- G. **Michele D. Fonte**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Dr. Mel Levine – A Neurodevelopmental Perspective on Differences in Learning*" at Widener University in Chester, PA on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$330.81 - \$205.81 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- H. **David Pence**, Teacher, to attend "*Handheld Computer User Group*" at Valley Forge National Park on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. The total cost of this ½ day conference is \$72.50 - \$10.00 from the Technology Budget and \$62.50 from the substitute account.

NEW CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

- I. **John S. Grispon**, Board Member, and **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend "*MCIU Legislative Breakfast*" at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA on Thursday, May 25, 2006. The total cost of this breakfast is \$54.00 from the 580 account.

IX. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Grispon asked for Item A to be separated. Mr. Grispon asked that the wording in Item A be changed to read "acceptance" instead of "approval" as this needs to go to the Policy Committee to be refined and the board will not be approving it until a later meeting. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked about the timing for this being implemented and Mr. Grispon said this should not be an issue as it should be able to be voted on at the June board meeting. Mr. Pettit asked if this could still be implemented for the upcoming school year and Mr. Grispon said he did not see why not. Mr. Ciresi asked if it would be possible for administration, in a year or so, to come back and report on any shift in student's grades or perceptions that may occur due to the new grading scale being implemented. Mrs. Williams said a concern she has is how this new grading scale will affect the athletes in our district; our regulations versus the PIAA regulations and even the NCAA Clearinghouse with our seniors and scholarship availability. Mrs. Williams suggested that possibly Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Nugent could attend the next Policy Committee meeting to voice their opinions. Mr. Grispon said in order to really move the district forward the wording of the grading scale should be changed to say extra-curricular eligibility and not just athletic eligibility. Mr. Grispon said if the motion for acceptance passes tonight he would like to see the revised grading scale put on the district website so that the public can email the district with their comments. Mr. Rocchio thanked the parents and administrators Mr. Rocchio thanked the parents and administrators for making the process a positive one. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

- A. The board accepted the attached Community Grading Scale Committee Proposal to revise the grading scale from the current seven point system (i.e. 93-100 = A, 85-92 = B, 77-84 = C, 70-76 = D, below 70 = failing) to a ten point system (i.e. 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 65-69 = D, below 65 = failing).

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- B. The board approved conducting a Summer Strings Camp on July 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20, 2006 for beginning, intermediate and advanced string students in grades 4, 5, 6 and 7. This self-supporting program will be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center. The cost to each student will be forty (\$40.00) dollars and will include instruction and materials.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:

- 1. Policy #246 - PUPILS: Student Wellness
- 2. Policy #319.1 - ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Conflict of Interest
- 3. Policy #419.1 - PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Conflict of Interest
- 4. Policy #519.1 - CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Conflict of Interest

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- B. The following policies were approved:

- 1. Policy #117 – PROGRAMS: Homebound Instruction
- 2. Policy #215 – PUPILS: Promotion and Retention
- 3. Policy #217 – PUPILS: Graduation Requirements

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandro commented on Goal number 2 and that this past Saturday at the Western Center Convention he learned that the entire Spring-Ford Board is right on board with this goal and will be doing what is right for the students and in the most economically feasible fashion. Mr. Masciandro said he is happy to support this goal tonight and Mrs. Williams concurred. The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The board approved the following Board developed District Goals:

- 1. Formulate a plan to provide a quality in-house alternative education program for students within the Spring-Ford School District.
- 2. Provide a quality career and technical education for students in grades 10-12 focusing on what is both educationally and economically feasible.
- 3. Develop a long range comprehensive secondary school facilities plan.
- 4. Develop and implement a transition plan for students, parents and staff as children move through grades 4-8.

5. Track and monitor key measures for student success: graduation rates, drop out rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates and the feedback from past graduates.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Sheehan asked if the public had been informed of the board meeting in an executive session prior to the board meeting and Mrs. Williams said no. Mrs. Sheehan informed the public that the board met in an executive session prior to the board meeting to discuss a variety of issue regarding property and contract.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Bruce Bailey, Upper Providence, asked Mr. Petrowski about the comment made regarding PR costs going down; Mr. Petrowski asked Dr. Hurda to address this. Dr. Hurda said last year we had a publications coordinator, who resigned several months ago, and a contract with Communication Solutions, which we will continue to honor this upcoming yea. A meeting was held with Communication Solutions and they agreed to pick up the responsibilities of writing the newsletter duties and those things that our publications coordinator did for the upcoming year. This allows us to fully utilize the contract we have with Communication Solutions. Mr. Bailey asked about the job description earlier this year for the Coordinator of Public Outreach and wondered if part of the job function would be public relations and Dr. Hurda said the responsibilities of this individual is to start an adult education program which will be up and running in September or October of this year. Dr. Hurda said this person will also act as a liaison between business and industry and write some grants. Dr. Hurda said she does not see this person as particularly a PR person. Mr. Bailey asked if anyone in the district other than Dr. Hurda is charged with talking to the media when inquiries come in and Dr. Hurda said this is a large part of Communication Solutions, they help us write the statement and there is a process in place with who delivers the statement and who speaks for the district. Mr. Bailey said this is a vitally important thing for the district as it grows and becomes more sophisticated. Dr. Hurda agreed and said she believes the district is moving in the right direction and we will gauge this year what may be needed in the future.

Mrs. Williams announced that the board will meet in an executive session, regarding litigation, following adjournment of this meeting tonight.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grispon made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary