

On April 26, 2010 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:45 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 David R. Shafer
Region II: Clara M. Gudolonis, Julie A. Mullin and Donna L. Williams
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi
Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.: Michael John

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ciresi announced that the Board met in an executive session this evening and also on April 20, 2010 to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Ciresi announced that the Spring-Ford High School Indoor Guard won its first-ever Tournament Indoor Association Chapter III Championship in the Scholastic Intermediate A Class this past weekend. The guard will now be eligible to enter the TIA All-Chapter Championships competition in New Jersey this coming weekend. He congratulated them on their accomplishment. The Spring-Ford Intermediate School sixth-graders placed 14th out of 148 schools competing statewide and third in Montgomery County in the Pennsylvania Math League competition. Students take a test in school to participate and the top five scores from the grade are added together for a team score. Spring-Ford's team scored 173 and the winning score was 190. Mr. Ciresi reported that as work on the 10-12 Center project continues, parents and students will note some changes to the building this week and next. Starting this week, the Nurses' Suite will be renovated, so services to students will be relocated and carry on, fully functional, in a room right around the corner. The week of May 3rd, the main entrance and offices located in the front of the 10-12 Center will be closed to the public and students. Visitors are being advised to use Door #2 as the main entrance. The Future Planning Center, the principal's office and the 11th-grade "house" office will be relocated to the new wing. The 12th-grade "house" office will move to Room 150, and the 10th-grade "house" office will move to Room 151. Mr. Ciresi invited the community to a sneak peek at the Spring-Ford High School Post-Prom Party. Interested parents and residents will be able to participate in a "community walk-through" prior to the post-prom party on Saturday, May 15th, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the 7th Grade Center. This will be a chance for community members to see the decorations and activities for this year's party, which features a "Passport Around the World" theme. For more information, visit www.sfsnap.org

I. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Weidenbaugh thanked the Board for inviting her to come tonight and so a presentation on the 7th Grade Center. She also thanked the Board and Dr. Hurda for all their efforts with getting the Science in Motion Program back at the 7th Grade Center. Dr. Weidenbaugh introduced Will Leisner a 7th grader who is the National Geography Bee Champion at the 7th Grade Center who represented Spring-Ford and went to Penn State University and competed against 100 other students from across Pennsylvania. Will Leisner State Champion of the National Geography Bee which was held at Penn State University. Will explained that everything started at the school level where he won the competition. Will then took the state level test where he felt confident and nervous. Will soon found out that he was one of the top 100 scorers and would be competing in the state level of the bee. Will stated that he studied hard and received a lot of support and encouragement from his parents. Will reported on the competition day and all the activities that he and his family participated in at Penn State University. Will commented that the competition consisted of a round of practice questions and then eight rounds of competition. Will quizzed the Board Members with a sampling of the questions he was asked during the geography bee. Will concluded that in the end he was able to answer five of eight questions correctly. Those competitors who were able to answer all eight questions advanced directly to the final round while those who answered seven correctly went into a tie breaker round. Will reported that there were ten competitors in the final round. The state winner was an 8th grade student from Erie, PA who now advances to the National Geography Bee which will be held in Washington, DC in late May and will be moderated by Alex Trebek. Will stated that he is looking forward to returning to the Geography Bee next year.

Dr. Weidenbaugh showed a video which depicted school day in the life of a 7th grader. Dr. Weidenbaugh spoke about co-teaching, a model, which has been implemented at the 7th Grade Center. She defined co-teaching as two teachers collaborating together, planning the instructional delivery, assessing students and working together to help students achieve and be successful in the classroom. Dr. Weidenbaugh introduced Miss Jarvie and Miss Klunk who are co-teachers in mathematics.

Miss Klunk stated that co-teaching requires quite a bit of planning. She and Miss Jarvie meet before and after school as well as during their common planning time. They discuss the curriculum, plan their instruction, discuss content area as well as their individual student needs and the learning styles of the students in their classrooms. Miss Klunk stated that they pick the best teaching method in order to instill a positive learning experience for their students and the greatest gain in student achievement.

Miss Jarvie reported that she and Miss Klunk have had the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the benefits that co-teaching has to offer. They both bring different areas of expertise to the lesson planning table; Miss Klunk as the regular education teacher brings a background of math so she provides the expertise in the content whereas Miss Jarvie as the learning support teacher brings her expertise in individual student learning styles and the instructional delivery method. Miss Jarvie stated that together they are able to develop lesson plans that meet the needs of all of the different level learners in the classroom. They are able to group students based on their individual needs and provide remediation for students who may need extra support while providing enrichment for those students who need to be challenged.

Miss Jarvie reported that research has shown that there is a strong positive correlation between direct instruction and student achievement. Miss Jarvie commented that the students are receiving more face time with the teachers and the teachers can provide more individualized group instruction for them. Miss Jarvie stated that co-teaching is an invaluable experience for both teachers and students.

Dr. Weidenbaugh commented that co-teaching supports students in the classroom and fulfills the federal and state mandates for highly qualified teachers, IDEA and FERPA although it is just one means to deliver instruction. Other ways the 7th Grade Center is working on delivering instruction include reading strategies, technology, differentiated instruction and common assessments. Dr. Weidenbaugh reported that they are grateful to have Performance Tracker as a technology tool.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Dr. Weidenbaugh. Dr. Hurda thanked Dr. Weidenbaugh and her staff for taking time to share some of the good things that are going on at the 7th Grade Center. Dr. Hurda stated that Dr. Weidenbaugh brought two outstanding teachers with her tonight but has a building that has many others as well. Dr. Hurda complimented Dr. Weidenbaugh saying she has had the opportunity to be in the 7th Grade Center on many occasions and saw students engaged in learning, teachers engaged in teaching and an ideal transition from the 5/6 somewhat elementary philosophy into a middle school philosophy. Dr. Hurda thanked Dr. Weidenbaugh for doing such a great job in the 7th Grade Center.

- A. **Dr. Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to give a presentation on the Instructional Practices at the 7th Grade Center.

Mr. Ciresi stated that in an effort to recognize the volunteers throughout the school district tonight we are honoring the Middle School Home and School League. Dr. Weidenbaugh introduced the officers of the Middle School Home and School League. Dr. Weidenbaugh commented that these ladies work endlessly for the programs at the 7th Grade Center including organizing all the dances and snacks that parents donate for these activities. Dr. Weidenbaugh thanked them for their service to the 7th Grade Center through the Home and School League. Mr. Ciresi presented each officer with a certificate recognizing their time and efforts.

- B. Presentation recognizing the **Middle School Home and School League** for their time and efforts on behalf of Spring-Ford students.

Mr. Ciresi announced that final presentation is a bittersweet one as tonight we say goodbye to the Student Board Representative Michael John. Mr. Ciresi stated that Michael has served for the past year and has been a great representative for the student body. He has given the opinion of the student body when the Board has asked him for it as well as his own opinion when the Board discussed programming. Mr. Ciresi asked Michael where he will be attending college and Michael replied Bloomsburg. Mr. Ciresi asked Michael what his major will be and Michael responded Political Science. Mr. Ciresi said we cannot say enough about the Student Representatives who come here as it is a big task to attend at least two meetings per month and to also get the feedback from the student body. Mr. Ciresi said we cannot thank them enough. Mr. Ciresi presented Michael with a certificate of appreciation and a small gift on behalf of the Board.

Michael commented that it is hard to believe it has been a year already. He said he has enjoyed his time as the Student Representative to the School Board. Michael said his time here has been well worth it although he appreciated the thirty minute board meetings the most. Michael reported that he now has a better understanding of how the School Board functions and works through critical issues. He said he now has an appreciation of the effort it takes to keep the schools functioning at their best. He enjoyed being part of the conversations on what was happening in the schools and with the Board. He commented that he learned a lot and will put his experiences to good use in the future. He thanked the Board for the opportunity they gave him.

Dr. Hurda said Michael has represented the Spring-Ford High School very well and she is pleased to hear that he is going into Political Science. She stated that Michael has been a great contributor. Dr. Hurda said she joins the rest of the Board in wishing Michael great success at Bloomsburg and invited him to come back and share his great successes with the Board.

Mr. Ciresi stated that with Michael's departure comes an opening for a new Board Student Representative. Mr. Ciresi introduced Taylor Daily the new Student Representative to the School Board. Mr. Ciresi welcomed Taylor and said that she is a well rounded junior with stellar academics and we are proud to have her here with us tonight. Taylor stated that she is really excited for this opportunity and she knows that Michael has done a great job and she is looking forward to taking his place on the Board next year. Taylor said she is looking to give her input on what is going on in the schools and she is excited to learn a lot from the Board about the workings of the school district. Mr. Ciresi said the Board looks forward to Taylor being here next month. Dr. Hurda stated that Taylor will officially begin her tour of duty next month at the Board Work Session. Dr. Hurda welcomed Taylor.

- C. Farewell to the current Student Representative to the School Board, **Michael John**. Introduction of the new Student Representative to the School Board, **Taylor V. Daily**.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the March 15, 2010 Work Session minutes.

NEW APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- B. The Board approved the March 22, 2010 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum

Julie Mullin

1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Curriculum Committee met on Tuesday, 4/6/10 and the main topic discussed was the textbook/material review cycle and the redesign for the social studies courses for grades 6, 7 and 8. The Committee discussed class sizes and what was considered to be reasonable not necessarily what we have now. The

Committee discussed what type and how many AP courses are offered at the high school. The suggestion was made to evaluate these courses and their eligibility for college credit. Mr. Nugent informed the Committee that the district was moving from a traditionally in-house summer school program to an online summer school program. This change will result in savings of \$55 - \$60 for each class and translates to no summer school staff and the associated expenses.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Pettit to hold off on his Personnel Committee report until the items associated with his report come up on the agenda.

V. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. **Diane Fair**, High School; Spanish Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, June 18, 2010.
2. **Janet Fritsch**, High School; Administrative Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2010.
3. **Faye Michener**, 7th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2010.
4. **Bevin Seislove**, 5th Grade Chorus Coordinator, effective February 16, 2010.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Mary Kae Coy**, Limerick Elementary School; Library Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 12, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Valarie Dubbs**, 9th Grade Center; Mathematics Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective August 24, 2010 until the beginning of the third marking period of the 2010/2011 school year.
3. **Susan G. Gallagher**, District Office; Software Field Technician, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective intermittently, March 18, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
4. **Jennifer R. Giangiulio**, 7th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective August 24, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Doreen D. Krebs**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 30, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

6. **Eileen McGrory**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 31, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
7. **Shirley Rhoads**, District Office; Assistant Business Manager, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 26, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

New Leaves of Absence:

8. **Christopher F. Bachrach**, Royersford Elementary School; Head Custodian for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 21, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
9. **Melissa Halphen**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively September 21, 2010 until the beginning of the third marking period of the 2010/2011 school year.
10. **Susan M. Mehan**, District Office; Administrative Assistant for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective May 3, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **David Nicol**, Men's & Women's Choir Co-Director, \$1,130
2. **Darryl Perecko**, Athletic Event Supervisor – Spring (Grades 7-9) \$1,141
3. **Eileen Sanderson**, Assistant Coach Lacrosse-Girls, \$3,856

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

4. Jenna Campolongo, Computer Club Advisor, \$388

D. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7th Grade Center

1. **Jennifer Whytosek**, 7/8th Grade Assistant Track Coach, \$2,678

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 5/6th Grade Center

1. **Joseph Perry**, 5th Grade Chorus, \$629

F. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Geralyn Eisenhart | Elementary Education |
| 2. Lauren Forliano | Elementary Ed./English/Special Ed. |
| 3. Joy Needles | Special Education |
| 4. Michael Wall | Social Studies |

G. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. James Longacre | Custodian |
| 2. Suzanne Mosebrook | Registered Nurse |

New Personnel Items

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items H – M and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Personnel

Bern Pettit

As needed

Mr. Pettit reported that the Personnel Committee met with the Custodial Group, Instructional Assistant Group, Food Service Worker Group, RN/LPN Group, Secretarial Group, and the Administrative Group to discuss the proposed agreements. The individual employee groups were also informed at this time of the financial burdens facing the district. Each group commented on the fact that they were aware of the financial burdens and from most of them the response was, "what can we do to help?" The groups only request was that the plans not set them back and were hopeful that the plans not require staff reductions. Mr. Pettit stated that speaking on behalf of the Committee he was very appreciative of the group's attitude and commitment to the district. Mr. Pettit said that the Committee was able to achieve the employee group's request with a lot of diligence and hard work. Mr. Pettit reported that after a great deal of deliberation and consideration the proposed salary increase for the support groups is 1.5% and 1% for the administrators. Changes have been made to the health plans, the prescription plan offered, and to the contribution amounts paid by the employees. The contribution amounts for medical, prescription, dental and vision will be set at 6% for the support groups and 12% for the administrative group. Employees who wish to enroll in the top health plan, which is PC20, will pay the set contribution amount plus 100% of the difference in premium between the 20/30/70 and the PC20. Mr. Pettit stated that the results of the above changes in health care adds up to a \$612,000 savings to the district. The plans will be in effect for a period of one year from June 30, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Mr. Pettit said the Committee is recommending approval of the plans presented this evening for each of the groups.

The motion passed 9-0.

- H. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Secretarial Plan, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- I. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Assistants' Plan, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- J. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Custodial Plan, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- K. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Food Service Plan, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- L. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District RN/LPN Plan, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.
- M. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Meet and Discuss Plan between the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education and the Spring-Ford Principals and Administrators Association, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Mr. Ciresi reported that roughly a month ago the Board gave direction to the Personnel Committee to meet with the Teacher's Union to discuss the possibility of reopening the current contract. The direction from the Board was to speak to the Union in regards to possibly taking less of an increase in next year's contract and changing the health care plan to the one that Mr. Pettit just proposed. Mr. Ciresi stated that roughly a week ago the Union went and took a vote to possibly reopen the contract for discussion with the Board. The Union voted unanimously not to move in that direction. The Board is obligated under the contract for one more year, a binding agreement, with the Teacher's Union. The Board while disappointed with the decision of the Union did their due diligence for the community to try and go back and see if there would be any cost savings. The Board will be obligated to the teacher's contract through the remainder of next year. Under the new conditions the Board still must look at, as we go into this very hard economic year, all options that exist, all of the needs of the district to keep Spring-Ford moving forward in the right direction. Mr. Ciresi stated that this is a really difficult time for not only the Spring-Ford Community but for all districts throughout the country. Mr. Ciresi said as we have seen across the board, school districts are being hit hard by the downturn in the economy, the increase in healthcare, the increase in PSERS (teacher's retirement contribution), and the reassessments to the district. Mr. Ciresi commented that for the public the Board wants all of you to know that they are committed to the education of every student in the district and to being as fiscally responsible as they possibly can be.

Mr. Pettit commented that the vote taken by the Teacher's Union was not unanimous as the count was 330 to 70 not to reopen the contract.

N. Transfers

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items N1-3 and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Dr. Hurda congratulated Mrs. Carboy and said that Teresa has been the Assistant Principal at the 5/6 Grade Center for a number of years and has performed admirably. Dr. Hurda reported that Mrs. Carboy will now be assuming the Principalship at Royersford Elementary School. Dr. Hurda stated that Teresa has huge shoes to fill with the retirement of Dave Willauer but is confident that she is ready, willing and able to assume that responsibility. Dr. Hurda said she is very happy to announce this appointment.

Dr. Hurda reported that Kathie Kotch who is already the Principal at Spring City Elementary School will be sliding over to the 5/6 Grade Center and replacing Teresa Carboy. Dr. Hurda said she is excited about the opportunity for Kathie to get a great teaching/learning experience at the 5/6 building which is very different from the environment she is currently in at Spring City Elementary. Dr. Hurda stated that she knows Mr. Smith is looking forward to having the opportunity to work with Kathie.

Dr. Hurda commented that Dr. Leslie Morrill who is currently the Supervisor of Staff Development will be assuming the role of Principal at Spring City Elementary/Supervisor of Staff Development and Special Projects. Dr. Hurda stated that Dr. Morrill comes to us with over 15 years experience as an elementary school principal and she has very graciously offered to continue with a large number of her duties and serve as the Principal as well.

Dr. Hurda said she believes we have three very, very competent people who will be moving our district forward with the start of the new school year. She congratulated all three administrators.

Mr. Ciresi asked if this would be a savings to the school district and Dr. Hurda replied yes it is a reduction of one administrative position which is the equivalent of about \$150,000. Dr. Hurda clarified that when she said \$150,000 it included salary and benefits.

The motion passed 9-0.

1. **Teresa Carboy**, Assistant Principal, Intermediate School – 5/6 Grade, to Principal, Royersford Elementary School, effective July 1, 2010.
2. **Kathleen Kotch**, Principal, Spring City Elementary School, to Assistant Principal, Intermediate School – 5/6 Grade, effective July 1, 2010.
3. **Dr. Leslie Morrill**, Supervisor of Staff Development, District Office, to Principal/Supervisor of Staff Development and Special Projects, Spring City Elementary School, effective July 1, 2010.

VI. FINANCE

*DENOTES NEW PAYMENTS SINCE THE WORK SESSION

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. **SENIOR HIGH- ALTERATION & ADDITIONS**

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| ABJ Sprinkler Co. Inc. | Applic. #4- Fire Protection | \$ 38,583.00 |
| APEX Plumbing Inc. | Applic. #8- Plumbing | \$ 66,312.00 |
| APEX Plumbing Inc. | Applic. #9- Plumbing | \$ 86,742.25 |
| Box King Products | Moving Boxes (240) | \$ 789.60 |
| Colonial Electric Supply | Misc. Supplies | \$ 2,754.00 |
| John DiBattista | Build Temporary Café Wall | \$ 4,150.00 |
| Earth Engineering Inc. | Professional Services | \$ 836.25 |
| EI Associates | Professional Services | \$ 517.60 |
| E R Stuebner Inc. | Applic. #10- General | \$1,150,515.80 |
| Ferguson | Misc. Plumbing Supplies | \$ 53.67 |
| Goshen Mechanical | Applic. #11- HVAC Contractor | \$ 265,788.90 |
| Hilti | Misc. Supplies/Tools | \$ 502.20 |
| J&L Building Materials | Spray Foam - Wall | \$ 107.12 |
| Limerick Township | Professional Services | \$ 314.16 |
| MBR Construction Serv. | Applic. #10- Electric Contractor | \$ 167,877.00 |
| MBR Construction Serv. | Applic. #11- Electric Contractor | \$ 172,094.00 |
| Peter Lumber Company | Misc. Supplies-Temp Café Wall | \$ 3,315.94 |
| Rental World | Refrig Truck/2 Scissors Rental | \$ 892.00 |
| Trevdan Building Supply | 20 pc Steel Track-Café Wall | \$ 118.44 |
| *Berkshire Systems Inc. | Supply/Install 2 Plenum/Telecor System | \$ 4,978.00 |

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| *Penske Truck Leasing | Rental - Refrigerated Trucks | \$ | 695.95 |
| *Peter Lumber Company | Misc. Supplies | \$ | 28.00 |
| *Shaner Propane | Temporary Heat | \$ | 362.50 |
| | TOTAL | | <u>\$1,968,328.38</u> |

2. **9th GRADE CENTER PARKING LOT**

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----|-----------------|
| Bursich Associates, Inc. | Professional Services | \$ | 1,260.00 |
| *D. Malloy Paving | Patch into New Curbs | \$ | 4,326.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | <u>5,586.00</u> |

3. **10TH AVENUE BY-PASS**

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----|---------------|
| Fox Rothschild LLC | Professional Services | \$ | 972.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | <u>972.00</u> |

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

1. **OAKS WALK IN REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER**

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------|
| Penske Truck Leasing | Refrigerated Truck Rental | \$ | 302.41 |
| *Culinary Depot | Balance-Remove Old Equip | \$ | 2,518.00 |
| | Furnish & Install New Refrig/Freezer | | |
| | TOTAL | \$ | <u>2,820.41</u> |

C. 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.

D. Checks:

1. **Weekly Checks prior to Work Session**

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| <u>March</u> | | |
| Check No. 135622 – 135782 | | \$1,910,141.05 |
| <u>April</u> | | |
| Check No. 135783 – 135932 | | \$ 724,181.69 |

2. **Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting**

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| Check No. 135933 – 135982 | | \$ 850,571.11 |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|

3. **Board Checks held for approval**

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| Check No. 135983 – 136120 | | \$ 154,389.67 |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|

4. **Athletic Fund**

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|
| <u>March</u> | | |
| Check No. 302321 – 302368 | | \$ 11,159.28 |

E. The Board approved the following bid awards for Custodial Supplies & Equipment, District-wide, for the 2010-2011 school year. Bids were due March 4, 2010. The bid awards are as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|-----------|
| Beltex Co., Inc. | \$ | 697.50 |
| Central Poly Corp. | \$ | 22,942.88 |

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| Franklin Chemical & Equip. Co. | \$ 12,992.74 |
| Hillyard – Delaware Valley | \$119,883.00 |
| Indco Inc. | \$ 11,144.25 |
| Interboro Packaging Corp. | \$ 169.00 |
| Pyramid | \$ 13,466.45 |
| Singer Equipment Co. Inc. | \$ 39,084.27 |
| Zimmerman Sanitary Supply Inc. | <u>\$103,206.50</u> |
| TOTAL | \$323,586.59 |

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items F-H and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- F. The Board approved changing from a fully insured medical & hospitalization program with Independence Blue Cross (IBC) to a self-funded program with Independence Blue Cross effective July 1, 2010. This move to a self-funded insurance program is estimated to reduce health care costs by approximately \$738,158.00 during the 2010-2011 school year. Since all the district employees will still be utilizing the Independence Blue Cross network, the move to a self-funded program is transparent and will not impact employee benefits.
- G. The Board approved changing from a fully insured vision benefits program with Independence Blue Cross to a self-funded program with Independence Blue Cross effective July 1, 2010.
- H. The Board approved appointing the Reschini Group as the benefits consultant for the Spring-Ford Area School District. The Reschini fee is \$1.25 per contract per month (PCPM) with annual costs estimated at \$14,190.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items I-M and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- I. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
 - 1. **Academic Entertainment Inc. – Shohomish, WA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Bully No More” at the 5/6 Grade Center in conjunction with the bully prevention program. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 5/6 Grade Center Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$995.00).
 - 2. **Arts Echo – Union City, NJ.** Provide two (2) interactive math assemblies entitled “Arithmetickles” at Brooke Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred ninety dollars (\$1,290.00).
 - 3. **Gretchen Lea – Boyertown, PA.** Provide six (6) assemblies on composting at Limerick Elementary School. There is no fee for these assemblies.

4. **Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists, Inc. – Lawrence Kansas.** Provide an assembly entitled “Wild About Animals” at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Royersford Elementary Assembly Budget and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).
5. **Comcast Spectacor, L.P., - Philadelphia, PA.** Provide an assembly at Upper Providence Elementary School in conjunction with teamwork. There is no fee for this assembly.
6. **John McGranaghan – Flourtown, PA.** Provide three (3) author presentations at Limerick Elementary School. There is no charge for these presentations.
7. **Betsy Dru Tecco – Collegeville, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Get Up & Go” in conjunction with the Healthy Choices Initiative at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
8. **Todd Kupper – Huntingdon Valley, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Magic of Nutrition” at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
9. **Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists – Lawrence, Kansas.** Provide an assembly at Oaks Elementary School in conjunction with teamwork featuring gymnastics, juggling and balancing acts. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed eight hundred ninety dollars (\$890.00).
10. **Puppet Pizzazz – Richboro, PA.** Provide an assembly at Spring City Elementary School in conjunction with the Healthy Choices Initiative. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00).
11. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “The Magic of 5-A-Day” at Royersford Elementary School in conjunction with the Healthy Choices Initiative. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$995.00).
12. **Slim Goodbody – Lincolnville Center, ME.** Provide an assembly entitled “Lighten Up” at Oaks Elementary School in conjunction with the Healthy Choices Initiative. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00).
13. **Teaching Learning Succeeding, Inc. – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide consultation, planning, support and training in the development of common assessments throughout the 2010-2011 school year for the staff at Spring-Ford High School. Services will be provided for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) days (2-3 sessions per day) at a rate of eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00) per day plus mileage. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 IDEA,

Part B, ARRA Stimulus Funds and shall not exceed twelve thousand three hundred seventy-five dollars (\$12,375.00).

14. **Claire Choutka – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis observation and consultation in the school setting for a special needs student as per the IEP. Service will be provided for six (6) hours at a rate of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).
15. **Woods Services – Langhorne, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Educational Programming will be provided from 7/7/10 – 8/20/10 at a cost of four thousand four hundred sixty-four dollars (\$4,464.00). Residential Programming will be provided from 7/1/10 – 8/31/10 at a cost of eleven thousand six hundred fifty-six dollars (\$11,656.00). Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed sixteen thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$16,120.00).
16. **Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year vocational training for three (3) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for eight (8) weeks at a rate of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) per student. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00).
17. **St. Edmond’s Home – Rosemont, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for eight (8) weeks at a rate of five hundred thirty-one dollars and twenty-five cents (\$531.25) per week. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed four thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$4,250.00).
18. **Bon Homie Daily Living Center – Limerick, PA.** Provide transition services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for forty-four (44) days at a rate of fifty-seven dollars (\$57.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 IDEA, Part B, ARRA Stimulus Funds and shall not exceed two thousand five hundred eight dollars (\$2,508.00).
19. **The Vanguard School – Paoli, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-nine (29) days at a rate of two hundred thirty-two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$232.25) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed six thousand seven hundred thirty-five dollars and twenty-five cents (\$6,735.25).
20. **Variety Club Camp and Development Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for three (3) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a cost of eleven thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$11,250.00). In addition, Variety Club

will provide eighteen (18) sessions of occupational therapy, twenty-four (24) sessions of speech therapy, and six (6) sessions of physical therapy at a cost of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per session for a total of four thousand three hundred twenty dollars (\$4,320.00). Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed fifteen thousand five hundred seventy dollars (\$15,570.00).

21. **Spring Valley Branch of the YMCA – Limerick, PA.** Provide a five (5) week Extended School Year Camp Program for a special needs student as per their IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed eight hundred twenty-five dollars (825.00).
22. **Variety Club Camp and Development Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a cost of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00). In addition, Variety Club will provide six (6) sessions of occupational therapy and six (6) sessions of speech therapy at a cost of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per session for a total of one thousand eighty dollars (\$1,080.00). Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred thirty dollars (\$4,830.00).
23. **Martin Luther School – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-nine (29) days. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00)

New Independent Contracts:

24. **Kerri Houser – Aldan, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for thirty-nine (39) hours at a rate of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed two thousand one hundred forty-five dollars (\$2,145.00).
25. **Susan Parsons – Wallingford, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for one hundred forty-six (146) hours at a rate of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed eight thousand thirty dollars (\$8,030.00).

New Finance:

- J. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
General Fund
 - Money Market – March 2010
 - PSDLAF – March 2010
 - PSDMAX – March 2010
 - Checking Account – March 2010

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Shafer seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert commented that with Items B & D there is no option regarding portable units and that was something discussed at last week's meeting and would possibly be a more efficient way to use them and save money all at the same time.

The motion passed 6-3 with Mr. DiBello, Mr. Dehnert and Ms. Gudolonis voting no.

- B. The Board approved of SMART Boards to equip the Senior High School Addition. SMART Boards will be purchased under Costars-3 Information Technology Hardware Contract from Visual Sound, Inc. of Broomall with a low quote of \$1,046 per board. The total cost of equipping eighteen (18) SMART Board rooms at \$1,046 per room is \$18,828. Funding will come from the Senior High Construction Fund.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Ms. Gudolonis voting no.

- C. The Board approved the purchase of video projectors and miscellaneous installation materials to equip the pre-existing area of the Senior High School. Projectors will be purchased under the Costars-3 Information Technology Hardware Contract from Troxell Communications, Inc. of Springfield with a low quote of \$577 per projector. The total cost of equipping sixty-three (63) Projector rooms at \$989 per room is \$62,307. Funding will come from the Senior High Construction Fund.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item D and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 6-3 with Mr. Dehnert, Mr. DiBello and Ms. Gudolonis voting no.

- D. The Board approved the purchase of SMART Boards to equip the pre-existing area of the Senior High School. SMART Boards will be purchased under Costars-3 Information Technology Hardware Contract from Visual Sound, Inc. of Broomall with a low quote of \$1,046 per board. The total cost of equipping six (6) SMART Board rooms at \$1,046 per room is \$6,276. Funding will come from the Senior High Construction Fund.

Option 1: (Items E & F)

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items E-F and Mrs. Williams seconded it.

Mr. DiBello questioned the multiple options and if we were going with the option to replace all recommended computers. Mr. Ciresi responded that we will go through all the options so if this option gets voted down then we will move onto the next option which would be to extend the lease on the computers for one more year and replace some of the computers.

Mr. Dehnert asked when we get bids between the two options for leasing do we just accept that or do we try to negotiate it because in today's economic climate the computers we are sending back would be worth a lot less than you would typically expect at the end of a normal lease when the economic times are better and there is more of a market for them. Mr. Dehnert stated that he would expect to see a lower lease value because the market does drive what the lease would be. Mr. Spohn

responded that this is what he was told the value was from the leasing company. Mr. Spohn added that depending on the type of lease you get, and we have fair market value leases, the cost of the lease over the years that the lease is in effect is a little less than if you were to have a dollar buy out value lease. Mr. Spohn stated if we keep the computers one more year whether it be the laptops on a three year lease or the desktops on a four year lease then they are losing some of that residual value. Mr. Dehnert said this is not the sole determinate in the market place as it is what they can do with those computers in the market place after we turn them back in and in particular the ones with CRTs are going to have a very low value at this point. Mr. Dehnert stated that the answer to the question is that we are going to accept whatever they propose and Mr. Spohn replied that he has no bargaining position with them.

Mrs. Williams asked for clarification on the motion saying that it is very complicated to read and absorb due to all the numbers. Mrs. Williams asked if the Board could talk about the total cost of Item E and whether the total amount was \$1,096,114 divided over a four year period for an approximate value this year of \$274,625 all coming from the Technology Budget. Mr. Ciresi confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Dehnert stated that when he looked at the motions he put all the numbers together and compared the total amount of Option 1 with that of Option 2 and if he calculated them correctly it appears that it is \$112,000 less to the 2010-2011 budget if we go through and extend the leases for another year versus going out and getting new leases. Mr. Dehnert concluded that the way information is presented on the agenda makes it very difficult for the Board Members to make a determination as to what the cost is for what is proposed and not knowing what the alternatives are unless they ask questions. Mr. Dehnert said he would like to see the district move toward a standard template that can be used for any large expenditures to justify why we are going to spend that amount of money including comparing the alternatives and what could happen if we do not.

Mr. Anspach reported that in doing his calculation he came up with a different number but he also included the service component into his figures and when comparing one option to the other the difference was \$127,441. Mr. Dehnert stated that he did miss the service component when he did his calculations and this further illustrates the need for a complete picture with all the numbers added up.

Mr. Shafer asked if any consideration was given to the district being at risk if the machines were to fail because the district would be responsible for their repair since they would be out of warranty. Mr. Shafer stated that there needs to be a percentage factored in just in case this were to happen.

Mr. DiBello commented that if we extend the lease another year he believed there would still be a warranty on them. Mr. Dehnert stated that there is a three year warranty on the computers which is not related to the leasing at all so even with a four year lease we would still run into this situation. Mr. DiBello asked what the total cost of the replacement value is on a computer and Mr. Spohn replied if we were not to turn back in a laptop because it failed the amount in the past has been in the neighborhood of \$350-\$400 and for a desktop the amount would be somewhat lower. Mr. DiBello asked what the cost would be to buy a computer outright as opposed to leasing it for four years. Mr. Spohn replied that purchasing a laptop would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000 and the desktop would be about \$730. Mr. Spohn said the cost for leasing

would be a little more than 25% of the value of the computer each year so that by the end of the lease you have paid slightly more than the value of the computer. Mr. DiBello asked if the warranty was different if we buy them outright and Mr. Spohn replied no. Mr. Spohn reported that there were virtually no computers in the district when the Board decided to go to leasing and the thinking at the time was that they could get roughly three times the amount of equipment in the first year of the three year lease than they could if they purchased the computers outright because you were only paying 1/3 of the three year cost. Mr. Spohn commented that over time we have increased the number of computers in the district and have continued to lease and the effect has been a positive one in that it keeps the budget level from year to year. Mr. Spohn stated that when you purchase computers you do not have the same commitment as when you lease them so you have the tendency to have the budget go up and down. Mr. Spohn said if you defer the purchase to another year and you do this too often then you will get into a position where you will be forced to replace a large number of computers at one time and therefore spike the budget.

Mrs. Williams said there was concern over what would happen at the end of the two, three or four year periods with regards to how we would get rid of the computers we had because at that time there really was not a safe way to do it and it was very expensive. Mrs. Williams further reported that the Board at that time felt that with a rolling lease they would be able to get more modern equipment in the classroom faster for the students. Mrs. Williams stated that leasing provided a stable number in the budget that was a placeholder, easily absorbable and really drove the district's ability to be so technologically advanced.

Mr. DiBello stated that he felt they were confusing two things, one being the discipline of the Board and the other being the financials of lease versus purchase. Mr. DiBello commented that what it really comes down to is economically what is the difference between a lease versus a purchase and it does not sound like there is a big difference between the two at this point in time unless we can negotiate a better price on buying computers outright.

Mr. Ciresi asked if we had reached a saturation point where we are not buying anymore. Mr. Ciresi stated that he understands and respects past practices but there comes a point where you say let's look at the other options because we do not need the old option any longer and would it be more beneficial to buy computers rather than lease them.

Mr. Dressler questioned whether Mr. Ciresi was suggesting a third option that was not on the table and maybe the Board needs to reconsider the whole agenda with regards to the technology issue.

Mr. Ciresi responded that he is only asking if we are to extend the life of the computers for another year by voting down the motion that is on the floor then we go back to the drawing board and look to the future if we are going to buy them. Mr. Ciresi referenced Mr. Spohn's comment regarding the ups and downs in the budget and said we had this discussion when it came to facility maintenance with Mr. Cooper and the result was to put together a plan over the years so that we know how much we need to budget throughout the years to keep that even so it would be the same for technology.

Mr. Shafer asked how buying and leasing can be considered the same as from a cash perspective it is not. Mr. Shafer stated that the district is dealing with some very harsh realities and these will continue for the foreseeable future so at some point we would have to take quite a hit on purchasing computers because we would lose the ability to drag the payments out over a certain number of years. Mr. Shafer said that he believes that the administration's recommendation to continue to lease relieves some of the budgetary restraint. Mr. Shafer stated that if we change our philosophy and go into purchasing then we have to at some point come up with that lump sum to buy those computers in that particular year versus agreeing to drag the payments out over a three year period. Mr. Shafer said for these reasons he cannot accept that buying and leasing can be looked at as the same thing unless the district is looking at financing the computers.

Mr. Ciresi stated that for clarification neither motion talks about buying versus leasing it is just that the second option talks about extending the lease for one more year and then we can go back to leasing from there if we choose to.

Mr. Dehnert commented that next year we will have to decide what to do with this group of computers whether it be to replace them, extend it for another year or something else. Mr. Dehnert stated that whatever we do next year has nothing to do with the decision for this year whether we do the same thing or whether we replace them all by buying or leasing. He further commented that the bottom line is that we save \$127,000 this year doing this and next year we will still have to do something whether it is exactly the same thing and the possibility exists that next year the price of computers will be lower and the lease will be less. Mr. Dehnert commented that we do not know what the future is but we will save this amount of money this year if we do this.

Mr. DiBello asked for confirmation that this was the last of the computers with three year leases and the computers coming up next year are those with four year leases. Mr. Spohn replied that all of the laptops and desktops from here on are four year leases. Mr. DiBello asked if Mr. Spohn knew off the top of his head how many computers were coming up to be replaced next year and Mr. Spohn replied no but that it was roughly divided into one-third. Mr. DiBello stated that next year the Board would have to vote to either get new computers or extend them into a fifth year and Mr. Spohn replied yes.

The motion passed 5-4 with Mr. Dehnert, Mr. Dressler, Ms. Gudolonis and Mr. Shafer voting no.

E. The Board approved of a lease with ePlus Technology for desktop and laptop computers to replace those due to be refreshed during the summer of 2010. The lease will include approximately: 906 HP minitowers (Intel Core i3-530 processor, 4 GB RAM, 160 GB hard drive, DVD+/-RW, 19" flat panel monitor), 314 HP 6540b laptops for staff and two wireless labs (62 laptops) for students (Intel Core i5-520M processor, 4 GB RAM, 160 GB hard drive, DVD+/-RW, 802.11a/b/g/n wireless), 32 iMac computers (Intel Core 2 Duo 3.06 GHz processor, 4 GB RAM, 500 GB hard drive) for the new graphics lab in the high school addition, and related support equipment such as port replicators, software, and integration equipment. The new desktop computers in large part refresh computers in five elementary schools. The total equipment value of approximately \$1,096,114 will

be divided into four annual lease payments from the 1108-448 account of approximately \$274,625. The prices quoted represent significant, voluntary price reductions below the Costars-3 Information Technology Hardware Contract by the HP Computer Corporation. The Mac equipment represents a voluntary reduction by Apple below the PEPPM (Pennsylvania Education Purchasing Program for Microcomputers) contract. For an additional approximate \$18,000, ePlus Technology will image the incoming laptops, physically deploy the desktop computers and remove/pack the existing desktop and laptop computers returning for refresh. Funding comes from the 2010-2011 Technology Budget.

- F. The Board approved committing approximately \$19,000 to fund the summer of 2010 refresh of desktops and laptops and other summer technology projects for our Support Technicians. Funding will be split between the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 Technology Budget.

Option 2: (Items G, H, I)

There was no need to Vote on Items G-I of Option 2 since Option 1 was approved.

- G. Administration recommends the approval of a lease with ePlus Technology for desktop computers to equip the Senior High School Addition. The lease will include approximately: 117 HP minitowers (Intel Core i3-530 processor, 4 GB RAM, 160 GB hard drive, DVD+/-RW, 19" flat panel monitor), and 32 iMac computers (Intel Core 2 Duo 3.06 GHz processor, 4 GB RAM, 500 GB hard drive) for the new graphics lab. The total equipment value of approximately \$125,869 will be divided into four annual lease payments from the 1108-448 account of approximately \$31,498. The prices quoted represent significant, voluntary price reductions below the Costars-3 Information Technology Hardware Contract by the HP Computer Corporation. The Mac equipment represents a voluntary reduction by Apple below the PEPPM (Pennsylvania Education Purchasing Program for Microcomputers) contract. For an additional approximate \$4,000 ePlus Technology will unpack and deploy. Funding comes from the 2010-2011 Technology Budget.
- H. Administration recommends the commitment of approximately \$3,800 to fund the summer of 2010 installation and setup of desktop computers for our Support Technicians. Funding will be from 2010-2011 Technology Budget.
- I. Administration recommends approval of an agreement with ePlus Technology, lessor of the existing desktop and laptop computers due to expire June 30, to extend the lease for one additional year through June 30, 2011 at an approximate cost of \$144,886. Funding will be from the 2010-2011 Technology Budget.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Item J and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- J. The Board approved the 2010-2011 student-funded exchange program with the Coláiste Chiaráin High School in Limerick, Ireland. This exchange would provide a 2-3 week opportunity between students at Spring-Ford High School and students at Coláiste Chiaráin High School. Dates to be determined (Thanksgiving/Spring Vacation).

VIII. PSBA REPORT/MCIU REPORTS Tom DiBello

Mr. DiBello reported that he gave the MCIU report at the previous meeting. The PSBA meeting was held at the beginning of April and was an interesting meeting. Mr. Joe Torcella who is the Chairman for the Pennsylvania Department of Education attended the meeting and talked about the Department of Education's goals and objectives for the upcoming year. Mr. DiBello relayed that there were three main goals which were teacher quality, Keystone Exams, and the health, wellness and safety of the children. Mr. DiBello reported that Mr. Torcella mainly spoke about the Keystone Exams and the health, wellness and safety of the children but did not get into a lot of detail regarding teacher quality. The Keystone Exam is something the state is pushing for that will require students to take and pass prior to graduating high school. Mr. DiBello stated that the discussion also pertained to the obesity problem facing not only Pennsylvania but also many of the states in the country. Mr. DiBello commented that once the floor was opened up for questions the meeting really proved to be interesting as all of the Board Members representing various school districts were concerned with several facets of their objectives such as the unfunded or underfunded mandates that are pushed down from the state. Mr. DiBello said when questioned about some of the programs put forward by the state Mr. Torcella's response was that school boards are allowed to raise taxes to pay for the programs. Mr. DiBello stated that following that response "all heck" broke loose from there. Mr. DiBello reported that this pretty much set the tone for the rest of the meeting and needless to say everyone started jumping on the band wagon about the state not being able to continue to push everything down to the school districts and expect them to continue to go to taxpayers to pay for it. Mr. DiBello reported that they also discussed the Keystone Exams and just like the PSSA's the schools may have several students who do not do well and then you end up on this whole program of working with the state on how to make the school better and make the students more proficient. Mr. DiBello commented that Mr. Torcella neglected to talk about the one important aspect of this which is the teachers. Mr. DiBello stated that this brought the conversation back to the teacher quality aspect which Mr. Torcella really did not want to talk about because then the discussion turned towards tenure and everything else. Mr. DiBello stated that everyone in the room was questioning if the state intends on having the Keystone Exams and pushing them down onto the school districts and then you have districts not performing at the desired levels then how are you going to hold the teacher's accountable for this and not necessarily the districts. Mr. Torcella did not have an answer for this. Mr. DiBello reported that the conversation went on for awhile and it got a little bit heated so the meeting ended quickly.

Mr. Ciresi reported that there will be a hearing this Wednesday in the 9th Grade Center Auditorium regarding special education. The hearing will be with State Representative Tom Quigley as well as others to discuss the costs of the mandated areas in special education. Mr. Ciresi commented on the meeting Mr. DiBello reported on saying he also attended along with Ms. Gudolonis and overwhelmingly the school boards represented felt that their hands were tied in so many areas and the state is not willing to hear us or work with us. Mr. Ciresi stated that we are told to let our state representatives know and it is a pass the buck feeling. Mr. Ciresi clarified that the state forces school boards into an us versus them when it comes to the educators and this is not the way it should be. Mr. Ciresi said no matter how many representatives we have spoke to or how many "officials" we discuss this with, we get the same runaround. Mr. Ciresi reported that when questioned about the Keystone Exams Mr.

Torcella said he did not want to talk about it as it was a done deal. Mr. Ciresi commented that he does not recall the Keystone Exams ever being talked about. Mr. Ciresi stated to the public that there are a lot of things pushed down to school boards and the state really does not want to hear us complain about it so we do get frustrated and the meeting did get a little bit hot at times.

Mr. DiBello stated that the other suggestion was that if we do not agree with them then we can always do a resolution because they are very beneficial in Harrisburg. Mr. Ciresi added that they were told that the state does hear our complaints.

Mr. Ciresi reported that they were also told by a representative in Allentown during a separate meeting that he, Ms. Gudolonis, Mr. Anspach and Mr. Dehnert attended that with regards to PSERS they should educate the public on what it means and he was very offended by this and made it clear that our public if very well educated on this subject. Mr. Ciresi stated that maybe they should educate our representatives in Harrisburg to how this affects every member sitting in the room who is a resident of the State of Pennsylvania and how it is a hardship for us because it appears that the boards across the state are saying teachers versus boards of education and it is not that as it is a hardship that was passed down to us and a problem that our representatives refuse to find a solution to. Mr. Ciresi stated that this is killing districts across the state everyday as we read in the newspaper and again it makes it appear that it is the boards of education versus teachers which is a horrible thing to put either side on. Mr. Ciresi commented that he just wanted to make it clear that we have done as much as we can to educate our public. He would love to see a state movement of school boards go to Harrisburg and let our representative understand that they need to be educated on this subject. Mr. Ciresi concluded by saying the public may hear more about this in the coming weeks with regards to mounting a protest in Harrisburg with districts from across the state and the public would be invited to come along with them to say now it is time for the state to take the ball and fix the funding of education. Mr. Ciresi said the lack of funding is not fair to anyone whether you have kids in the district or not. Mr. Ciresi reported that the Board received a letter from the Speaker of the House stating he was totally in favor of the current PSERS Plan and he supports it. Mr. Ciresi stated that he was taken back by this comment seeing how the district is going to be strapped in 2012-2013 with the increase being 30%. Mr. Ciresi said it was very clear at the two meetings that boards and communities are very upset by this and there needs to be a change.

Mr. DiBello reported that when Mr. Torcella came into the meeting he came in expecting that everyone would be happy to see him and he was quickly surprised to find that the 15 districts represented in the room were very frustrated with where things were at and very concerned about what the future looks like. Mr. DiBello stated that the common theme that came out of the meeting was that the local boards/school districts cannot keep going back to the local taxpayers to generate this revenue.

IX. PROPERTY

Ms. Gudolonis asked that Items C-F be separated so that they could be discussed. Mr. Pettit made a motion for Items A-B and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved obtaining an engineer to develop specifications and go out to bid for an upgrade of the Automatic Temperature Control System (ATCS) at Oaks

Elementary School. The ATCS now contains two systems that currently need to be replaced. The cost for both the engineering and the upgrades to the ATC will be approximately \$124,000.00. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account.

- B. The Board approved purchasing the lights and accessories for Phase I of the 9th Grade Center parking lot. Funding will come from the High School Construction Project and shall not exceed \$9,000.00.

NEW PROPERTY

Mrs. Mullin made a motion for Items C-F and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Ms. Gudolonis expressed concern over how the choice was made to go with these vendors and whether other vendors looked at and Mr. Cooper explained that when these items were originally bid they were done as per year figure with the option of an extension for three years. Mr. Cooper responded that rather than lock in for a three year contract, the reason for a short term contract with the possibility of an extension is that in case the contractor is not any good we would have the right to get rid of them and on the other end if we were to do the bid for one year at a time without the possibility of an extension then the contractor would not have any incentive to give us good service in that final month. Mr. Cooper said that if a contractor knows we will extend their service if they perform well then we have better assurance of receiving good service. Mr. Cooper further stated that the prices we are receiving for these services are very good. Dr. Hurda added that when the motions were passed last year for these services they were passed with the ability to extend the contracts and Mr. Cooper confirmed this was correct.

The motions passed 9-0.

- C. The Board approved accepting the option for the extension of the **Turf Maintenance Mowing and Trimming Bid** with Coventry Property Services, Inc. for the mowing season of 2010 in the amount of \$822.50 per mowing of all the elementary schools within the school district with the exception of Upper Providence Elementary School, which is done in-house. The bid was awarded in March 2008 with the option to extend for 2 additional years. Administration recommends extending the bid for 2010. Funding will come from the 2010-2011 General Fund - Maintenance Budget.
- D. The Board approved accepting the option for the extension of the **Trash and Recycle Bid** with Waste Management of PA, Inc. for the 2010-11 school year in the amount of \$49,518.00 which represents a 4% increase over last year's amount. The bid was awarded effective July 1, 2009 with the option to extend for 2 additional years. Administration recommends extending the bid for the 2010-11 school year. Funding will come from the 2010-2011 General Fund - Maintenance Budget.
- E. The Board approved a service contract for **Field Maintenance** with Moyer & Son for the fertilization, weed control, grub control and insect control for the district wide fields. If approved, application would take place on May 15 and 16, 2010 and will follow Integrated Pest Management guidelines. Cost for the field service application will be \$8,816.00. Funding will come from the 2009-2010 General Fund Maintenance Budget

- F. The Board approved awarding the **Filter Bids** as follows:
 Quality Air Specialists \$ 7,985.72 for Custom Filters
 DFC Industries \$19,167.72 for Stock Filters
 Funding will come from the 2009-10 General Fund – Maintenance Budget.

X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Items A-I and Mrs. Mullin 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. **Mark Dehnert, Edward Dressler, Clara Gudolonis**, Board Members, and **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend “*MCIU Legislative Breakfast*” at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA on Friday, April 30, 2010. The total cost of this Legislative Breakfast is \$112.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- B. **Carol Frankel**, Supervisor of Special Education, to attend “*Competent Learner Model Training Day*” at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. The total cost of this training is \$85.00 from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Katie Davis**, Teacher, to attend “*Co-Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom: Practical Strategies for Success*” at the Best Western in Allentown, PA on April 27, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$423.27 - \$273.37 from the 2009-2010 IDEA, Part B, ARRA Stimulus Funds and \$150.00 from the substitute account.
- D. **Paula Love**, Teacher, to attend “*Advanced Placement Institute: AP Spanish Language*” at Penn State Great Valley from July 26, 2010 through July 29, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$790.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- E. **Lisa Pupo**, Teacher, to attend “*Dual Credit Partners Conference*” at Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA on May 5, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$175.00 - \$25.00 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- F. **Joan Staples**, Speech Pathologist, to attend “*Meeting the Communication Challenges of Learners with Autism*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on April 30, 2010. The total cost of this conference is \$175.00 - \$25.00 from the 2009-2010 IDEA, Part B, ARRA Stimulus Funds and \$150.00 from the substitute account.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- G. **Marilyn Nepps and Carol Vogt**, Reading Specialists, to attend *“Response to Instruction & Intervention in PA: An “All-Ed,” Standards Aligned Initiative”* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA on June 14 – June 15, 2010. This conference is fully paid for by PDE. The district is only responsible for employee travel expenses. The total cost for this conference is \$168.50 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

New Conferences/Workshops:

- H. **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend *“S.A.S. – A Tool to Redesign High Schools for the 21st Century”* at the Penn State Conference Center in University Park, PA from May 2 through May 4, 2010. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.
- I. **Kris Jennings**, Director of Bands, to attend *“The 2010 PMEA State Conference”* in Pittsburgh, PA from April 21 through April 23, 2010. Ms. Jennings will be accompanying a student who has been selected as a member of the All State Wind Ensemble. There is no cost to the district for this conference other than \$450.00 from the substitute account.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

There were not questions or comments.

- A. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:
 - 1. Policy #707 – PROPERTY: Use of School Facilities
 - 2. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers

XII. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

No Report

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Tia Carson, Oaks, questioned Items A and C under Programming and Curriculum with regards to the different amounts for these two items. Mr. Spohn replied that the cost of \$577 per projector is the same but the reason for the difference in cost per room is due to Item A being for the new addition whereas Item B is for the pre-existing classrooms. Ms. Carson stated that she had sent an email out to the Board and she apologized if she had missed anyone. Ms. Carson stated that her email was regarding a system that she and her husband found for creating SmartBoards using a Wii remote for \$50 and all it takes is a projector. Ms. Carson reported that she had sent a link with her email so the Board could actually see the system. Ms. Carson wondered if this type of system had been considered which would have been a significantly lower cost. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Spohn if any other options has been looked at and Mr. Spohn responded that as with many things we attempt to standardize since it saves on personnel issues with repairs, installation and operationally for teachers to learn how to use the equipment. Mr. Spohn stated that the SmartBoard has been a standard for the district. Ms. Carson said she suggested it because it was such huge difference in pricing and both she and her husband would have volunteered their time to show teachers how to use it. Dr. Hurda reported that she did receive Ms. Carson’s email on Saturday or Sunday and she would be happy to pass it along to the entire Board and Mr. Spohn to view. Dr. Hurda thanked Ms. Carson for her gracious offer.

Scott Smiley, President of the Spring-Ford Youth Athletic League, reported that the organization has approximately 800 boys and girls in baseball and softball, 1500 in basketball, 400 in football and cheerleading, and around 100 in wrestling. Mr. Smiley stated that he lives in Royersford and is here to ask for permission to begin a driveway project on what is currently Spring City Borough property. Mr. Smiley said the driveway would go through a little portion of what is currently school district property. Mr. Smiley stated that several years ago he met with the Property Committee and they are currently trying to complete a lot line revision. Mr. Smiley said he has talked with Mr. Cooper and Mr. Anspach who are both on board with the project. Mr. Smiley said he had hoped to have the drawings for the lot line revision completed for tonight's meeting so that it could have been put on the agenda but they are not quite finished yet. Mr. Smiley stated that he hopes to have the drawings done in a week or so. Mr. Smiley asked for permission to begin the project so they do not have to wait another month for the project to be completed. Mr. Smiley said once the drawings are complete he will need signatures from the district, Spring City Borough and East Vincent officials. Mr. Smiley reported that they are asking that the school district give about 1/3 of an acre of property to Spring City Borough. Mr. Smiley explained that the driveway would have curbing on both sides in order to keep visitors from driving on property that would be theirs or the school districts. Spring-Ford Youth Athletic League would also be putting up a six foot fencing around the playground at Spring City Elementary for safety reasons and to keep balls from rolling down the hill.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Anspach and Mr. Cooper to comment on the understanding from the Property Committee meeting that one of the requirements was to have all approvals before coming before the Board. Mr. Smiley stated that as far as East Vincent Township is concerned they have PennDOT approval, the grading permit and could have started the project yesterday. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Anspach to comment since he has been involved with the process.

Mr. Anspach said that he and Mr. Cooper had asked the project engineer to come up with a Metes and Bounds Report. Mr. Cooper confirmed this and said that the district had also asked for a new deed so that our solicitor could review it. Mr. Anspach stated that it was clearly understood that Mr. Smiley would need to have all of the paperwork signed before the district could give permission for the project to move forward. Mr. Anspach stated that what is being asked is for the contractors to be able to come in and start work before the lot line is done and the deed is changed and the Board has made it very clear that this cannot happen.

Mr. Davis commented that this is the first that he has been made aware that the district is going to convey ground and there are a number of issues in the school code on when you can convey ground and when you cannot. Mr. Davis reported that in order to convey ground to a municipality you need a 2/3 vote and has to have a reverter in it meaning it has to revert back to you if it is no longer going to be used for municipal purposes. Mr. Davis said he would be very hesitant for the Board to act tonight until he has the opportunity to look at this, see the plan and discuss exactly what is happening.

Dr. Hurda commented that in conversations with Mr. Davis we were advised not to move forward at all until we had all of the permits in hand and then sent to him for his review. Mr. Davis confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Anspach pointed out for the public's knowledge that everyone is on board for this project including the School District, East Vincent Township, Spring City Borough and of course SFYAL and it is just a matter of the completion of the final paperwork in order to protect the district.

Mr. DiBello asked if all of the proper documentation was completed and if East Vincent Township issued a grading permit and whether Spring City Borough issued their permits as well and Mr. Smiley responded yes. Mr. DiBello asked if Mr. Davis had seen any of this paperwork as of yet and Mr. Davis replied no he had not seen anything and although he does not need to see a plan the Property Committee should see the plan in order to know what they are conveying. Mr. DiBello asked if Mr. Smiley had met with the Property Committee and the response was that this took place about 12 months – 18 months ago and at that point the district had said go ahead. Mr. Smiley stated that East Vincent Township has a letter saying the district gave approval to go ahead and start and just recently he received an email from Mr. Anspach saying that they must wait for all the paperwork to be complete before beginning their work. Mr. Anspach stated this was not true and it was made very clear from the beginning that complete paperwork was needed before work could begin.

Mr. DiBello asked if there was a letter saying we agree to allow SFYAL to do this work and Mr. Anspach replied we are asking that the Metes and Bounds be signed by the engineer and then we can give it to Marc Davis to review so we can move forward and get the deed changed. Changing the deed would then put total responsibility on the ownership of the property because if anything were to happen now prior to the deed being changed then the district's insurance would be responsible since it is our property. Mr. DiBello asked what was going to happen to the existing driveway and Mr. Smiley replied nothing will happen to the existing driveway. Mr. DiBello asked if the driveway was on our property and Mr. Smiley stated no it is borough property that is leased by SFYAL. Mr. Anspach made a correction saying that part of the driveway is on district property and Mr. Cooper confirmed yes that just the first part that is paved is on our property.

Mr. Smiley asked if approval could be given so that a district representative would have the authority to give permission to move forward with the project once the final paperwork is submitted rather than wait until May for it to come before the Board again. Mr. Anspach suggested that once Mr. Davis gives his approval on this then possibly permission could be given to SFYAL to move forward with their project. He asked if any of the Board had any reservations with this conditional approval.

Mrs. Williams asked if Spring City Elementary sits in East Vincent Township where is the 1/3 of an acre that SFYAL is looking for the district to turn over to them sit at because it can get a little murky on conterminous. Mrs. Williams said she would be uncomfortable with granting permission and a guarantee to SFYAL until Mr. Davis would work this out from the legal standpoint.

Mr. Smiley stated that the property is in East Vincent Township and the property that SFYAL leases is in Spring City Borough and is adjacent to the school district's property. Mr. Smiley stated that 1/3 of an acre sits off the back of the basketball backboard that is furthest away from Wall Street in the corner of the playground. Mr. Smiley said this area is currently what they use as a parking lot and they have cars there every night.

Mr. Anspach stated that we were very hopeful that this would have been on the March Board agenda and he is not sure why it is taking the engineer so long to process the paperwork. Mr. Smiley stated that makes two of us.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the Board wanted to move forward with some type of conditional motion tonight or wait until the May Work Session as an action item. Mr. Dressler stated that he would like to get Mr. Davis' opinion on this. Mr. Davis replied that as long as it is conditioned upon his approval and he would not sign off on it and will send it back to the Board if he has any hesitancy. Mr. Ciresi responded that we will make a motion here tonight and make it contingent upon Mr. Davis' decision on how to move forward.

Mr. Ciresi offered the following: "Administration recommends approval to give the Spring-Ford Youth Athletic League the ability to"

Mr. Davis added "convey the ground and sign the plans for the lot line change before the Board will offer to execute the appropriate deed, pending solicitor review and approval.

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve the above added item and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mr. DiBello confirmed that what is being said is that all the appropriate documentation will be a necessary part of the solicitor's approval and Mr. Ciresi confirmed this was correct. The motion passed 9-0.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, stated that a couple things discussed tonight really stood out to her. The first thing is with Mr. Shafer and Mr. Dehnert and the fiscal subject in relation to capital projects that a lot of times they are not aware of things until it comes to the table and at that point ask questions about it. Ms. Bryant referred to Mr. Dehnert's suggestion to have a template that is used especially for major capital projects saying it should serve as a litmus test that every "i" is dotted and every "t" is crossed. Ms. Bryant agreed that for every large scale capital project this should be done so that all the necessary information is there to draw from when questions are asked. This would avoid the response to certain line item questions being "I don't have that number/information in front of me right now". Ms. Bryant stated that she has attended many Board meetings over the past several years and the template idea is one of the smartest things she has heard and she urged the Board to move forward with this. Ms. Bryant said the other thing she wished to discuss is in regards to the computer leases and purchases and she noticed that we are using the same 3rd party vendor that we have for years. Ms. Bryant stated that they may be right up the street but with the price of technology out there right now she thinks it may be a tremendous economy of scale for the district to buy its computers when we are ready to do that rather than pay the 3rd party vendors. Ms. Bryant questioned the district paying the vendors to unpack boxes and hook up computers saying we should have district staff in-house who could handle this rather than spend \$18,000 for someone else to do this. Ms. Bryant stated we need to do things a little bit smarter and better economically savvy than we have in the past. Mr. Ciresi stated that he agrees we need to look anywhere we can to save money.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiBello recommended that the Board consider scheduling additional personnel type meetings in order to continue to dive deeper into the budget with regards to resourcing staffing and everything else associated with this. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board had hoped to get some agreement working with staff in the district but this did not go as well as they would have liked so we have to have additional meetings in order to look further at this.

Dr. Hurda reminded everyone that we must present a Proposed Final Budget on the 17th of May which is just 3 weeks from now so we have to make some hard decisions in a relatively short period of time.

Mrs. Williams asked if everyone could check their calendars for any availability. Ms. Gudolonis asked if the Board was looking at Executive Sessions or Personnel Committee meetings and Mr. DiBello replied Executive Sessions. After a brief discussion it was decided that this discussion could take place off the record so as not to hold up the meeting.

Mr. Dehnert commented that now that we are going to self-funded insurance we should look at having a committee to come up with plans to promote employee health. Mr. Dehnert stated that the Board also talked about the enrollment of Spring-Ford students at the Western Center and we should take a look and possibly have an Ad-Hoc Committee look at how we can promote and increase the enrollment going forward in order to take advantage of that state of the art facility. Mr. DiBello stated that we already have a Board for the Western Center which is made up of people from this Board. Mr. Dehnert said he is talking about an in-house plan to promote the Western Center from within Spring-Ford to students who are not suited for college and more suited for career opportunities taught at the Western Center. Mr. DiBello said that he agrees with Mr. Dehnert but don't we have a whole guidance staff that we already pay a hell of a lot of money to. Mrs. Mullin commented that this could be run through the Curriculum Committee who would work in conjunction with the Guidance Department. Dr. Hurda stated that the Board must be mindful that the Western Center is in the process of developing a marketing plan and anything they are ready to initiate we should certainly be part of the process. Mr. Ciresi stated that he wants to make it clear that the Board is committed to the education of our students and as we go through this process in the next two months we will look every single option possible so as not to impact students for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary