

On December 3, 2012 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:43 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: 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

The following Board Member was absent: Clara M. Gudolonis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello announced that parents and students are invited to explore opportunities for the future at the Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center's Open House on Wednesday, December 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. They will have an opportunity 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 www.westerncenter.org. Mr. DiBello also invited parents, students and staff to weigh in on how well our schools are serving their needs through its newest Perspectives on Your School Climate Survey. The survey will be open for two weeks. If you have not received an invitation by email, you can access the survey via the Your Voice link on the district's website at www.spring-ford.net. Mr. DiBello reminded parents and the community to check the district's and the individual building websites for announcements on upcoming holiday concerts. He also reminded parents to check their children's individual building websites for news on activities and events taking place in their schools. Information about events taking place in the district can also be found by visiting www.spring-ford.net.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments or questions from the public.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Edmunds said it is a pleasure to be here this evening to talk about the Hybrid Learning School at Spring City Elementary. Mr. Edmunds reported that tonight's presentation will show exactly what is taking place in the classrooms and media Center. Mr. Edmunds stated that he has a few people with him this evening to talk about the Hybrid Learning School and he introduced Mrs. Deborah Eaton, a 4th Grade Teacher, Mrs. Mary DeAngelis, the Library Media Specialist, Evan Riordan, Jacob Harris and Cameron Case, students from Spring City Elementary.

Mrs. Eaton gave an overview of what they are doing in the Hybrid classrooms and explained some of the programs that are used on a daily basis. The programs include Achieve 3000, Compass Learning Odyssey, and DreamBox Learning.

Mrs. DeAngelis spoke about the Media Center saying that they are trying to build excitement about reading, writing and research using digital tools. Mrs. DeAngelis explained some of the tools being used for this are blogging about their favorite books, using Shelfari (a virtual Reading Olympics bookshelf), and StoryJumper (creating E-books). Mrs. DeAngelis stated that students are being taught how to find and present information in a digital world. Students work on their research skills, evaluate their sources for quality, work on their presentation skills, learn about online encyclopedias and other sources. Mrs. DeAngelis compared the work 3rd graders did for their animal reports back in 2005 with the more advanced work they do now in 2012.

Each student came up and gave a brief overview of their animal report which also included some PowerPoint slides. Cameron Case spoke about her report which was entitled "Platypus Adaptations". Jacob Harris spoke about his report entitled "California King Snake". Evan Riordan spoke about his report entitled "Platypus".

Mr. Edmunds invited the Board Members to ask the students questions so that they can hear information from a student's perspective.

Mr. DiBello commented on the Board Back to School Day and said he had the opportunity to visit Mrs. Eaton's class and experience Hybrid Learning. He encouraged all of the Board Members to go and visit Spring City Elementary to see how the Hybrid Learning has been embraced by the students and staff.

Mr. Pettit asked the students how this year's classes differ from last year's classes. Evan replied that it is different because if you are in directive learning there are only a couple people in a group so you can ask questions more often than having to wait for an answer.

Mrs. Mullin asked what grade the students are in and Cameron replied that they are in 4th grade.

Mr. Pettit asked if they like it better and Cameron replied yes, she likes it better because in the collaborative group you get to work with your friends and this helps with teamwork.

Mr. Cromley asked if it was hard to make the adjustment from what they did in past years to what they are doing this year and Evan replied that it was hard to go from learning as a whole class to learning in different groups. Jacob added that he also found it tough because in a younger grade the work is easier but when you get into a higher grade the work is much harder. Mr. Cromley asked if the students thought that their classmates shared the same views and Cameron said she thinks they are because a lot of them seem to enjoy going on the computers and working with Mrs. Eaton. Mr. Cromley asked if we still have Everyday Math and Mr. Edmunds said yes they still have Everyday Math and they follow the same curriculum as the rest of the district.

Mr. DiBello said he believes from what the students have said that they really enjoy working with the computers and the technology that was put in the classroom. Mr. DiBello said this is the main piece behind the Hybrid Learning. Mr. Edmunds agreed

that the students are really enjoying this and it is nice to see that you are seeing the same thing in kindergarten as you are in fourth grade. Mr. Edmunds reported that iPads will be in the classrooms next week or so and the staff will receive training on December 11th and then shortly thereafter SmartBoards will be installed in all of the classrooms. Mr. Edmunds commented that they have a lot to look forward to and he expressed his appreciation to the Board for their support. Mr. Edmunds stated that he also appreciates the support of his staff as they have worked very hard and are totally invested in what is going on at Spring City Elementary. He also thanked the students and the parents for all of their support this year.

- A. **Mitch Edmunds**, Principal, **Deborah Eaton**, **Mary DeAngelis**, Teachers, and **Students** from Spring City Elementary, to give an update and perspective on the Spring City Hybrid Learning School.

Dr. Goodin recognized two district teachers for attaining National Board Certification. He stated that both teachers are from Evans Elementary. Dr. Goodin commented that Mrs. Susan Mercer is a second grade teacher and Mrs. Arlene Reagan is a third grade teacher. He stated that in the teaching profession there is state certification and if you are really a go-getter and want to torture yourself then you go for National Board Certification. Dr. Goodin commented that these two teachers have risen to that challenge and they have achieved National Board Certification. Dr. Goodin asked the two teachers to come forward to be recognized. Dr. Goodin invited them to speak about the process they went through for National Board Certification.

Mrs. Mercer reported that she was Mrs. Reagan's student teacher way back when. They spoke of going through the program together and stated that it was one of the most educational adventures they have ever gone on. She spoke about the amount of growth a teacher goes through during this process. Mrs. Mercer stated that the students in their classes have certainly benefitted from the process.

Mrs. Reagan stated that the process helped her teaching to grow and in the last two years the struggles she had to go through really helped her become a much better teacher.

Mrs. Mercer spoke about the projects they were asked to complete which included videotaping themselves teaching a lesson. Mrs. Mercer stated that they are both relieved that their journey has come to a very happy ending.

They thanked the Board for recognizing them.

- B. **Susan Mercer**, Second Grade Teacher at Evans Elementary, and **Arlene Reagan**, Third Grade Teacher at Evans Elementary, to be recognized for their outstanding achievement of becoming Nationally Certified Teachers.

*The Board opted to go through the rest of the agenda and then report on their Board Back to School Day experiences.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Cirese made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the October 15, 2012 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the October 22, 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Elizabeth Brady

Elizabeth reported that the Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center is holding a Holiday Open House for the community where you will be able to buy decorations, presents, etc. Elizabeth advised everyone that the sophomore class ring delivery will take place on December 12th and 13th during lunch, anyone who ordered a ring will be able to pick it up then. The keystone exams are underway this week until Friday, so best of luck to all of those who are testing. Elizabeth reminded seniors that there is a cap and gown assembly tomorrow so everyone needs to arrive to school by 8:20 in order to make it to the assembly at 8:30. The Spring-Ford High School's Interact club will be participating in Rotary's annual "Adopt a Family" luncheon and gift-wrapping sometime during the next two weeks. It's first come first serve, so the first 40 or 50 students who are members of the Interact club will be permitted to participate with their parents' permission. Elizabeth reported that this past Sunday several of the school clubs including the High School Student Council helped out at the "Wonderland of Wishes." This event benefitted a child in the district at Oaks Elementary School named Eli and his sister Ella who isn't quite elementary aged yet. They have both been diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder (Metachromatic Leukodystrophy) and fundraisers are being held to fly them to Milan where they can obtain treatment. Elizabeth reported that it was a very successful event and she wished the family the best of luck throughout their journey. Elizabeth advised everyone that the family has a Facebook group if anyone is interested. Elizabeth reported that Friday, December 21st is the last day for students and staff before the winter break.

Mr. DiBello stated that he is sure Elizabeth wanted to mention that congratulations go out to the Boys' High School Football Team for having a successful run this year going into the district and state playoffs. Mr. DiBello commented that the team unfortunately fell a little bit short in the game against Coatesville. Mr. DiBello said this is still a major accomplishment from a Spring-Ford standpoint because we have never made it into the districts let alone state playoffs. Mr. DiBello extended congratulations to the High School Boys' Football Team.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin thanked Applebee's for hosting yesterday's Girl's Basketball fundraiser which was well attended. He also thanked everyone who bought tickets and attended the event. Dr. Goodin said he is sure the Vivian Family is very thankful for the fundraising event held at the Expo Center as the event was nothing short of a miracle. He commented on large crowd and thanked everyone who pulled together to make this event happen. Dr. Goodin advised the Board that two weeks ago an in-service was held at the high school that was put together by a number of administrators and primarily spearheaded by Mr. Roche. Dr. Goodin reported that it was set up so that there were about sixty different activities going on throughout the day. The events were set up menu style so that teachers were able to choose which events they wished to attend throughout the day. Dr. Goodin stated that the day was very well run and very well organized with a lot of positive feedback being received. Dr. Goodin stated that the district would attempt to run another in-service like this again in the future.

Mr. DiBello commented that Spring-Ford has been providing in-service days for the past few years but this year with Mr. Roche spearheading this along with others really pulled together sixty informational sessions that will help our staff and staff development through technologies and a lot of other thing. Mr. DiBello stated that this is once again another innovation and huge step and advancement as far as what we are able to try to provide for our teachers.

Dr. Goodin shared that Kate Seward at the 7th Grade Center wrote a grant and last week kicked-off what is being termed as a "Smart Classroom". Dr. Goodin reported that there are six high tech SmartBoards in her room and the students in her class are able to work in groups. Dr. Goodin stated that he had video highlighting this but due to technical difficulties we are unable to show the video. Dr. Goodin congratulated Ms. Seward for her work in this area and for leading the way in this effort. Dr. Goodin invited Ms. Seward to come forward and speak about the project. Mr. DiBello reported that the grant was for \$60,000 worth of equipment.

Ms. Seward said she will be doing a presentation in March as part of the 7th Grade Center's Building report to talk about the success of the project and also have students share their experiences. The grant did provide for 6 computers, 6 SmartBoards, 6 Document Cameras, and a Student Response System. The students are now in a collaborative setting in her Social Studies classroom working in groups to create and learn together. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to put this type of classroom together.

Mr. Ciresi asked if there had been any interaction between the Spring City staff and what she has done and Ms. Seward replied not yet but she is happy to try and collaborate together. Her classes are strictly using the Smart Technologies equipment in her room since it was all provided by this company and there is other software out there that they can look to use together soon. Mr. Ciresi asked from a curriculum standpoint if there was anything they can start talking about to start transitioning this from her building to Spring City since this is basically Hybrid Learning as well. Mr. Ciresi stated that he would like to see collaboration between the staff of both buildings in order to try and build this a little bit more. Ms. Seward replied absolutely as she can see the students are already motivated by this type of technology and working together. She added that she can only imagine the great opportunities that the Spring City students are having and she welcomes the opportunity to work with them.

V. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. Resignations:

1. **Anne M. Rowland**, Evans Elementary School; Administrative Assistant, effective with the last work day December 21, 2012.
2. **Maria F. Stieber**, District Office; Secretary, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day January 25, 2013.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Catherine W. Cabrera**, Oaks Elementary School; Speech Clinician, for a military leave per Board Policy, effective November 13 through November 16, 2012.
2. **Doreen D. Krebs**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective November 19, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Temporary Professional Employee:

1. **Gillian Gannon**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Special Education-Autistic Support Teacher replacing Kelly Clarke who resigned. Compensation will be set at B+18, Step 2, \$44,700, prorated, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, pending updated clearances, effective January 2, 2013.

D. Change of Status:

1. **Suzanne Del Sordo**, Oaks Elementary School; ESL Teacher, from part-time (.50) ESL Teacher to full-time ESL Teacher. Compensation will be set at M Step 1, \$44,500, prorated, effective December 4, 2012.

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| 1. Bailey, Adam J. | Indoor Percussion Team Instructor
(1/2 contract) | \$1,107.50 |
| 2. Busa, Michael | Assistant Wrestling Coach
(1/2 contract) | \$2,594.50 |
| 3. Colabroy-Foulke, Kathryn J. | Musicale Director | \$2,215.00 |
| 4. Mailloux, Eric | Indoor Percussion Team Instructor
(1/2 contract) | \$1,107.50 |
| 5. Siller, Dennis | Indoor Percussion Team Instructor
(1/2 contract) | \$1,107.50 |
| 6. Thurston, Mark D. | Indoor Percussion Team Instructor
(1/2 contract) | \$1,107.50 |
| 7. Vandergrift, Thomas S. | Indoor Winter Color Guard Coach | \$3,197.00 |

F. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Fanelli, Cynthia | Elementary Education, Special Education |
| 2. Stamy, Bret K. | Business Education |

VI. FINANCE

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

A. The Board approved the following independent contract:

1. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide one assembly for kindergarten students at Spring City Elementary School, entitled,

“Winter Secrets....Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$110.00.

- B. The Board approved the following **use of facilities permits**:
Permits No. 4244 – 4315
- C. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2012-2013 school year:

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 041 – 045
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 086 – 100
Spring City Borough Exonerations	No. 022 – 029
Upper Providence Township Exonerations	No. 264

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved a lease agreement with ePlus Group for the purchase of educational technology for Evans Elementary School, the 5th and 6th Grade Center and the 7th Grade Center. The technology that will be purchased with this lease funding is part of the Technology Refresh Project that was originally presented to the Curriculum and Technology Committee in April 2012 with updates in May, October and November 2012. This funding will be used to purchase student notebook computers, tablet computers and peripheral devices to be used in school classrooms. The total equipment value of approximately \$300,000.00 will be divided into four annual lease payments of approximately \$ 77, 185.00 and will be funded by the Technology Budget.

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

- A. **Mark Matthews**, Upper Providence Elementary Emotional Support Teacher, to attend “*NonViolent Crisis Intervention Proficiency Plus – 1 Day Seminar – Crisis Prevention Institute*” at the Ramada in Philadelphia, PA on December 7, 2012. Mr. Matthews is a Master Level CPI Instructor and is required to take seminar every five years as part of his certification. The total cost of this seminar is \$829.00 (\$679.00 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account).
- B. **Agnes Bolyn**, 5/6 Grade Center Learning Support Teacher, to be certified at the second level for Wilson Language, a systematic reading program. Mrs. Bolyn will complete the online course on her own personal time. The training and certification fee, paid directly to Wilson Language Training, will come from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,350.00. No substitute is needed.

- C. **Yvonne O'Dea**, High School Choral Director and Music Teacher, to attend "*The National Association for Music Education: All-East Conference*" in Hartford, CT from Thursday, April 4 through Sunday, April 7, 2013. Mrs. O'Dea has two students participating in The All-East Honor's Choir and is required to accompany them. The total cost of this conference is \$1,420.00 (\$1,120.00 from the 580 account and \$300.00 from the substitute account).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no questions or comments.

- A. The following policy is submitted as a first reading:
 - 1. Policy #910 – COMMUNITY – Community Relations/Dissemination of Printed Materials

X. INFORMATION ITEM

Dr. Goodin reported that this is just to make the Board aware of the guidelines that were established in accord with Policy 910.

- A. Spring-Ford Area School District Communication Guidelines

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No Report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. DiBello said earlier in the meeting the presentation on Board Back to School Day was tabled until now at the end of the meeting. Mr. DiBello stated that there were 5 Board Members who participated in this activity; Mrs. Mullin, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Cromley, Dr. Dressler as well as himself. Last year when this was established the Board found it extremely useful and informative so they decided to hold this again this year. Dr. Goodin put a request out to the teachers to ask for volunteers and received an overwhelming response this year due to the positive input from last year. Mr. DiBello asked each Board Member who participated to come forward and share their experiences and he also invited the teachers to come forward and provide their views on the day.

The tape quality was not clear so transcribing the comments made from the podium was not possible. Each participating Board Member went through their scheduled day and spoke about the interaction they had with the students and teachers in each of the classes. The teachers also provided their views on this positive experience. Mr. DiBello thanked all of the teachers for allowing and inviting the Board Members into their classrooms this year.

- C. Presentation on the Board Back to School Day and Recognition of those Teachers who so graciously offered to host a Board Member in their classroom.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary