

On November 27, 2006, 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:	Michael V. Masciandaro and Bernard F. Pettit
Region II:	Ammon G. Morgan, Jr., and Joseph M. Petrowski
Region III:	Joseph P. Ciresi, John S. Grispon, and Robert A. Weber
Presiding Officer:	Donna L. Williams
Superintendent:	Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager:	Tim Anspach
Solicitor:	Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.:	Danny Suraci

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Williams read the schedule for the school winter concerts for the month of December. Mrs. Williams announced that the district is running a toy drive which will benefit patients at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. Toys can be donated at any of our schools and will be delivered to the children on Saturday, December 9. Mrs. Williams introduced a video which is part of the Spring-Ford Destination Success Plan. The video highlighted the many opportunities available to students at Royersford Elementary.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Williams presented a resolution to the presidents and officers of the Parent Organizations for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

#### **Ray Rocchio arrived at 7:43.**

Mr. Petrowski commented that last week at the work session he asked Mr. Anspach for a total dollar amount that the Parent Organizations raise for the students of the SF school district. Mr. Petrowski said the total dollar amount that is raised by these Parent Organizations is \$269,686.00. Dr. Hurda thanked the organizations on behalf of the Spring-Ford Area School District administration and staff for their support and said we could not do it without you so please don't think that your efforts go unnoticed.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution #2006-17** to the Spring-Ford Area School District Parent Organizations for their commitment to enhancing the educational and athletic experiences of all students in the school district through their support and fund raising efforts.

Mrs. Williams presented Mr. John Eckstine with a resolution honoring the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band.

Mrs. Williams said to honor this evening and this great accomplishment she introduced a motion to approve the purchase jackets for the 2006 Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Student Activity Fund and shall not exceed \$8,000.00. Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Kathy Savage, who has been the voice of the Spring-Ford Senior High School Golden Ram Marching Band for the past 18 years, introduced the Marching Band under the direction of Mr. John Eckstine. Mrs. Savage said there has not been a marching band championship for the fall season since 1967, so this is quite an accomplishment. Mrs. Savage said the members and staff of the Golden Ram Marching Band would like to thank the Spring-Ford Area School District Administration, the Board of School Directors and the Spring-Ford Music Association for all their support and help this past season. The band played a selection from their award winning field show.

- B. Presentation of **Resolution #2006-23** to the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band for winning the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship as well as being awarded first place in high brass, high woodwind, high music awards and second place in percussion.

## II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Gail Wellington, Limerick Township, spoke regarding the Western Center and the resolution on the agenda tonight. She said last time she urged the board to think outside the box and possibly selling our share to the other two sending districts and was told we already tried that. She asked the board to consider selling our share to Pottstown as they have a vocational problem and they might just entertain this idea. Mrs. Wellington said she believes the solution is still outside the box, something we have not thought of that will make it work. She said she hopes it is here.

Christy Mullin, Limerick Township, said she is a 1982 graduate of Carlisle High School and in her senior year a similar plan was developed where all vocational studies were brought in-house. She said the programs were more widely recognized and there was more enrollment in the programs. She said in cosmetology alone she saw the enrollment from her junior to senior year go from 6 people to 22 students participating. Ms. Mullin said she knows it is a huge endeavor for the school but feels it is a positive thing that will benefit the community greatly. Dr. Hurda commented that she and Mr. Nugent had the opportunity to go and visit Carlisle and look at their vocational program. She said they have done an outstanding job of connecting their programs and have a ninth grade program as well which brings all of the students together. Dr. Hurda thanked Ms. Mullin for sharing her experience.

Mrs. Williams said they are going to take one item out of order for the agenda since Rob Walper from Fox Rothschild, was present to answer any questions the board members may have on Item H under Finance. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item H and Mr. Petrowski seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

H. The Board approved **Resolution 2006-22** setting forth the parameters of an Advance Refunding of the 1999 General Obligation Bonds. Current principal outstanding is \$29,859,000.00. The parameters establish a minimum target savings of \$860,000.00 or 2.88% net of all expenses.

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grispon asked that Item A & B be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the October 16, 2006 work session minutes.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. Mr. Grispon asked Mr. Rocchio about his abstention under 1111 of the school code which appeared on the minutes from the October board meeting. He wondered if the reason for the abstention was correct. Mr. Davis gave an explanation of section 1111 of the school code saying you should not vote on issues dealing with your relatives. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Rocchio if he wanted to make an amendment to the meeting minutes with the correct reference for the abstention. Mr. Rocchio said he abstained because the agenda item was for a client of his. Mr. Rocchio said he would stand with his original abstention reason and he asked Mr. Davis if he could do this. Mr. Davis said he could abstain due to conflict under the ethics act and file the appropriate memorandum with the board secretary. Mr. Rocchio said he would stand with his original abstention but follow up with the correct memorandum paperwork to the board secretary. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The Board approved the October 23, 2006 board meeting minutes.

### IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Student Rep. Report            Danny Suraci**

Danny congratulated the band saying they practice all the time and it is amazing what they can accomplish. He commented that he is proud to see the music department go as far as they did. Danny reported that auditions for the district chorus were held on November 18 and five students made it. Danny said the Cultural Awareness Club held a virtual conference. The play "Father of the Bride" took place without a hitch and the high school received many compliments on the sound system. The musical for this year will be "The Sound of Music". Danny informed the board that the Yearbook Staff would like to take the picture of the board. Mrs. Williams said this is normally done in December at the Reorganization Meeting. Dr. Hurda commented that the "Father of the Bride" play was a great production and was one hundred percent more effective due to the new sound system; she complimented the entire theater department. Mrs. Williams said the entire board has shown a consistent commitment supporting the arts department and the activities of all of the students.

#### **Curriculum/Technology            Ray Rocchio, Jr.            1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 7 p.m.**

Mr. Rocchio reported that the Curriculum Committee met on 11/7/06 discussed the report card and reviewed the high school profile that Mr. Nugent is working on. Mr. Rocchio said the Committee spent time discussing differentiated instruction and putting projectors in the new elementary school and in addition to

that they talked to several administrators who may have some additional requests for projectors in their buildings. Mr. Rocchio reported that the High School Survey for one, three and six year graduates was looked at and it showed that 94.2% of the students who responded said they would pursue a post secondary education degree, 87% felt teachers hold high expectations for helping students succeed, and 92.4% considered our high school to be safe. Mr. Rocchio said there are new courses in the board packets for tonight. The Committee also discussed Evans Elementary and the audiovisual component. Mr. Petrowski commented that he was impressed with the improvement in guidance counseling that was part of the student survey. Mr. Petrowski asked if Dr. Hurda anticipated further improvements in the guidance area due to the implementation of the loop system. Dr. Hurda said she was really pleased to see the positive results so quickly and she said the students felt they were getting a lot more guidance from the entire staff in terms of career and college choices. Dr. Hurda said this year we implemented a College and Career Counselor who staffs our Future Planning Center and will act as a liaison between our high school students, their parents, colleges and apprenticeships. Dr. Hurda said she believes we are just beginning to see the positive effects of that as well as the changes that have been put into the guidance program in the last two years. Mr. Rocchio said if you go back to last year's survey there was a section that asked if the students had adequate access to information and guidance about post secondary choices and plans and the positive responses are now at 74% where last year it was in the forties; this shows significant improvement through the work that the board, staff and administration have done since last year. Danny said he went to a college interview a month ago and the college staff complimented the Spring-Ford Guidance Staff saying they are on the ball. Mr. Grispon asked a housekeeping issue and wondered how a meeting was held with only one Curriculum Committee person present and Mr. Rocchio said it was a discussion and not a meeting. Mr. Grispon asked about the minutes taken and Mr. Rocchio said they were notes not minutes.

**Extracurricular      Robert Weber      2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. 2 p.m.**

Mr. Weber reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on November 14 and reviewed the fall athletic report. He said in tennis Kaeley McCabe was the PAC 10 Singles Champion for the second consecutive year. Kaeley McCabe and Allie Doyle were the PAC 10 Doubles Champion for the second consecutive year. The homecoming report was reviewed and how well it went as well as plans for next year. Mr. Weber said Steve Parks would like to make a final presentation of the comprehensive field study to the school board at the December or January meeting. The Booster Club talked about the scholarships and the possibility of renaming them. Mr. Weber reported that Mr. Eckstine was present at the meeting and reported on the Marching Band's championship win. Mr. Weber reported that the winter sports started as of November 13. Mr. Weber said the Athletic Department has formed a coaches' council that will meet four times per year to address issues such as the growth of the district and how it relates to participation and activities. The Athletic Department will submit a proposal to Administration to invite Rick Wire of Dynamite Sports to come and speak to parents and student athletes on college recruiting and scholarships. Mr. Masciandaro asked the rumors that seem to be going around the district regarding turfing the football field and he wondered if there was any discussion taking place regarding this. Mr. Weber said some discussion has taken place at

the Property Committee and the Extracurricular Committee and this is one of the things that Mr. Parks will be speaking about during his presentation to the entire board. Mr. Weber said no recommendation is being made until the entire board has the chance to see the presentation in December or January. Mr. Grispon commented that you only have to look at the football field to understand that something must be done. Mrs. Williams said when committees meet there are a lot of ideas that are talked about that some may take as fact when they are only in the discussion stages. Mrs. Williams commented that under this Administration and Board there has been nothing but openness and we cannot be responsible for people's perception of it.

**Property/Facilities**                      **Ammon Morgan, Jr.**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. 7 p.m.**

Mr. Morgan said the Property/Facilities Committee met on November 8 and discussed Brooke Elementary School and the geothermal well system. The system costs are estimated to be around \$470,000.00 and payback would be between 10-12 years. Mr. Morgan reported that the new administration building has been given preliminary approval by Upper Providence Township and should be ready to go out to bid in March of 2007. The bids for the demolition of the Gottshall Barn were due for November 17 and are on the agenda for tonight; Upper Providence Township has requested that the drawings for the new structure be sealed by an engineering firm. The high school sound system has been completed and they are now looking into upgrading the lighting although that is just in the discussion stages. Mr. Morgan said they received a noise complaint from a neighbor of Spring City Elementary and the district has placed a sound blanket around the chiller to try and quiet the noise. Mr. Petrowski asked about the Brooke roof and wondered if the project is complete and Dr. Hurda said it is not fully complete yet. Mr. Ciresi said since the price for the lighting system has come back and is so far above the range we set aside he wondered if administration could come back to the board with a recommendation on other improvements that could be made in the auditorium such as storage issues or rigging for the flats. Mr. Ciresi said it is very important that when we have a lighting adjustment we do not have the students hanging off the rafters as the maintenance staff should be contacted and given enough time to make the lighting adjustments prior to the production taking place.

**Community Safety**                      **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**

Dr. Hurda reported that the Community Safety Committee met and discussed safety practices and procedures in the district and whether there are any additional actions that need to be taken. The consensus was that we are a very safe and secure district and that there will always be things we cannot anticipate but we have always been a district that has been proactive. The Committee discussed programs for the future and at the Intermediate School there was a definite opinion that we should continue with the anti-bullying program. There was also a strong belief on the part of our secondary administrators that we need to emphasize some additional programs such as diversity training. There was also discussion on the need to develop a Pandemic Influenza Response Plan as mandated by the state and federal government. The mandate states that all schools develop and approve a plan and add it to their Crisis Response Plan by the end of this year. Dr. Hurda said we will begin that process under the direction of Dr. Leslie Morrill. Mr. Grispon commented that the Spring City American Legion Baseball, Inc. has received a grant and part of the grant is for a

video security system for Ram Stadium. He said if the district wanted to tie into this system they are welcome to tie in but we must coordinate when this is being done.

**Community Healthy Choices      Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**  
No report.

**V. PERSONNEL**

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

**A. Resignations:**

1. **Billie R. Hoch**, Limerick Elementary School; Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher, effective October 27, 2006.
2. **Edward Motzer**, High School; Mathematics Teacher, effective tentatively December 22, 2006.
3. **Julie Davidheiser**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Yearbook Advisor, effective October 17, 2006.
4. **Nicole Flocco**, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, effective November 16, 2006.
5. **Jeffrey J. Mast**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, effective November 8, 2006.
6. **Meghan A. Mozi**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Lacrosse Coach, effective November 2, 2006 for the 2006/2007 school year.
7. **Amy Nihart**, Brooke Elementary School; Part-time Food Service Employee, effective with last work day, November 17, 2006.
8. **Tricia Sweeney**, Spring City Elementary School; Playground Assistant - Supplemental Contract, effective October 26, 2006.
9. **Angelo Volpe**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, effective tentatively January 15, 2007.

**B. Leaves of Absence:**

1. **Marie A. Armentrout**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively December 22, 2006.
2. **Joelle L. Bieber**, High School; Health & Physical Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 4, 2007.

3. **Dana Day Claffey**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective for the remaining 2006/2007 school year.
  4. **Patricia Glass**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Librarian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively January 19, 2007.
  5. **Susan Ibach**, Royersford Elementary School; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective for the remaining 2006/2007 school year.
  6. **Brenda A. Haydt**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively February 5, 2007.
  7. **Delores McCarter**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Guidance Counselor, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective November 29, 2006.
  8. **Meghan A. Mozi**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; LA/Social Studies Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively April 4, 2007.
  9. **Bernadette R. Pence**, Limerick Elementary School; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective for the remainder of the 2006/2007 school year.
  10. **Kristin Rouyer**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; French Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively February 5, 2007 for the remainder of the 2006/2007 school year.
  11. **Elizabeth A. Smith**, Brooke Elementary School; School Nurse, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective October 23, 2006.
- C. **Temporary Professional Employee:**
1. **Krista Zollers**, Upper Providence & Spring City Elementary School; Art Teacher, compensation will be set at \$38,000 BS, Step 1, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective *retroactive* August 24, 2006.
- D. **Long Term Substitute Employees:**
1. **Vicki Ellis**, Royersford Elementary School; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, to *continue* as a Long Term Substitute for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2006/2007 school year. Compensation will be set at \$42,200, MS, Step 3, with benefits.

2. **Amanda Kolb**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits effective tentatively November 27, 2006.
  3. **Ronald Logan**, Limerick Elementary School; Autistic Support Teacher, compensation will be set at \$40,000, MS, Step 1, with benefits effective date to be determined.
  4. **Dana Starkey**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, to *continue* as a Long Term Substitute for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2006/2007 school year. Compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits.
- E. **Support Staff Employee:**
1. **Carole Yoder**, District; Food Service Manager, compensation will be set at \$15.77 per hour with benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 2, 2007.
- F. **Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School**
1. **Robert Sieracki**, Head Swimming Coach, \$5,706, Code B
  2. **Jeffrey Rinehimer**, Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, \$2,786, Code F
  3. **Michelle D. Adcock**, Marching Band Front Visual Facilitator, \$2,786 Code F
  4. **Adrian Bortz**, Assistant Winter (Basketball/Wrestling) Cheerleading Coach, \$1,930, Code H
  5. **Beth Happ**, Volunteer Swimming Coach, \$1.00, Code 1
- G. **Extra-Curricular Contracts: Middle School**
1. **Max Robinson**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys' Basketball Coach, \$4,126, Code D
  2. **Nicole Flocco**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, \$4,126, Code D
  3. **Dennis Knorr**, Assistant Football Coach, \$3,160, Code E
  4. **Karen Miscavage**, 8/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheerleading Coach (Winter) \$965, Code H ½
  5. **Karen Miscavage**, 8/9<sup>th</sup> Grade Cheerleading Coach (Fall) \$965, Code H ½
  6. **Patrick Welch**, Assistant Boys' Soccer Coach, \$1632, Code I
- H. **Extra-Curricular Contracts: Intermediate School**
1. **Juliet Davidheiser**, Yearbook Advisor, \$593, Code J ½
  2. **Sherry Stockmal**, Yearbook Advisor, \$93, Code J ½
  3. **Molly Sheehan**, Lacrosse Advisor, \$337, Code LC
  4. **Barb Crist**, Spanish Club Advisor, \$350, Code M
  5. **Katherine Schneider**, Art Club Advisor, 1st Session, \$350, Code M
  6. **Cheryl Kramer**, Art Club Advisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, \$350, Code M
  7. **Katherine Schneider**, Art Club Advisor, 3rd Session, \$350, Code M
  8. **Cheryl Kramer**, Art Club Advisor, 4th session, \$350, Code M

I. **Supplemental Contract:**

1. **Tracie Horan**, Playground Coverage, \$10.60 per hour

J. **Professional Staff Substitutes:**

1. **Anne Celentano** Elementary Education/Early Childhood
2. **Amy Custer** Elementary Education
3. **Elizabeth Kusniez** Elementary Education
4. **Antoinette Pelletier** Elementary Education/Special Education
5. **Michelle Roux** Biology
6. **Beth Scanlon** Elementary Education
7. **Maryanne Stephens** Elementary Education
8. **Pamela Walls** Elementary Education
9. **Kristi Witzel** Elementary Education

K. **Support Staff Substitutes:**

1. **JC Callow**
2. **Christine Corcoran**
3. **Amy Custer**
4. **Kathleen DiBenedetto**
5. **Carrie Edwards**
6. **Marlena Heller**
7. **Tracie Horan**
8. **Amanda Tamaki**

L. **Personnel Information Items**

The individual(s) listed below have completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee(s) and are, therefore, entitled to tenure status:

1. **Shannon K. Dallahan** School Guidance Counselor
2. **Andrea L. Rees** Elementary Education

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item M and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. Dr. Hurda introduced the recommended candidate for the Principal of Limerick Elementary School, Mitch Edmunds. Dr. Hurda said Mitch comes to our district highly recommended and has served as a Supervisor of Special Education, Director of Personnel and has been an Elementary Principal in a number of districts. Dr. Hurda said she is very pleased that Mitch has decided to come and join the Spring-Ford Leadership Team. Dr. Hurda said even though Mrs. Havrilla is a wonderful Principal she is confident that Mitch will be able to step into her shoes and do a wonderful job there. The motion passed 9-0.

- M. The Board approved the appointment of Mitchel Edmunds for the position of Principal of Limerick Elementary School. Mr. Edmunds has a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Millersville University, a Master of Education in Special Education from Central Connecticut State University, a Special Education Supervisory

Certificate, Elementary Principal Certificate and Secondary Principal Certificate from Penn State University. He has served as a Supervisor of Special Education, Director of Personnel and Elementary Principal in the North Penn, Upper Merion and Upper Dublin School Districts. Compensation will be set at \$104,922.87 with benefits, effective date to be determined.

## VI. FINANCE

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

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item B2 be separated. Mrs. Williams asked for a motion for Item A. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Petrowski seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the payment for the following invoices for the month of **NOVEMBER**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2004**:

#### 1. **EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Colonial Electric	Lights not shown on drawings	\$	571.86
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	2,382.50
Limerick Twp. MA	Professional Services	\$	192.65
MBR Construction	Applic. #10- Electrical Contractor	\$	86,578.00
U.S. Laboratories Inc.	Soils Testing & Inspection	\$	10,077.24
*DLR Group	Professional Services	\$	4,239.56
*MBR Construction	Applic. #11- Electrical Contractor	\$	22,804.00
*PECO Energy	Electricity (2 Invoices)	\$	875.21
*Jay R. Reynolds Inc.	Applic. #11- Plumbing Contractor	\$	54,276.97
*SMJ Contracting Inc.	Applic. #14- General Contractor	\$	<u>861,886.07</u>
	TOTAL		\$1,043,884.06

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

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	80.00
Officenter, Inc.	5 Filing Cabinets, Chair for Principal's Office	\$	3,372.07
*U. Providence Twp.	Professional Services	\$	<u>210.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	3,662.07

#### 3. **9<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	<u>163.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	163.00

#### 4. **BROOKE ELEMENTARY**

Silas Bolef Company	Applic. #4- Electrical Contractor	\$	2,565.00
*SMJ Contracting Inc.	Applic. #7- General Contractor	\$	<u>83,428.55</u>
	TOTAL	\$	85,993.55

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Items B1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. Mr. Grispon asked if the mandate waiver for the scoreboard has been submitted and Dr. Hurda replied that it had been signed and submitted. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. **Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,088.40
	TOTAL	\$	1,088.40

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item B2 and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked about the total amount spent so far on renovating this property and what is the amount we expect to receive for rent. Mr. Anspach said \$40,000.00 was the budgeted amount for renovations and so far we have spent \$35,000.00 which includes the invoices listed below. Mr. Anspach said estimated rental income will be between \$1,400.00 and \$1,600.00 and the property is being marketed as we speak. Mr. Pettit asked how close we are to completing the renovations and Mr. Anspach said the only issue outstanding is the air conditioning and this should be completed sometime in the summer. Mr. Petrowski said his understanding is that there may be a truckload or two of stone to be placed in the driveway which should amount to a couple hundred dollars. The motion passed 9-0.

2. **Greenstein Property Repairs**

Delaware Valley Insul	Install Insulation	\$	2,390.00
J&L Building Supplies	Miscellaneous Supplies		
	Downspouts, Gutters, Elbows		
	Screws, White Trim	\$	658.05
MAB Paints	Paint	\$	48.18
Sherwin Williams	Paint	\$	24.51
Steve Strom Floor	Materials/Installation Kitchen		
Covering	Floor	\$	1,764.59
*Colonial Electric Co	Misc. Electrical Supplies	\$	244.05
*Peter Lumber Co.	Misc. Supplies	\$	20.41
	TOTAL	\$	5,149.79

3. **Phase II – Design Athletic Fields**

Cowan Associates	Professional Services	\$	406.20
	TOTAL	\$	406.20

4. **Senior High-Auditorium Sound System**

Berkshire Systems	Professional Wireless Mic Sys.	\$	31,500.00
	TOTAL	\$	31,500.00

5. **Scoreboard –Senior High**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,102.50
	TOTAL	\$	1,102.50

6. **New District Office**

Foreman Architects	Professional Services Inv. #10	\$	20,473.97
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	3,104.00
U. Providence Twp.	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	1,377.67

*U. Providence Twp. Professional Services (3 Inv.)	\$	621.50
*U. Providence Twp. Escrow Account	\$	<u>5,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$	30,577.14

7. **School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Sweet Stevens LLP Professional Services	\$	181.50
*Sweet Stevens LLP Professional Services	\$	<u>792.00</u>
TOTAL	\$	973.50

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Items C, D, E, F, G, I, J, K, L and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

C. The Board approved payment of 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>October</u>		
Check No. 112855 - 112925	\$	515,463.78
<u>November</u>		
Check No. 112926 - 113232	\$	1,009,845.71

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

Check No. 113233 - 113256	\$	27,233.48
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3. Board Checks held for approval

Check No. 113257 - 113488	\$	353,846.08
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4. Athletic Fund - October

Check No. 298714 - 298853	\$	45,116.84
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E. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.**

Provide six (6) one-hour presentations entitled "Winter Secrets....Animals in Winter" at Brooke Elementary School between January 23 and January 25, 2007. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed five hundred seventy dollars (\$570.00).

2. **Joe Holiday – Alexandria VA.** Provide an assembly entitled "Books! The Magic is Real" at Limerick Elementary School on October 5, 2006. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed five hundred ninety-five dollars (\$595.00).

3. **American Red Cross – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide Initial Training and Recertification of professional staff in Cardiopulmonary

Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The approximate number of professional staff to be trained between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 is twenty (20) at a rate of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per person. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1,300.00).

4. **American Red Cross – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide Initial Training and Recertification of instructional assistants in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. The approximate number of staff to be trained between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 is one hundred fifty (150) at a rate of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00) per person. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed nine thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$9,750.00).
5. **Ken-Crest Services – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide transition and pre-employment services for a special education student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for sixty-five (65) days at a rate of ninety-six dollars and ninety cents (\$96.90) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six thousand two hundred ninety-eight dollars and fifty cents (\$6,298.50).
6. **Caron Treatment Centers Student Assistance Program – Wernersville, PA.** Provide guidance counselor training on Peer Mediation. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$565.00).
7. **New Life Youth & Family Services – Harleysville, PA.** Provide educational services for a special education student. Services will be provided at the cost of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per day for one hundred thirty-three days from November 16, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Alternative Education Fund and shall not exceed sixteen thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$16,625.00).
8. **Musicopia – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide two assemblies entitled “Hot Air: The Story of Brass Instruments” at Upper Providence Elementary on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. There will be no cost to the district as funding is provided through The Teleflex Foundation.
9. **National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) – Reston, VA.** Provide two (2) E-Workshops for Mathematics teachers in grades 6-8 on problem solving. The workshops will take place on December 6, 2006 and January 17, 2007. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
10. **Rick Wire, Dynamite Sports – Lemoyne, PA.** Provide a presentation on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. to student-

athletes in grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 as well as their parents regarding the updated NCAA Clearinghouse academic requirements. The updates pertain to the number of accepted core courses required for college athletic eligibility. This presentation is vital for those students contemplating college athletics as they prepare for their selection of courses in February for the 2007-2008 school year. There is no cost to the district.

- F. The Board approved the establishment of the World Language Club in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity Account.
- G. The Board approved the establishment of the Comedy Club in the High School Activity Account.
- I. The Board approved seeking bids for supplies for the 2007-2008 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, general, paper, medical, dental, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
- J. The Board approved participation in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for Copier Paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2007-2008 school year.

#### **NEW FINANCE**

- K. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
  - General Fund
    - Money Market – October 2006
    - PSDLAF – October 2006
    - PSDMAX – October 2006
    - Checking Account – October 2006
    - PLGIT Account – October 2006
    - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – October 2006
    - Payroll Account – October 2006
    - Tax Account – October 2006
  - Activity Accounts
    - Elementary Activity – October 2006
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – October 2006
    - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – October 2006
    - High School Activity – October 2006
    - Athletic Account – October 2006
  - Bond Funds
    - Note of 2003 – October 2006
    - Note Of 2004 – October 2006
  - Other Funds
    - Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – October 2006
    - Debt Service Fund – October 2006
    - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – October 2006

Cafeteria Fund

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

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

Checks No. 6626 - 6671

\$ 281,996.55

**VII. PROPERTY**

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item B be separated and Mr. Grispon asked that Items A and D be separated. Mrs. Williams said each item will be taken separately.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. The motion failed by a vote of 4-5 with Mr. Morgan, Mr. Petrowski, Mr. Grispon, Mr. Weber and Mrs. Williams voting no.

- A. The Board did not approve the materials for PlanCon A, Project Justification, and PlanCon B, Schematic Design, which have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The PlanCon A and B materials are for the Additions/Alterations to the Spring-Ford Area School District High School. (Attachment).

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked if the barn needed to be rebuilt at the same site. He said the location is not a great spot for storage or in a great proximity to our other facilities. Mr. Morgan said yes it has to be rebuilt on the existing foundation. Mr. Masciandaro asked why and Mr. Morgan said if we do not build on the same site then there would be extensive land development costs associated with relocating the building as well as going through the whole process in Upper Providence Township for developing it some place else. Mrs. Williams said as opposed to being a replacement structure it becomes a new project and is subject to subdivision, engineering costs, and road improvements. Mrs. Williams said if we place it somewhere it else we become a developer of sorts. Mr. Morgan said since we are building a two story structure Mr. Cooper was confident that it would meet his needs for the next several years. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Masciandaro voting no.

- B. The Board approved Arthur Altemose Architects to complete an architectural drawing of the Gottshall Barn prior to going out for bid. An architect's seal is needed to receive a permit. Funding will be provided through the insurance settlement and shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00).

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item C and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Davis reminded the board that the district is under notice from Upper Providence Township to get this building demolished quickly. Mr. Petrowski asked, with respect to doing this quickly, when we expect the work to be done and Mr.

Morgan said he believes Mr. Cooper’s intentions since we are under notice is to get this done as fast as possible. The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The Board approved Passerini & Sons Landscaping, Inc., the low bidder, to demolish the Gottshall Barn as per the bid specifications in the amount of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500.00), not accepting the alternate bid, and rejecting all other bids, pending review of all final paperwork. Funding will provided through the insurance settlement.

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

- D. The Board approved a change order for electrical work at Evans Elementary School in the amount of \$8,031.83 to modify wiring to permit (and commit the District to) the installation of video projectors rather than television sets in all classrooms. It is estimated that placing television sets in the same locations would cost approximately \$48,000.00. The recommended video projection system is an estimated minimum of \$77,000.00 depending on the final configuration.

**VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mr. Rocchio made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. Mr. Grispon asked if any additional staff would be needed and Dr. Hurda said additional staff would be needed at the high school in order to accommodate our growing enrollment numbers but no additional staff would be needed for these two courses. The motion passed 9-0.

The Board approved the following new courses to be implemented in the 2007-2008 school year. Board approval was requested so that administration may begin the processes of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of courses in the students’ course guide.

**NEW COURSES FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2007-2008**

**A. MATH DEPARTMENT**

**1. Introductory Programming Using Animated Worlds (Minor)**

**a) Rationale:** This course proposal has been developed in an effort to involve more students in technology instruction and introduce them to potential careers in computer animation. Students will work with “Alice”, a programming language/environment that allows students to learn basic computer science while creating animated movies and simple video productions.

**b) Cost:**

1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours)	\$ 600.00
2) Initial Texts (30 x \$36.00)	\$1,080.00

**B. GIFTED DEPARTMENT**

**1. Animal Behavior (Minor)**

**a) Rationale:** This course would allow students in the gifted program to explore an area of science rarely covered in high school science classes. The content will appeal to students with an interest in biology, as well as to those with an interest in human behavior. Students will examine the principles of animal behavior and how behaviors allow animals to adapt to their environment. In addition, this course will address the influence of culture, technology, and convenience on the development of human behavior. This course will also focus on the meaning of intelligence, and how we distinguish the intelligence of humans from that of animals.

**b) Cost:**

1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours)	\$ 600.00
2) Initial Texts (15 x \$89.50)	\$1,342.50
3) Initial Materials (Instructional Videos)	\$ 100.00

**IX. PSBA REPORT**

**Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.**

No report.

**X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-Y and Mr. Rocchio 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. **Donna L. Williams, John S. Grispon, Board Members, Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"PSBA Seminar on Superintendent Evaluations"* at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, November 29, 2006. The total cost for this seminar is 375.00 from the 580 account.
- B. **Timothy C. Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley A. Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend *"PASBO Conference"* in Pittsburgh, PA from Tuesday, March 13 through Friday, March 16, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$1787.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- C. **Gary L. Spohn**, Director of Technology, to attend *"Skyward Steering Committee Meeting"* in Greensburg, PA on Monday, December 11, 2006. The total cost for this conference is \$374.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

- D. **Gary L. Spohn**, Director of Technology, and **Judy Kuhns**, Technology Integration Specialist, to attend "*Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference*" in Hershey, PA from Sunday, February 11 through Tuesday, February 13, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$984.96 from the 2006-2007 Technology Budget. No substitute is needed.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Ken DeAngelo** and **Danielle Stauffer**, High School Track and Cross Country Coaches, to attend "*25<sup>th</sup> Annual US All Star Track & Field/Cross Country Clinic*" in Atlantic City, NJ on Thursday, December 14 and Friday, December 15, 2006. The total cost of this clinic is \$545.00 from the 2006-2007 Athletic Budget.
- F. **Maren Trout**, College Career Coordinator, to attend "*PASSHE Counselor Information Day*" at Mansfield University in Mansfield, PA on Tuesday, October 17, 2006. The total cost for this conference is \$282.30 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- G. **Bruce Brobst**, Baseball Coach, to attend "*Be the Best You Are*" in Cherry Hill, NJ on Friday, January 19, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$409.00 - \$284.00 from the 2006-2007 Athletic Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- H. **Katie Davis**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Indicator 13 Training: Ensuring Coordinated, Measurable, Annual IEP Goals & Transition Services*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on December 12, 2006, January 23, 2007, March 16, 2007 and May 3, 2007. The total cost of this training is \$595.00 - \$95.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education

Dr. Hurda spoke about Item I saying that the district has two teachers who have been accepted into the Wyeth Scholar Program. These two teachers are studying biotechnology and their participation in this entire program lasts a year and is funded through Wyeth. Dr. Hurda said this is quite a credit for the district and will enhance the ability to teach our students in the future.

- I. **Michele Brant Miller** and **Mary Ann Murrow**, Science Teachers, to attend "*2007 Conference on Biotechnology Education*" in Boston, MA from Wednesday, May 2 through May 4, 2007. Attendance at this conference is a part of their participation in the Wyeth Scholar Program. There is no cost for this conference (Wyeth funded) other than \$750.00 from the substitute account.
- J. **Heather Steinmetz**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Preventing Youth Violence through Threat Assessments*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$15.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

### 8TH GRADE CENTER

- K. **Sheila Egleston**, Math Support Teacher, and **Brandon Ruppel**, Teacher, to attend *“PaTTAN – Assessment Anchors and Big Ides in Math”* in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$258.90 - \$8.90 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- L. **Sheila Egleston**, Math Support Teacher, to attend *“Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in Math”* in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, Friday, February 2, 2007, and Wednesday, April 11, 2007. The total cost of the training is \$408.65 - \$33.65 from the 580 account and \$375.00 from the substitute account.
- M. **Anne Marie Spohn**, Guidance Counselor, to attend *“Mean Girls, A Conference on Relational Aggression”* in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Friday, December 1, 2006. The total cost for this conference is \$361.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed. **\*Anne Marie is replacing Dolores McCarter who was approved to go at the October Board Meeting but due to a conflict cannot attend.\***

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER

- N. **Teresa Carboy**, Assistant Principal, to attend *“Restorative Practices”* at the Radisson Hotel in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, January 12, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$90.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

### 5/6 GRADE CENTER

- O. **Connie Willauer**, Gifted Support Teacher, to attend *“Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education”* at the Marriott Pittsburgh City Centre in Pittsburgh, PA on Thursday, April 19 and Friday, April 20, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$254.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- P. **Alisa Aerow** and **Anne Marie Spohn**, Guidance Counselors, to attend *“4Sight Benchmark Assessment Training”* at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$187.00 from the 580 account. No Substitutes are needed.

### BROOKE

- Q. **Jo-Ann Messer**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend *“Make and Take for the PASA”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$153.00 - \$28.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

### LIMERICK

- R. **Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla**, Principal, to attend “*Southeast Region Women’s Caucus*” in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, November 9, 2006. The total cost of this caucus is \$57.80 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- S. **Jacqueline Clarke Havrilla** and **Dr. Melissa D. Patschke**, Principals, to attend “*NAESP Annual Convention and Exposition*” in Seattle, Washington from Thursday, March 29 through Tuesday, April 3, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$3840.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- T. **Joanne Garro** and **Jennifer Kravitz**, Teachers, to attend “*Dr. Jean’s Razzle Dazzle Centers and Activities for Reading, Writing and Math*” in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, December 13, 2006. The total cost for this conference is \$310.00 - \$185.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- U. **Kathleen D. Gebhard**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*Teaching Writing Across Inclusive Settings*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, December 7, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$160.00 - \$35.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- V. **Kathleen D. Gebhard**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*Software for Reading and Writing*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, March 1, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$160.00 - \$35.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- W. **Susan Vukovich**, Nurse, to attend “*Autism Spectrum Disorders – Etiology, Diagnosis and Treatment*” in Reading, PA on Friday, December 15, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$355.00 - \$230.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

### UPPER PROVIDENCE

- X. **Dr. Melissa Patschke**, Principal, to attend “*Principal’s (PAESSP) Meeting with The Department of Education*” in Camp Hill, PA on Friday, December 8, 2006. There is no cost for this conference.

### DISTRICT-WIDE

- Y. **Dr. Leslie T. Morrill**, Supervisor of Staff Development, **Deborah Longwell** and **Tara Chester**, ESL Teachers, to attend “*PDE Training on new 2006-07 ELP Assessment – Part 2*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. The total cost of the conference is \$65.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Ciresi asked that Item A2 be separated. Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Item A1 and A3. Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #238 – PUPILS: Child Custody/Parental Rights

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Item A2 and Mr. Grispon seconded it. Mr. Ciresi commented that he has concerns resulting from some of the comments he has received from the home and school organizations and if it was across the board for all the organization. Mr. Ciresi said while they understand the need for some type of a maintenance policy they felt 20% was a lot of money on a \$30,000.00 or \$40,000.00 fundraiser. Mr. Ciresi said he would like to see the policy reviewed one more time before going for approval to see if any other changes need to be made to it. Mrs. Williams said this is on the agenda for a second reading and approval. Dr. Hurda said this relates directly to playground equipment which needs to be retrofitted to meet the new safety requirements for students. Dr. Hurda said we have about \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 worth of retrofitting that we are going to need to do over the next couple of years to make sure those pieces of equipment are meeting the most stringent safety requirements. Dr. Hurda said in order to cover the expense of retrofitting the Policy Committee felt that it was important to accept the donation of playground equipment but at the same time to have some money set aside to be able to deal with the changing regulations as they occur. Mr. Petrowski asked if this policy would be retroactive and Dr. Hurda said no it would be for any equipment donated in the future. Mr. Rocchio asked if this money would be earmarked and Mr. Anspach said this is something that will need to be discussed at future Finance Committee meetings in order to develop a plan of action. Mr. Weber asked if the money set aside would draw interest and Mr. Anspach said yes. The motion passed 9-0.

2. Policy #702 – PROPERTY: Gifts, Grants, Donations
3. Policy #814 – OPERATIONS: Copyright Material

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

B. The Board approved **Resolution #2006-21** requesting relief from the funding of charter school educations.

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

1. Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization

D. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:

1. Policy #815 - OPERATIONS: Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems Policy.

E. The following athletic trips for the purpose of participation in tournaments (part of the respective teams PIAA schedule) were approved by the Board:

1. **Boys Basketball: Carlisle Tip Off Tournament, Carlisle HS**  
Friday, December 1 & Saturday, December 2, 2006  
Departure will be *after* school on Friday.  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the booster club.  
Team will use district transportation.
2. **Wrestling: The Times Leader Invitational Wrestling Tournament**  
Penn State University  
Saturday, December 16 & Sunday, December 17, 2006  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the booster club.  
Team will use district transportation.
3. **The Conestoga Valley Holiday Tournament, Conestoga Valley HS**  
Friday, December 29 & Saturday, December 30, 2006  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the booster club.  
Team will use district transportation.
4. **Girls Basketball: Hazleton HS & Berwick HS Games**  
Hazleton on Friday, December 29, 2006  
Berwick Saturday, December 30, 2006  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the booster club.  
Team will use district transportation.

Please note: There will be no class time missed. Teams will be using district transportation. All lodging and meal costs are funded from the respective team's Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club fund raising accounts. There are no costs to the district other than transportation. All contests are part of the respective team's PIAA schedule.

5. **Cheerleaders: Central Atlantic Regional Competition**  
Berwick High School, Berwick, PA  
Sunday, December 10, 2006  
or  
John Carroll High School, Bel Air, MD  
Saturday, December 16, 2006

Please note: Meal costs and transportation are funded from the respective team's Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club fund raising accounts.

**XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

No report.

**XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Mr. Masciandaro asked to go back to Item A under Property. He said it was one year ago after the board reorganized that the High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century was put on hold for six months in order to negotiate with the Western Center. Mr.

Masciandaro said after the six month time period expired it was decided to go forward with project and now the board has voted tonight to stop the project by the same vote as last year. He said we are one year hence and we have no plan out there and no plan of our own; he wondered where we go from here. Mr. Petrowski said the significant fact that has changed is the tremendous amount of work the administration has done showing the costs differences operating and building wise in total with respect to continuing with the vo-tech. Mr. Petrowski said the fact that we had a 13-12 vote at the convention showed him that we are very close to reaching a settlement and he feels it would be a slap in the face to the other two participating districts to move ahead with approval of PlanCon A&B. Mr. Petrowski commented that it gives us the ability to continue negotiations to save upwards of almost ten million dollars over twenty years and protects our ability to get rebates at the high school should we build a different type of addition or if our feasibility plan shows that we need to make the addition somewhere else in the district. Mr. Petrowski said at this point and time he is highly in favor of continuing to work with the other two districts and hopefully get a resolution. He feels it is ill-advised especially with the notes that are in the PDE report that states we will not be able to make an addition at the high school for the next twenty years. Mr. Pettit said he respectfully disagrees with Mr. Petrowski as he feels we are depriving our own students of the opportunity to partake in a program that would be extremely beneficial to them and to the entire student body. Mr. Pettit said he also disagrees with the cost estimates as he does not know where they came from or how sound they are. He said even if it costs more we should consider this for children of Spring-Ford. Mr. Pettit said he is very concerned that anything over the 40 million dollars we are going to be paying 60% of it and anything going forward we are expected to pay the same percentage. Mr. Pettit said he believes that Mr. Weber's suggestion that we pick up the cost based upon admissions is the only way to go. Mr. Weber said he is a little disgusted about the whole situation at the technical center but feels we have a long term relationship there and he does not want to just give up on it yet. Mr. Cirese asked about PlanCon A&B and whether moving forward only gives administration authority to continue to investigate the High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and is not a commitment to actually building the project until we get to PlanCon C&D. Mr. Cirese said by knocking down PlanCon A&B we have shown the other two districts that we are willing to cave because we have just given up our ace in the hole. Mr. Cirese said we all agree as a board that vocational education is extremely important and our commitment is to Spring-Ford and the taxpayers. Mr. Masciandaro commented that when we first did the plan for the High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we held a public hearing and we have not done this in awhile and he suggested we have another public hearing possibly in January. Mr. Petrowski said the biggest issue that has occurred since last year is Act 1 and this board is under tremendous pressure to meet a figure that has been set by the state government of 3.47% increase in the percentage increase in taxes. Mr. Petrowski said there are some exceptions that will allow the district to go above set limits such as special education and contributions to retirement. Mr. Petrowski said if the set number cannot be met then we must go to the voters for approval but if the voters reject the budget then the district must alter the budget. We would not be here tonight voting on new jackets for the band as the district would not be able to afford them if the above scenario took place. Mr. Petrowski said the bottom line is that the legislature has come down hard on school districts and told them to use their money in the wisest possible way they

can. Dr. Hurda said there are a couple of issues that she feels the need to address and while she may not take the popular approach she feels she must take the honest approach. Dr. Hurda said her staff has done everything possible to provide as accurate information as we can. She said that in many circumstances we have stopped all of the other work in the district to make sure that we as an administration provide the most accurate information to our taxpayers because two or three years from now someone will come back to us and ask why didn't you give us the whole story. Dr. Hurda said at the same time we have moved forward with PlanCon A&B which have been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the action tonight was the acceptance of that approval into the records. Dr. Hurda welcomed another public meeting so that everyone can look at the whole picture as there is nothing to hide. Dr. Hurda commented that her concern is on a different level and that is that we have tremendous issues in terms of facilities at the secondary level. She said we will not be able to move forward at the secondary level until this situation is decided so she is speaking on behalf of the students in this district and asking that the board members please get together and plan how we are going to accommodate the students who are coming up in the future. Dr. Hurda said the numbers are there, the issues exist, whether it is nine classrooms or eighteen classrooms, whether it is a High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we need to make a decision because those kids are coming whether we are ready or not. Dr. Hurda said it is a much bigger issue and she is happy to share whatever the board or public need to know but she implores the board to look at the situation that is developing at the secondary level. She said within the next year we will have as many students in the 10-12 building as we had in the high school when it was a 9-12 building. Mr. Ciresi asked for point of clarification on whether the building of the High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century would stymie any funding to do any other building. Dr. Hurda said you are limited to doing one reimbursable project every twenty years so if you did the High School of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and nine additional classrooms then you have eliminated the opportunity to do another reimbursable project at the high school. Dr. Hurda said right now we need more than nine additional classrooms so the scope of the project would have to change dramatically in order to embrace the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center as well as the 10-12 Grade Center. Dr. Hurda said there will come a point where our taxpayers will have to bear the burden and all information must be put out there for the public and she welcomes the opportunity to do this. Mr. Morgan said he attended an occupational advisory committee meeting at the Western Center. This occupational advisory committee is made up of about seventy businesses and corporations who come in and evaluate the programs at the Western Center. Mr. Morgan asked if we really want to walk away from the Western Center and all their business relations and start over. Mr. Pettit commented that he wanted to make it clear that no board member was questioning the numbers supplied to them by administration but what sometimes gets lost in the shuffle is the way the numbers are looked at going forward in the future. Mrs. Williams commented that it was said here this evening that nothing was accomplished over this past year and this is very unfair. Mrs. Williams said what did happen was that Spring-Ford did not have the required votes. Mrs. Williams said some of our board members did not support the plan in the end and she respects their opinion and right to vote. Mrs. Williams said her personal concern is that the other two sending districts have obtained a lawyer who has been in communication with our special counsel. The two districts have no intention of paying us the five

million dollars we would be entitled to going out the door should we leave the Western Center and we are looking at a very expensive law suit. Mrs. Williams said the people she has spoken to have told her to work it out and do your best. Mrs. Williams said Pottsgrove did not let us down, Upper Perkiomen had their own plan, Spring-Ford did not have enough vote so we own this. Mrs. Williams said we have put a lot of work into this and this board will have to go home and do a self examination of their conscience and decide where we are because right now we are in limbo and this is not fair to the kids.

Gail Wellington, Limerick Township, said there are too many different agendas between the three school districts for it to be an easy task. Mrs. Wellington commented that she would rather see the public hearing delayed so that administration could present to the public the complete needs that they see over the next five years for our buildings. She said we need to look at the big picture because sooner or later we are going to have to go to referendum and the more information the public has the better. Mrs. Wellington said priorities must be right and if the football team has to play in the mud rather than on a turf field so that students can have a classroom to learn biotechnology then so be it. She emphasized the basic fundamental academic component of education is the most important at all grades and this cannot be done in overcrowded classrooms or in portable classrooms and makeshift facilities. Mrs. Wellington said we need to know exactly what we think the long term needs are going to be and she hopes this will be the focus of the public hearing and not just this vocational issue.

Mrs. Williams thanked Mrs. Wellington for her comments and said the feasibility study will be presented by Gary Bannon after the first of the year. She said she believes we can still make something work at the Western Center and make no mistake that under the new Act 1 environment the first thing to go will be electives and that will be vocational education which will be very difficult for electives.

Christy Mullin, Limerick Township, said she is the parent of a fifth grader who is struggling as are other fifth graders who are dealing with the transition from fourth grade to fifth grade poorly. She said she has heard from upwards of fifty to sixty other parents who are dealing with these issues. Mrs. Mullin said during conferences there was a survey form placed on a desk outside of the conference room but no one told her they were there and that she should fill them out. She said we need more communication between the school and parents as the fourth grade parents now need to be talked to and the kids need to be worked with. Mrs. Mullin said the kids need to be taught organization skills and told that science and social studies will be major subjects rather than the minor ones they are now. She said there is a great program at Oaks Elementary for kindergarteners who are going to first grade and their parents. This program helps to get the students ready to move into first grade. She feels we need to do something like this in order to get the fourth graders ready to move to fifth grade. Mrs. Mullin said this issue is not going away and she feels nothing is being done.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grispon made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

## **APPROVED DISTRICT GOALS**

1. Formulate a plan to provide a quality in-house alternative education program for students within the Spring-Ford School District.
2. Provide a quality career and technical education for students in grades 10-12 focusing on what is both educationally and economically feasible.
3. Develop a long range comprehensive secondary school facilities plan.
4. Develop and implement a transition plan for students and parents as children move through grades 4-8.
5. Track and monitor key measures for student success: graduation rates, drop out rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates and the feedback from past graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern  
Board Secretary