

On November 26, 2012 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello invited parents and students to explore opportunities for the future at the Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center's Open House on Wednesday, December 5th from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone who attends will be able to tour the building, visit with instructors and students, and learn about Western Center's programs. The Western Center is located at 77 Graterford Road in Limerick. For more information about the school, visit their website. Mr. DiBello reminded parents to check their children's individual building websites for news on activities and events taking place in their schools. Information is also available about district events on the main website. Mr. DiBello announced that the High School Football Team has advanced to the second round of the state championship. The team will play for the district championship on Friday night against Coatesville. Mr. DiBello invited everyone to attend the game and support the team. Mr. DiBello reported that this is the first time in Spring-Ford history for Quad A Football that we have made it into the District Championship and now we are actually into the second round of the State Championship.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments or questions from the public.

II. ACTION ITEM

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

- A. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-37** in recognition of Michael Siggins, Principal, and the faculty, staff, students and parents of the Spring-Ford 8th Grade Center in recognition of being named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Goodin invited Mr. Jones on behalf of the Golden Ram Marching Band to come up and be recognized for successfully placing first at the 2012 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship. Mr. Jones thanked the Board for inviting them here this evening and he thanked them for their support. Mr. Jones introduced members of his staff that were present. Mr. Jones presented the Board with a framed copy, that all of the band members signed, of the newly commissioned school fight song. The band played the new fight song entitled "Fight On Rams".

Mr. DiBello thanked Mr. Jones and the band and stated that earlier this year the board thought that it was time for us to have our own fight song so this is why we moved in this direction. Mr. DiBello commented that the Board is very proud of the song we got and love hearing it many times over this past season. Mr. DiBello thanked Mr. Jones and his staff for keeping a successful program in place.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-33** commending Seth R. Jones and the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band for successfully placing first at the 2012 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship in Hershey, PA on October 28, 2012.

Dr. Goodin introduced Mr. Jeff Mast head coach of the Boys' Golf Team. Mr. Mast thanked the Board for taking the time to recognize them tonight and thanked his assistant coaches. Mr. Mast introduced the members of the Golf Team. Mr. DiBello on behalf of the Board presented the team with a resolution in honor of their PAC 10 Championship.

- B. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-34** commending the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Golf Team and their coaches Jeff Mast, Gerry Hollingsworth and Dan Butterweck for winning the 2012 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Championship.

Dr. Goodin introduced the coaches of the Girls' Field Hockey Team. Ms. Moore thanked the Board for recognizing them here tonight and stated that this is the first time they have gone undefeated in a regular season. Although they did not end the way they wanted to but overall they had a very good season. Ms. Moore introduced the members of the Girls' Field Hockey Team. Mr. DiBello on behalf of the board presented the team with a resolution in honor of their PAC 10 Championship.

- C. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-35** commending the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Field Hockey Team and their coaches Jennie Moore, Mallory Greene and Samantha Alexander for winning the 2012 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Championship.

Dr. Goodin introduced Mr. Michael Siggins, 8th Grade Center Principal. Mr. Siggins thanked the School Board for taking the time to recognize the 8th Grade Center tonight. Mr. Siggins stated that attending the 2012 National Blue Ribbon School Ceremony down in Washington, DC on behalf of the 8th Grade Center, the school district and the community was a once in a lifetime honor and opportunity. Mr. Siggins added that the experience was humbling, all inspiring and a once in a lifetime event. Mr. Siggins commented how proud he is of the school and the teachers. Mr. Siggins stated that there are many people involved with this honor and he wanted to thank everyone for doing what they do. Mr. DiBello presented Mr. Siggins on behalf of the 8th Grade Center with a resolution in honor of them being named as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. DiBello commented that they have highlighted this accomplishment several times throughout the past year but not only has this been a once in a lifetime experience for Mr. Siggins but from a Spring-Ford perspective this is something that we as a community can be very proud of. Mr. DiBello reported that that 314 of our 162,000 schools were recognized in Washington, DC so this just gives everyone an idea of how great this accomplishment was. Mr. DiBello stated that Mr. Siggins many times has said that this feat can be attributed to the faculty and staff and the elementary and middle schools as well. Mr. DiBello invited the public to check out the district's website for the ceremony held at the 8th Grade Center two weeks ago in recognition of being awarded a National Blue Ribbon. Mr. DiBello stated that this is something we should all be proud of as a community and he thanked Mr. Siggins for leading us down this road.

Mr. DiBello commented that the Board feels bad that they did not take the time tonight to recognize every student in the band the way that the members of the sport's teams were recognized but it is only logistics that prevented this. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board wants to acknowledge that the success of the band is not only from Mr. Jones and his staff but also due to the students working extremely hard together as one group and that is what makes them successful.

D. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-37** commending Michael Siggins, Principal, and the faculty, staff, students and parents of the Spring-Ford 8th Grade Center in recognition of being named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

Ms. Germinario presented a PowerPoint giving an overview of the Health Hunger Free Kids Act and its impact on the district's Food Service Program. Ms. Germinario stated that the act is geared towards ending childhood hunger and obesity. She gave a quick review of the act and gave an overview of the key components of the act. Ms. Germinario thanked Dr. Goodin, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Anspach and Mr. Francella and all of the kitchen managers who have all been there in support as this new mandate was instituted. Ms. Germinario reported that in the short timespan we were given we tried to update the parents and students of the changes via emails, the website and postings in our cafeterias. She added that elementary students are not eating all of the fruit and vegetables they are given which leads to a lot of waste. The high school students are complaining that they have too much fruit and vegetables and not enough proteins and grain. Unfortunately, due to all of this, our lunch counts are down approximately 35% from last year and profit and loss wise we are down approximately \$56,000. Ms. Germinario reported on some of the various meal options that were tried and highlighted some of the winners and some of the losers. Ms. Germinario stated that in working with the cafeteria managers and coming up with various options the lunch counts are slowly rising. Ms. Germinario reported that the December menu will most closely resemble previous menus while remaining in compliance with the new guidelines. Ms. Germinario spoke about some of the new things they will be trying in an effort to boost lunch counts. Those things include at the elementary level a Build a Tray Program to help kids understand the new nutritional guidelines and at the high school level we will be starting some "meal deals". The meal deals will be an á la carte program where students for a lunch price of \$4.85 will have new options to choose from on a daily basis. Ms. Germinario went over the reimbursement rates which show that at the federal level for every paid lunch the district receives \$.27 back and for every free lunch served we get \$2.86 back and for every reduced lunch we get \$2.46 back. At the state level the district receives \$.10 back for every paid lunch and hopefully in the near future

will be getting an additional \$.06 back for lunch whether it is paid, free or reduced. Ms. Germinario stated that despite all of the challenges we are still a totally self-sufficient operation. Ms. Germinario reported that she and her kitchen managers will be listening to the input they receive from students, parents, administrators, and fellow districts and make changes which will benefit our district. All lunches are being monitored very carefully. As information and products continue to emerge we will be focusing on industry and tweaking our current plan to find out what works, what does not work and what new products can be introduced.

Mr. DiBello asked for clarification on the reimbursement rates with regards to regular lunches and á la carte selections. Ms. Germinario replied that when they serve a reimbursable lunch it means the student must take 3 of the 5 components and one must be a fruit or vegetable. Á la carte lunches are not reimbursable. Mr. DiBello stated that he just wanted to make sure there was some clarity around what is reimbursed and what is not reimbursed. Mr. DiBello added that one of the things he reported on from the Finance meeting was the cafeteria reports as far as expenses and revenues and then comparing that with projections. Mr. DiBello stated that when they reviewed the reports they noticed that there was an increase in á la carte lunches and a decrease in regular lunches. Mr. DiBello said that with the reduction in school lunches our reimbursement actually goes down as well. Ms. Germinario confirmed this was unfortunately correct. Mr. DiBello replied that these are all of the dynamics that are currently going on with this newly rolled out federal program.

Mr. Dressler asked if the waste issue was improving and Ms. Germinario responded that it is slowly improving because we are able to start tailoring the menu back closer to what we used to do while still having it fit the new guidelines.

Mrs. Heine commented that it is excellent that Ms. Germinario continues to work and tweak this from not only the Board perspective but also from the perspective of a parent. Ms. Heine stated that as this continues to get better she is hopeful that we will see an increase in the offerings. Ms. Germinario commented that she can honestly say that every month so far the menu has looked a little bit different where normally we did not have that amount of variation so tweaking is the name of the game.

Mr. Pettit expressed his appreciation for the hard work Ms. Germinario is doing to try and make this work. He stated that he is disappointed in Washington turning us in a "nanny state". Mr. Pettit added that if the kids could all vote we would have had a different result in November.

Mr. Ciresi asked about hosting some sort of forum by inviting leading chefs in the greater Philadelphia area to come up with menu ideas using the ingredients we have to work with and still have the meal remain within the guidelines. Mr. Ciresi reference an idea that Ms. Gudolonis brought up about a famous chef who was going into schools and changing the way they were eating. Mr. Ciresi commented that we could do something, not quite of this caliber, but possibly reach out to local chefs and possibly host this forum with other districts and have kids there to taste the dishes and provide their input. Mr. Ciresi stated that unfortunately the government gets involved in many areas and we may agree or disagree but this is what we have been handed.

Mr. DiBello stated that we have to keep in mind that the cafeterias have gotten away from actually cooking and we are only heating up so this really becomes what is

available from supplies as far as what we can heat up. Mr. DiBello agreed that we have to continue to look for opportunities and different avenues to see what we can do. Mr. DiBello stated that from hearing the constant talk from the community and the kids, he, Dr. Goodin and Mrs. Mullin came to the high school one day to have lunch. He reported that they sampled the regular lunch that the kids get as well as the á la carte lunch. Mr. DiBello reported that the food was fine but the portion was not enough for high school kids to eat. Mr. DiBello said they observed the kids coming from the á la carte line and they must have spent somewhere between \$8 - \$10 because they had two sandwiches, milk, fruit, vegetables, and a bag of chips. Mr. DiBello said this is the volume of food a high school kid needs during the day. While the choices they made may not be the best they definitely need more volume in their lunches which is not being provided right now. Ms. Germinario agreed saying hence the meal deal.

- E. **Paula Germinario**, Director of Food Service, to present a review of the Healthy-Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 and the current impact on the district's Food Service Program.

Mr. Cywinski commented that about a month ago he was asked to get pricing on what it would cost to replace the existing security surveillance system at the high school. Mr. Cywinski stated that this request was in response to growing concern by the security team that the current Samsung system is growing more and more unreliable. Mr. Cywinski went through the reasons why the old system was being deemed unreliable. Those reasons included video recorders unexplainably shutting down and restarting resulting in lost video data, the camera images are becoming unstable, the capacity of the recorders being only about 7 days and sometimes it takes longer than that to figure out that something has occurred, the need to increase coverage area as there are some areas that have been identified as areas of concern, and original vendor support no longer available for Samsung systems due to their unreliability. Mr. Cywinski reported that the proposed solution was to replace all of the existing cameras and add another nine locations that have been identified by security as areas of need. Mr. Cywinski spoke about the new equipment that is being proposed which is Panasonic cameras which are homogenous with the existing system. Mr. Cywinski commented that the district did install security systems on all of the buildings last year which were the Panasonic based systems and have been problem free during this year with unsurpassed image quality. Mr. Cywinski stated that they looked into the lifecycle of the system and realistically it is about 7-10 years. The estimated cost for the system is \$250,000 which is based on a proposal from Berkshire Systems Group. Mr. Cywinski commented that the recommendation is to check with other Co-stars vendors to get additional quotes and make sure we are on track pricewise. Mr. Cywinski indicated that the proposals would be presented to the Property Committee at their January meeting.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he would support issuing an RFP with requirements that anyone who supplies systems bid and not have us pick a solution and ask people to bid on that. Mr. Dehnert commented that he believes this would be more effective this way we would get perhaps more cost effective solutions than if you specify a solution and have vendors quote against that. Mr. Dehnert asked if the \$250,000 included support and maintenance and Mr. Cywinski replied that it included everything. Mr. Dehnert asked how many years of support and maintenance are in the dollar amount and Mr. Cywinski said one year.

Mr. Cromley asked if we looked at sights for cameras at Coach McNelly Stadium and Mr. Cywinski said yes there is a Pantel zoom camera included in the price which would be mounted on the 8th Grade Center and positioned to do tours of the stadium. Mr. Cromley asked if we had assurances that Panasonic is not going to walk away from this technology Mr. Cywinski stated that he did not believe Panasonic was going to walk away from this.

Mr. DiBello commented that two years ago this Board was presented with redoing the technology and the security cameras at the high school by the then administrative team. Mr. DiBello stated that a lot of the faces have changed but the problem still is that there was a recommendation that was approved and now a little over two years later we have a recommendation in front of us to replace the equipment. Mr. DiBello said that he wants to make sure that not only from a technology standpoint but also from the high school administration and the security team that everyone has been involved in this process and everyone is on the same page. Mr. Cywinski replied that unfortunately when we had the security system put in two years ago no one had heard of Samsung Tech and no one knew they were in security but it was the low bid and it did meet the specs. Mr. Cywinski stated that it was never anticipated that this would be such a problematic system but on the other hand the Panasonic system that is in place now in other buildings is about a year old and is absolutely trouble free. Mr. DiBello asked if we had to go to bid due to the total dollar amount and Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed this was correct. Mr. DiBello suggested that we need to insure that we do not just go with the low bid but make sure the investment we are making is what we want so the proposal needs to be somewhat self-guided. Mr. Fitzgerald added that there was an indication that they may attempt to bid this through Costars which is the state consortium which would be another route to obtain the equipment other than going through the school code process. Mr. DiBello stated that we need to be careful with this as this can be problematic as well because this can come in higher. Mr. DiBello said we need to do the due diligence, follow the proper process but what comes out of this is we need to make sure that the equipment we are putting in is supported by not only technology but also by administration and the security team. Mr. DiBello asked Mr. Nugent if he had been involved in the process and Mr. Nugent replied yes. He added that Mr. Cywinski met with him when the representatives from Berkshire came in and they looked at the equipment and they knew unfortunately several months into the initial installation that there was an issue. Mr. Nugent reported that all of the DVR's were replaced by Samsung once already because they did not operate properly. Mr. Nugent stated that everyone is in agreement that this is the direction we need to move in.

Mr. Dressler commented that he thought he heard that Panasonic's bond status had gone down to junk bond status because of their deteriorating business in the video world. Mr. Dressler wondered if over ten years if they will still be in this business. Mr. Cromley reported that he heard this also. Mr. Cywinski stated that he had not heard this but it is certainly worth looking into.

F. **Robert Cywinski**, Technology Infrastructure Administrator, to present on the High School Security System.

Mr. Nugent started off his presentation by congratulating Mr. Siggins and the 8th Grade Center. He also congratulated all of the athletes and the band who were recognized earlier this evening for their accomplishments this past season and for many more to come. Mr. Nugent stated that everyone is very proud of the students and their achievements. Mr. Nugent reported that this evening there will be a presentation on the high school guidance, college advisement and planning process that is used. Mr. Nugent stated that the primary presentation is going to be done by Mrs. Beideman, Guidance Counselor, and Mrs. Bhalla, College Career Coordinator, but he wanted to also recognize the guidance counselors who were present in the audience (Mr. Perecko, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Chambers, Mr. Rhodes, Dr. Cetera).

Mrs. Beideman thanked the Board for inviting them to come tonight to make this presentation. She stated that they are very excited to have the opportunity to share how they advise students toward college and future planning and hopefully answer any questions the Board may have. Mrs. Beideman thoroughly explained the numerous grade level guidance activities grade by grade from grades 9 – 12. She stated that guidance activities actually begin as early as 7th grade. The activities include programming to promote college consideration and readiness as is developmentally appropriate. Mrs. Beideman spoke about the collaboration that takes place between the guidance counselors and the Mrs. Bhalla in the Future Planning Center.

Mrs. Bhalla spoke about the role of the College Career Coordinator which included the fact that she is a 12 month employee who works with the Guidance Department to ensure students are receiving the support necessary to make sound decisions about their future. She serves as the primary liaison between the high school and college, career and military representatives. Part of her responsibilities is to coordinate evening programs and schedule college representative visits. Mrs. Bhalla stated that she also assists students with college admission applications, financial aid forms, and scholarship applications. Mrs. Bhalla serves as the scholarship coordinator, the SAT, ACT, and PSAT test center coordinator. Mrs. Bhalla reported that she oversees the process to make sure our student athletes meet NCAA eligibility in order to compete at Division I and Division II Schools. She along with Mrs. Beideman spearheads the Naviance Program to make sure we are up to date with it and add any new resources and features to the program. Mrs. Bhalla explained what students can do in the Future Planning Center and when students and parents can access the Future Planning Center. She spoke about the Future Planning Center evening programs. Mrs. Bhalla explained her in-school meetings that take place with students, parents, and college representatives. Mrs. Bhalla said in addition to the programs they have in-house the Guidance Department also promotes a lot of outside programs and informational sessions and she gave examples of some of those programs. Mrs. Bhalla presented information on the career education seminars that the Guidance Department sponsors for students as well as job shadowing opportunities available. Mrs. Bhalla commented that messages are sent out weekly to students and parents via the Skyward Messaging Center with reminders on deadlines and notices on upcoming events. Mrs. Bhalla stated that anything posted in Skyward is also sent as an email and posted on the guidance website. Mrs. Bhalla reported on the Professional Development that she and the guidance counselors attend in order to keep up to date on current events and provide students with the most up to date information. Mrs. Bhalla gave an overview of the packets handed out to the Board Members which included colleges that Spring-Ford students applied to, the colleges that Spring-Ford students were accepted and the

Spring-Ford matriculations. Mrs. Bhalla spoke about the introduction of the House System at the high school. She stated that the goal of the House System which was to promote relationships between the school officials and students in order to provide continuity with school officials for the student's four high school years. Mrs. Bhalla gave an overview of scores for the past five years on the PSAT, SAT, ACT and AP Tests. Mrs. Bhalla reported on the number of college applications processed over the past five years and stated that in 2012 they processed 1,955 applications and as of today for the class of 2013 they have already processed 1,695 applications so they are well on their way of likely surpassing 2012's numbers. College representative meetings have also increased over the years with 2011/2012 having 47 meetings and so far in this school year we have had 48 fall visits with the spring visits yet to come. Mrs. Bhalla reported that last year there were 133 different colleges or universities that our students chose to attend. The next report was on the amount of academic scholarships awarded to Spring-Ford students. Mrs. Bhalla cautioned that the list only included those scholarships awarded directly by the college or the university itself and are solely academic and based on the student's GPA and test scores. Last year \$1.4 million was awarded in academic aid. The list does not include financial aid or money awarded during the high school's scholarship night. Mrs. Bhalla showed the guidance website which she indicated is updated often. Mrs. Bhalla next gave an overview of the Secondary Planning Guide which was distributed to all of the Board Members.

Mr. Nugent thanked Mrs. Beideman and Mrs. Bhalla for putting the presentation together to try and share with everyone the work that they do to try to provide the students with the information that will help them with the process of selecting a college and their future career plans.

Mr. Dressler stated that the list of programs provided to students is certainly impressive but the proof of the pudding is in the effectiveness of the program which is only determined by the students after they have gone to college and they then can look back and say whether they got the best advice. Mr. Dressler asked if there were some way to track the students to find out the effectiveness of these programs. Mr. Nugent replied that the students are surveyed five years out but we are finding that we do not get a lot of responses back.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the survey was sent to the parents and Mr. Nugent replied that it is sent to the student's home address.

Mr. Pettit asked what type of questions are in the survey sent out. Mr. Nugent replied that the students are asked about their preparation in math, science, English, and social studies, if they feel they received the proper guidance and direction, and if they did not then what can we do better. Mr. Pettit asked if the feedback was tracked and Mr. Nugent said yes they do and the results are always with a majority indicating they were satisfied. Mr. Nugent stated that the key to the surveys is to find out what more specifically we can do better. Mr. Nugent said one of the things that he and Dr. Goodin do at the end of the school year is to randomly select a group of seniors and conduct exit interviews with them. Mr. Nugent stated that they will have a group of about 25 - 35 seniors participate over a pizza lunch where the exit interview is conducted. Mr. Nugent stated that they get a pretty good dialogue through this venue. Mr. Pettit asked what the results are from this type of meeting and Mr. Nugent said it is very positive. Mr. Pettit asked if this resulted in changes to the Guidance Department and Mr. Nugent replied yes, it always has and that the Guidance Department is always a work in progress.

Mr. Ciresi stated that in year's past the Board received the survey reports but he has not seen any in probably 3 years. Mr. Ciresi said when the district used LifeTrack for the surveys the Board used to constantly see the results. Mr. Ciresi stated that he remembers when the board took guidance on in 2004 and revamped the department they went by a lot of what was said in the survey reports and where the deficiencies were with the kids, one of which was school safety which was a surprise. Mr. Nugent indicated that the reports go to the district office at the end of the year and then are forwarded on to him. Mr. Ciresi asked if the Board could get the reports for the past few years.

Mr. Dehnert asked if the district does any aptitude testing and Mr. Nugent responded that we used to do the Explorer Test which was part of the ACT Program. Mr. Nugent stated that they do not do this anymore due to the fact that there is so much testing going on that the kids are just getting inundated with tests. Mr. Nugent reported that the Naviance Program does have the capabilities for students to do some research on careers through there. Mr. Dehnert stated that they have heard a lot about what the district does for college bound students but what about those students who do not wish are not going on to college. Mrs. Bhalla replied that there are a large number of students who are looking to go into the military or on to full time employment. She addressed this saying they work with these students to try to find a place of employment and help them complete their applications for employment if needed. Mrs. Bhalla said they also help students write cover letters, get their references together, and brush up their interviewing skills. Mrs. Bhalla stated that for students looking to go into the military they do have the recruiters come into the school and meet with those students interested in hearing about the military. Mrs. Bhalla spoke about the college and career fairs saying that it is not just colleges that come as there are military representatives that come as well as two year schools, community colleges, career planning vendors, and representatives from the massage therapy school.

Mr. DiBello asked about trade schools and where they fall into this and Mrs. Bhalla replied that they come out for the college fairs and they also do a lot of things with Mr. Scheck and Mrs. German's business classes. Mrs. Bhalla reported that out at the Western Center a lot of the shop teachers bring in different representatives from the trade schools.

Mr. Dehnert asked how many kids we have go into the military and Mrs. Bhalla replied that she believes it is about 6% of the graduating class.

Mr. Nugent commented that a lot of the evening programs that they do are a result of the feedback they have received from students and parents.

Mr. DiBello asked if the historical data on where the students scored on SAT's and the ACT's. Mr. DiBello stated that he thinks that it is important for the Board to understand how many kids are applying to top ranking schools, how many are getting accepted, and how many are choosing to attend and why. Mr. DiBello asked for an analysis to be done as well on why they are not being accepted and why they are not choosing to attend these schools. Mr. DiBello spoke about MIT as an example where we had some students apply but none were accepted and he stated that it would be interesting to find

out why. Mr. DiBello stated that school districts in Pennsylvania are going to be forced to be self-promoting. He added that what he has heard in the past which is frustrating to him is that students did not choose to go to the top schools because they could not afford it. Mr. DiBello commented that the United States is very large and the U.S. High Schools are sending students to all of these and they are finding a way to do that. Mr. DiBello stated that if the students are just not choosing to go then we should also know that.

Mr. Cromley asked if the admissions offices were reluctant to get back to us to tell us why our students are not being accepted. Mrs. Bhalla addressed this saying that they are not very straightforward with us. That information is not readily available to us even for the student and the family. If the student makes the call to the college or university they are many times told it is due to the competitiveness and the increase in applications received. Mrs. Bhalla stated that the colleges are sometimes very brief and short with the families and if we call on their behalf and they won't really share with us as much as we try to pry. Mrs. Bhalla added that some things that have been shared with us in the past is that it is due to our geographic location and we are in the Mid-Atlantic area and that is where a lot of their strong applicants come from. Mr. Cromley stated that the thing he always struggles with is that our class sizes are 600 and a great number of students within that class they are competing against and then we put them out to the University of Chicago and they do not make the application successful for them. Mr. Cromley commented that his concern is always that our size of our school compared to another school that may have 300 students is something they have to look at. Mrs. Bhalla added that with the Ivy League Schools they do take into consideration class rank but with our school and the number of students who are very competitive they may be within decimal points of each other at the top of the class.

Mr. Ciresi said that every parent would like to see their kids graduate and go to Harvard, Yale, Stanford, or Princeton and when you look at the list for Spring-Ford every year there is no Harvard except for back in 2009, and there is no Yale whatsoever. Mr. Ciresi said that from a Board and a parent perspective he would like to see a drive to get kids into these schools. Mr. Ciresi suggested sending our Guidance Department out to the top ranked schools to talk to them one on one to get them to know who we are and find out what it takes to get into these schools. Mr. Ciresi stated that these schools drive right past us to go to the Hill School, they know the Hill School but they do not know Spring-Ford. They know Lower Merion, they do not know Spring-Ford. Mr. Ciresi said he is not blaming anyone and it has nothing to do with counselors not doing their jobs because they are. Mr. Ciresi asked the Guidance Department to come back to the them and tell them what support they need from the Board. Mr. Ciresi commented that this is the most educated board that has ever sat here at Spring-Ford as far as degrees. He stated that he knows it is huge struggle for them to get out to the entire list but possibly we divide and conquer and meet with the colleges to hear what they have to say. Mr. Ciresi said we need to get the colleges here in our building so they can see the unbelievable programs we put forth. He challenged the Guidance Department to come back and tell them what is needed.

Mr. DiBello commented that this goes right back to what he talked about which was that these are the times where we must become self-promoting as a district. Mr. DiBello said he is sure the high school guidance department is doing what they can and as a Board they are there to help. Mr. DiBello reported that everything that has been successful in the district has been promoted through Communication Solutions. Mr. DiBello spoke

about Kate Seward's class at the 7th Grade Center and the grant she successfully applied for and received to purchase 6 SmartBoards for her room in order to promote a new way of teaching in the classroom. Mr. DiBello reported that they reached out to the news media to publicize this so that everyone will know that we are a district that has grown over the years.

Mr. Petti reported that Action News was out this morning as part of this and they did a story on Kate Seward's classroom.

Mr. DiBello stated that they also had the news media out for the Blue Ribbon Ceremony so we are continually trying to promote this district and get our students into the universities they are applying to. Mr. DiBello said it is a very competitive world out there and we need to all work together to get as competitive as we can. Mr. DiBello stated that Mr. Ciresi suggested taking this conversation back to the Curriculum Committee for further discussion and he agrees with this.

Mrs. Mullin stated that one thing that has not been touches on is the kids who are not taking the initiative themselves to come in for Mrs. Bhalla's help and she wondered if they are falling through the cracks. She asked if Mrs. Bhalla might see more kids if the Board found a better, easier way for kids to get to her. Mrs. Bhalla replied in her position it is a lot of students seeking her out or parents calling or teachers referring a student to her but on the counselors side they are meeting with students on a yearly basis. Mrs. Bhalla stated that they are all one team and as such have a working partnership. Mrs. Mullin asked if the only time students are required to meet with Mrs. Bhalla is during their sophomore year and Mrs. Bhalla replied yes.

Mr. Ciresi asked about the Secondary Planning Guide and if it monetary reasons that caused it not to be given out any longer, Mrs. Bhalla replied yes. Mr. Ciresi asked how much it cost to give one to every student and Mr. Nugent said about \$16,000 to print one for each student but it is also available online. Mr. Ciresi asked if it was useful for the students to physically have the book and Mrs. Beideman replied that there are pros and cons to both as they found that when they were handed out some students put their names on it and had it in their backpack while other booklets were found laying around on the floor as is with any handout that is given out. Mrs. Beideman stated that the pro to not giving it out is that every year the booklet is updated so it is up to date information that is available to students. Mrs. Beideman added that they like the idea of students being able to physically see what the book is rather than follow a link on the website to access the book.

Mrs. Beideman stated that she would like to address Mrs. Mullin's question regarding students visiting the Future Planning Center saying there is not another time where students are required to go to the Future Planning Center. Mrs. Beideman added that in her dealings with students both in their junior and senior year it was not uncommon if they indicated that they did not have any future plans for her to walk them over to the Future Planning Center to talk to Mrs. Bhalla.

Mrs. Mullin said her concern is that if Mrs. Beideman spoke with a student in their sophomore year and then in their senior year they are still not motivated if it was too late and Mrs. Beideman replied that it is never too late and the world is lifelong learning.

Mr. DiBello thanked everyone for coming out tonight and stated that he looks forward to this conversation continuing at the Curriculum Committee meeting.

Mr. Nugent commented that with regards to the secondary planning guide that some parents will say they never go to the book even though Mrs. Bhalla send a letter out to parents telling them about the Future Planning Center and that the guide is available online.

Mr. Pettit asked if a motivated student came to the Future Planning Center and wanted to take a copy of the book home then do we have books available for them to take home. Mr. Nugent replied they do have some available but no books were printed this year because of costs. Mr. Pettit stated that he thinks it is time to revisit this for sure.

Mr. Ciresi commented that possibly we could get someone who would be willing to underwrite the book so that we would have a supply on hand. Mr. Ciresi also added that possibly the Western Center because they have a print shop there. Mr. Ciresi stated that they should not let this deter them and if they need we are talking peanuts to the budget that is put out. Mr. Ciresi said he is not saying we should through thousands of dollars out of the window but please if this is important and vital to the student's education and their movement forward then we really should be paying what you need to have it.

G. **Patrick Nugent**, Principal, **Kristin Beideman**, Secondary Guidance Department Chair, **Maren Bhalla**, College Career Coordinator, to give a presentation on the High School Guidance College Advisement and Planning.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

A. The Board approved the October 11, 2012 Special Board meeting minutes.

V. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Student Rep. Report Elizabeth Brady

Elizabeth reported that the Keystone Exams will be held during the week of December 3rd through December 7th. There will also be an assembly for the juniors this week discussing the Keystone Exams. During that week seniors are permitted to come in late unless they need to come in early, in which case they will be assigned to a study hall. Elizabeth advised everyone that the class of 2016 is holding a Joe Corbi fundraiser and all orders will be due on November 30th. She also reported that many members of the senior class are starting to receive acceptance letters so this is an exciting time of year for them. Elizabeth commented that the football team is making school history as they are only one of 8 teams left in division Quad A in the state. That is further than any Spring-Ford team has gone before. Elizabeth also reported that the band recently won the Atlantic Coast Championships for the 6th time. She stated that the Irish Exchange students arrived on the Saturday, November 10th and departed this past Saturday. Elizabeth commented that it was an amazing, jam-packed experience and one that she will never forget. She reported that they visited Baltimore, Washington, New York City, Philadelphia, and New Jersey. The students also participated in a bonfire which was held at Mr. Dehnert's house because his niece Hannah was part of the Exchange Program. The students also helped to dedicate a tree in the 9th Grade Center

Arboretum commemorating the Student Exchange Program. Elizabeth reported that the group really bonded and there were a lot of tears when they were forced to drop them off at the airport on Saturday afternoon. Elizabeth stated that she is eagerly awaiting the trip when Spring-Ford will get to travel to Ireland in March. She commented that she is very glad that Spring-Ford has the Limerick-2-Limerick Program because it has truly been a life changing experience for all of those involved and she believes the best is still yet to come. Elizabeth stated that these past two weeks have truly been some of the best of her life. Elizabeth presented a video with pictures of the time they spent together with the Irish students. Elizabeth reported that with regards to the college presentation tonight, one of her friends did get an interview with Princeton University so that is a positive thing for the district.

Community Relations Joseph Ciresi (As Needed)

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Community Relations Committee met tonight prior to the Board meeting. He reported on last month's meeting as well saying that at that meeting they mainly discussed the 8th Grade Blue Ribbon Ceremony Program and getting information out via the internet rather than printed materials. Mr. Ciresi stated this could be done through our district home webpage and possible electronic Wednesday folders. At tonight's meeting the committee discussed the option of having a FaceBook page for the district and Mr. Roche is looking into this. The committee discussed the possibility of adding apps and having a Spring-Ford app and this is going to be looked into further. Mr. Ciresi stated that they also talked about everyone being on the same page when it comes to report cards and schedules and when they all go out to the district.

Extracurricular Joseph Ciresi 2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on November 12th and discussed intramurals at the middle school, the participation rate which is up and next year's plans. Mr. Ciresi stated that the committee also viewed a presentation by the High School Student Council and the different activities and volunteer activities they do and the unbelievable amount of time and energy they put into the district. Mr. Ciresi reported that the committee also began discussions on the student activity fee and it was decided that this should go to the Finance Committee for a recommendation on where to go with this for next year. Mr. Ciresi stated that they also talked about some Title IX application forms that the athletes must go through. The committee discussed the overview of programs for the intramurals, the clubs and all of the athletic guidelines that Mr. Roche has been working on for the past year. The committee also talked about the implementation of a survey system where each participating student will have the opportunity to fill one out and each coach or advisor will have to give a presentation to their administrator in order to be approved for pay.

Property Joseph Ciresi 2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Property Committee met on November 13 and tabled until January the discussion on the Wellness Center due to running out of time. The committee talked about the runner's gate and the procedures for it and how it will go into effect. Mr. McDaniel will discuss this with Policy Committee and the district's solicitor to determine how to implement it. The committee discussed the 7th Grade Center Softball Field and the possibility of doing a joint sponsorship. Mr. Cooper had made a recommendation to order some new equipment to keep the turf clean. The committee talked about the arboretum and Mrs. Wellington's presentation. Mr. Ciresi stated that he is thrilled to hear that not a nickel of taxpayer money has been spent on the arboretum project. Mr. Ciresi reported that they talked about the new sign at the 8th Grade Center which has already been installed. They

discussed moving the sign at Oaks Elementary out to Black Rock Road and if it would be possible as well as what it would look like. The purpose for this is so that the school gets exposure because the only sign right now is on the front of the building. Conversation took place on what to do with the Bechtel Road site and they are looking for recommendations on this. There was also a presentation on the new surveillance system.

Board Back to School Day Ciresi, Cromley, DiBello, Dressler, Mullin
Report at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin reported that the district is set to launch the second school survey which will target our students, teachers and parents. Dr. Goodin stated that due to the late hour he is going to hold off on presenting the Schooltube video on the district in-service day and the video of the launching of the Smart Classroom in the 7th Grade Center until the December Board meeting next week.

VI. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. **Kimberly A. Fallstich**, 7th Grade Center; Computer Club, 2nd, 3rd and 4th marking periods, effective October 25, 2012.
2. **Kelly J. Ferreri**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, effective November 7, 2012.

New Resignations:

3. **Steven J. Anspach**, Assistant Wrestling Coach (8/9th Grade), effective November 14, 2012.
4. **Maria B. Kardick**, Computer Club-3rd MP-Grade 8 and Computer Lab-Grade 8 2nd semester, effective November 16, 2012

B. Leaves Of Absence:

1. **Michele A. Benek**, High School; Part-time Food Service Employee, for an unpaid leave per Board Policy, effective November 8, 2012 for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days as per the Food Service Employees' Plan.
2. **Scott A. Burr**, Royersford Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a military leave per Board Policy, effective November 2 and November 16, 2012.
3. **Michele D. Cabot**, Royersford Elementary School; School Nurse, for an uncompensated leave per Board Policy, effective November 13, 2012.
4. **Kelly K. Finn**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively February 8, 2013 for the remainder of the 2012/2013 school year.

5. **Patricia J. Jackson**, Limerick Elementary School; Custodian, per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective October 3, 2012.
6. **Ellen B. Luchette**, Limerick, Oaks and Upper Providence Elementary School; Gifted Support Teacher, per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective October 2, 2012. Ms. Luchette is also requesting a Sabbatical Leave per Board Policy, effective January 28, 2013 through June 17, 2013.
7. **Nina F. Wickersham**, Brooke Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for an *extended* leave per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 30, 2013 through the end of the third marking period.

New Leave of Absence:

8. **Kelly A. Artzerounian**, Senior High 10-12 Center; Mathematics Teacher, for a leave of absence per Board Policy for up to twelve (12) weeks, effective January 31, 2013.
9. **Marguerite A. Detwiler**, Brooke Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a leave of absence per Board Policy for up to ten (10) weeks, effective tentatively February 17, 2013.

C. Professional Employees with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement:

1. **Kristen K. Katzianer**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Music Teacher, replacing Kay E. Stokes who retired. Compensation set at M Step 2, \$45,700, prorated, effective November 5, 2012.
2. **Wendy P. Taylor**, Royersford Elementary School; Part-time (.5) Reading Teacher, Compensation set at M+30, Step 12, \$40,150, prorated, effective retroactive September 4, 2012.

D. Long Term Substitute:

1. **Megan Bittle**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Jennifer Basom who will be on an extended Leave of Absence. Compensation set at B Step 1, \$43,200, with benefits, effective January 30, 2013 through the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Siller, Dennis R.**, Assistant Band Director, \$1,837.00 (stipend prorated based on start date)
2. **Vandergrift, Thomas S.**, Marching Band Front Visual Facilitator, \$3,197.00

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

3. **Jones, Seth**, Jazz Ensemble Director, \$4,735.00
4. **Mailloux, Eric**, Marching Band Condition Facilitator, \$1,598.50 (1/2 contract)
5. **McNulty, Josh**, Girls' Volleyball Head Coach, \$5,854.00

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7th Grade Center

1. **Bologa, Tara**, Computer Club, 2nd MP, \$402.00
2. **Bologa, Tara**, Computer Club, 3rd MP, \$402.00
3. **Bologa, Tara**, Computer Club, 4th MP, \$402.00

G. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Bakay, Susan B. | Elementary Education, Mid-Level English |
| 2. Bergen, David | Elementary Education, Mid-Level English Mid-Level Math |
| 3. Booz, Lauren M. | Elementary Education |
| 4. Borgnis, Melinda | Family/Consumer Science |
| 5. Campbell, Catherine | Elementary Education, Mid-Level English Mid-Level Citizenship |
| 6. Dowzicky, Sarah | Elementary Education |
| 7. Doyle, Alexandra J. | English |
| 8. Endy, Joshua D. | Health/Physical Education |
| 9. Fosse, Kristen | Elementary Education |
| 10. Geiger, Sarah L. | Early Childhood |
| 11. Gilbert, Christine B. | Elementary Education, Mid-Level English, English |
| 12. Harvie, Suzanne R. | Elementary Education, Special Education |
| 13. Hatch, Christie R. | Elementary Education |
| 14. Homa, John M. | Social Studies |
| 15. Kalil, Samantha L. | Health/Physical Education |
| 16. Karpinecz, Christina M. | Elementary Education, Early Childhood |
| 17. Koehler, Rachel L. | Elementary Education |
| 18. Leasure, Kathleen | Elementary Education |
| 19. Mander, Iris | Elementary Education |
| 20. McCurry, John W. | General Science, Bus-Computer-Info, Technology |
| 21. Murphy, Michelle A. | Elementary Education |
| 22. Redmond, Victoria | Elementary Education |
| 23. Reilly, Kelly H. | Elementary Education, Special Education |
| 24. Roese, Lisa L. | Art |
| 25. Rothenberger, Krystle | Elementary Education |
| 26. Sawyer, Laura | Elementary Education, Mid-level Math |
| 27. Schmale, Jordan E. | Elementary Education |
| 28. Sherlock, Adam | Elementary Education |
| 29. Skrzat, Anna K. | Music |
| 30. Smith, Gregory C. | Elementary Education |
| 31. Stevens, Emily | Early Childhood, Elementary Education |
| 32. Whitman, Stacie | Health/Physical Education |
| 33. Woodring, Stephanie L. | English |

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 34. Adie, Kevin R. | Elementary Education, Mid-level English, Mid-level Social Studies |
| 35. Bronico, Kimberly C. | Elementary Education |
| 36. DeSimone, Douglas M. | Social Studies |

- 37. **Ford, Brandon** Social Studies
- 38. **Krause, Wendy J.** Elementary Education, Special Education
- 39. **Savard, Shana** Elementary Education

H. Support Staff Substitutes:

- 1. **D'Annunzio, Lisa M.** Food Service
- 2. **Hinterstein, Noel C.** School Nurse
- 3. **Somers, Maureen B.** School Nurse

I. Personnel Information Item:

The individual listed below has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as a temporary professional employee and is, therefore, approved for tenure status:

- 1. McCoach, Christina A. Biology

VII. FINANCE

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

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

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

- 1. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval

*Check No. 32756 – 32764 \$ 255,102.38

- B. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **November** in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT – Fund 32:**

- 1. Gary Britcher Masonry Material & Labor-Construction
- Of Masonry housing-Elec. Sign \$ 7,409.41
- TOTAL \$ 7,409.41

- 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

- October**

Check No. 147737 – 147858 \$ 435,676.50

ACH 121300135 – 121300140 \$ 323.56

- November**

Check No. 147859 – 148025 \$1,315,508.78

ACH 121300141 – 121300157 \$ 2,142.87

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 2. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u> | |
| *Check No. 148026 – 148072 | \$ 120,710.76 |
| *ACH 121300158 – 121300192 | \$ 218.13 |
| 3. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u> | |
| *Check No. 148073– 148102 | \$ 54,157.68 |
| *ACH 121300158 – 121300191 | \$ 11,073.12 |
| 4. <u>Athletic Fund</u> | |
| <u>October</u> | |
| Check No. 305071 – 305212 | \$ 38,717.62 |

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

1. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four assemblies for kindergarten students at Royersford Elementary School, entitled, “Winter Secrets....Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed \$440.00.
2. **Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists, Inc. – Lawrence, KS.** Provide an assembly for students at Brooke Elementary School entitled, “Egyptian Animals”. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$245.00.
3. **Benmor Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a curriculum-based presentation about the formation of fossils for students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed \$525.00.
4. **Harleysville Savings Bank – Harleysville, PA.** Provide a presentation to the first grade students at Limerick Elementary School that will help them identify the U.S. penny, nickel, dime and quarter as well as the value of each coin. Students will also learn about the meanings of the symbols located on the reverse side of the coins. There is no charge to the district for this presentation.
5. **Benefitfocus – Charleston, SC.** The Benefitfocus® HR In Touch Application implemented by the district in the 2011-2012 school year is a web-based service that provides the district with a comprehensive online portal that supports benefit enrollment, employee communication, human resource efficiency, and health and wellness promotion. A one-time fee of two thousand five hundred dollars is requested to implement a file-based data exchange interface to the Skyward payroll system utilizing a custom file format to be developed by BenefitFocus. Funding will be paid from the 2012-2013 Staff Services Budget and shall not exceed \$2,500.00.
6. **Ian Ash – Music Therapy Resources, LLC – Bryn Mawr, PA.** Provide music therapy for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for thirty-two hours at a rate of \$75.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,400.00.

7. **Anderson Explorations PHP – Eagleville, PA.** Provide educational and mental health services for two special needs students as per their IEPs. Educational services will be provided for a maximum of twelve weeks at a rate of \$78.00 per day and Mental Health services will be provided at a rate of \$94.50 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed a total of \$20,700.00 for both students.

New Independent Contract:

8. **Note to Health LLC – Oakmont, PA.** Provide two assemblies for students at Royersford Elementary School entitled, “Jump With Jill”. Funding will be provided through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$1,700.00.
 9. **Ken-Crest Services – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide a transition workshop experience for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 108 days at a rate of \$46.80 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$5,054.40.
- F. The Board approved seeking bids for the printing of “**Publications**” (Newsletters – 4 issues, Student Handbooks, Crisis Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Plan Flip Chart, Post-Secondary Planning Guide and Student Planners) for the 2013-2014 school year.
 - G. The Board approved seeking bids for supplies for the 2013-2014 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, paper, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
 - H. The Board approved participating in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for Copier Paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2013-2014 school year.
 - I. The Board approved listing the Bechtel Road Property with a local realtor for the purpose of selling it.
 - J. The Board approved **Resolution 2012-36** “Approving Penalty, Interest and Fee Schedule for the Collection of Delinquent Real Estate Taxes”. In conjunction with the Montgomery County Tax Claim Bureau they have outsourced their Delinquent Tax Collection to Northeast Revenue Services. The resolution will provide the School Districts and Municipalities of Montgomery County the opportunity to maximize their delinquent Real Estate Taxes at no cost. Currently the district receives 95% of the collection of the delinquent taxes and with the new collection program; the district will be receiving 100% of collections. In 2011/12 the district paid the County a collection fee of 5%, amounting to \$100,085.57. Under the new program this cost will be avoided and will place the responsibility on the Delinquent property owners. School Districts and Municipalities who approve this Resolution -Ordinance will allow the County (starting January 1, 2013) to combine the Real Estate Tax Sale Law (RETSL) and the Municipal Claims and Tax Liens Act (MCTLA) to maximize Real Estate Delinquent Tax Collections by both substantially accelerating the rate at which the real estate tax amounts are collected in a fiscal year.

NEW FINANCE

K. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
General Fund

- Money Market – October 2012
- PSDLAF – October 2012
- PSDMAX – October 2012
- Checking Account – October 2012
- PLGIT Account – October 2012
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - October 2012
- Payroll Account – October 2012
- Tax Account – October 2012

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – October 2012
- 7th Grade Activity – October 2012
- 8th Grade Activity – October 2012
- High School Activity – October 2012
- Athletic Account – October 2012

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – October 2012

Other Funds

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

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – October 2012
- Cafeteria Checking Account – October 2012
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – October 2012
- Investment Account – October 2012

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

OCTOBER

Check No. 10979 - 11000

\$ 318,585.61

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

Mr. Ciresi asked about Item C wondering how many AP courses this now made for the high school and the response was 18.

The motion passed 9-0.

A. Administration recommends approval of the revisions to the Grade 7 and Grade 8 Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) curriculums for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond. The revisions include the modification of the sewing units to better align with the PA Academic Standards, as well as expand upon the concepts of Nutrition and Personal Finance.

- B. Administration recommends approval of the revisions to the Grade 7 Technology Education curriculum for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond. The revision includes the modification and replacement of modular units within the Grade 7 Technology Education curriculum due in part to the upgrade to the Technology Education computers and modules that occurred during the summer of 2012.
- C. Administration recommends approval of the following new course for the 2013-2014 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the process of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of the course in the student's course guide.

NEW COURSE FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2013-2014

1) Rationale:

This major course will provide a higher level course offering for those students interested in U.S. Government & Politics and will enrich the curriculum of Spring-Ford's Social Studies Program. This AP course will provide an opportunity to qualified students to expand their knowledge of U.S. Government & Politics through an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This course involves both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. politics and the analysis of specific case studies. It also requires familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. political reality.

AP U.S. Government & Politics is intended for students who wish to complete a high school class that is equivalent to college introductory courses in U.S. Government & Politics.

This course would be open to any qualified junior or senior student.

2) Staffing:

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant.

3) Cost:

| | |
|---|------------|
| Initial Curriculum Development (12.0 Hours) | \$ 360.00 |
| AP Training | \$2,000.00 |
| Textbooks | \$7,500.00 |

IX. PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved C&C Landscaping, Inc. to provide snow plowing services for the school district on an as-needed-basis. The cost will be sixty dollars per hour per plow; sixty dollars per hour per 6 wheel dump truck; eighty-five dollars per hour for a skid loader; one hundred dollars per hour for a loader. Funding will be paid from the 2012-2013 Maintenance Budget.

- B. The Board approved purchasing, under state contract, a GreenZaprSports Field Sterilizer for the turf field at Coach McNelly Stadium to help sanitize the football field for health reasons. Funding will be paid from the 2012-2013 Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed \$16,000.00.

X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mrs. Heine 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. **Bruce Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend “*PASBO Conference*” in Pittsburgh, PA from March 19, 2013 through March 21, 2013. The total cost of this conference is \$827.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Stephen Reynolds**, Director of Technology, **Sue Gallagher**, Manager of Technology Operations, and **Kathy Cox**, Software Specialist, to attend the “*Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)*” in Hershey, PA from February 10, 2013 through February 13, 2013. The total cost of this conference is \$2,104.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- C. **Dr. Keith Floyd**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, to attend the “*Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) 68th Annual Conference*” in Chicago, Illinois from March 16 through March 18, 2013 (with travel March 15-19, 2013). The total cost for this conference, which has been budgeted for, shall not exceed \$1,250.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- D. **Allyn Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, **Dr. Keith Floyd**, Director of Curriculum, and **Mary Pat Long**, 8th Grade Center House Principal, to attend the “*2012 Standards Aligned System (SAS) Institute*” in Hershey, PA from December 2 through December 5, 2012 (on alternating days). The total cost of the SAS Institute will be reimbursed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education due to Spring-Ford’s participation in the PA LEADS Project. No substitutes are needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Seth Jones**, Band Director, to attend the “*Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic*” in Chicago, Illinois on December 20 and 21, 2012. The total cost to the district for this clinic is \$300.00 from the substitute account as Mr. Jones is paying all other expenses.

- F. **Michael Siuchta**, Teacher, to attend “*PaTTAN Autism Initiative ABA Supports: Intensive Skill Training*” in King of Prussia, PA from January 9 through January 11, 2013. The total cost to the district for this training is \$450.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- G. **Joan Kenney**, Speech – Language Pathologist, to attend “*Social Thinking and Transition Planning: Setting the Foundation for Success in Middle and High School*” in Horsham, PA on November 30, 2012. The total cost for this training is \$382.00 (\$232.00 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account).

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Heine asked that Item C be separated.

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

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

1. Brooke Elementary Home and School Association
2. Upper Providence Home and School Association

- B. The Board approved the following policies:

1. Policy #348 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
2. Policy #448 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
3. Policy #548 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
4. Policy #829 – OPERATIONS – Electronic Records/Signatures
5. Policy #831 – OPERATIONS – Screening of Employees and Contractors for Exclusion from Participating in Federal Health Care Programs

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item C and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mrs. Heine said she believes this is a clear example of where we want to go. She added that by this student wanting to spend her senior year in college and take the early college admission is an example of obviously a top student using opportunities provided to her. Mrs. Heine said unfortunately none of the counselors are here to ask whether they were involved with the process of this individual coming to this decision and what those conversations looked like. Mrs. Heine asked if we knew where this student was looking to attend.

Mr. Pettit said this is a good topic for the Curriculum Committee as part of the guidance piece. Mr. Pettit also asked what college the student had chosen. The response was that the student had not yet decided between Montgomery County Community College and Arcadia University.

Mr. DiBello commented that this is a good example of a senior student who has acquired the graduation credits necessary and instead of taking additional elective classes they have the opportunity to start their college career. Mr. DiBello stated that this is some-

thing we want to see flourish in the district and grow so that more students take on the same opportunity.

Mrs. Mullin stated that this has been discussed at the past two Curriculum Committee meetings and Mr. Cromley has been a big proponent of this whole topic.

Mr. Cromley said although we recognize her achievement here, she does not qualify for financial aid because she is not a Spring-Ford graduate as of yet. Mr. Cromley stated that this is something we need to look at and work this through so that she will qualify for financial aid next year when she wants to move on.

Mr. Dressler said he is concerned that if this is one of our top 10% students, he would think that a higher level school might be more appropriate. Mr. Dressler said he is not trying to impugn the student's choices but the top 10% should go to a high ranking school.

Mr. Pettit asked if there was some way to resolve the issue regarding financial aid if we granted them a graduation certification prior to them entering college early.

Mr. Nugent replied that if a student is a high school graduate then they are essentially finished with Spring-Ford and they are eligible for college financial aid. Mr. Nugent stated that one of the challenges has been that they do not always want to be finished with Spring-Ford as they want to participate in our activities. Once they accept a diploma they are no longer a student at our school, they are done. This takes a lot away from the student's senior year. Mr. Nugent stated that this was talked about at the Curriculum Committee meeting and they did say that it would take some work on our part to revisit our graduation requirements and possibly some curriculum structure that we have in place in or to permit a student to graduate early.

Mr. DiBello asked for clarification on what Mr. Nugent meant by activity and Mr. Nugent said athletics, cheerleading, going to the pep rally, attending the prom. Mr. DiBello said it does not prevent them from attending the prom and Mr. Nugent said that was correct. Mr. Nugent said traditionally students that have gone off to early college admissions have gone off and they are gone because they are on the college campus. Mr. Nugent said it will definitely take some restructuring to make this possible. Mr. DiBello commented that the students could definitely be invited back in June to walk with their class and Mr. Nugent agreed this could be possible.

The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The Board approved **Ashley K. Canning** to spend her senior year in college. Ashley is a strong student ranked in the top ten percent of her class and meets the qualifications under the Spring-Ford Guidelines for Early College Admissions. The High School Guidance and Professional Staff feel that Ashley will succeed in college and endorse her application.

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that he was in discussion with Dr. Goodin this week regarding commencing the process to possibly sell the Bechtel Road property. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if the district does decide to engage in a private sale, there are a number of hoops to go through and it is not a typical sales process. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that

Dr. Goodin has this information and certainly by engaging a realtor begins the regulatory process.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. Cromley said he has been around 42 years in this district and what Mr. Siggins has accomplished has never been done before. Mr. Cromley stated that we are grateful as a district and thanked Mr. Siggins.

Mr. Pettit agreed with Mr. Cromley's comment.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary