

On January 22, 2007, the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:41 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that the Technology Education Department is holding open houses on January 31 and February 6 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the 10-12 Grade Center so that members of the community can see the High School's new engineering labs. The SNAP Organization will be holding a dinner and silent auction on February 2 from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Loft at Limerick Golf Club to raise money for the High School's second annual post-prom party. Tickets are \$25.00 per person can be obtained by calling Cindy Clark at 610-792-3344 or via email at musicmom212@hotmail.com. Mrs. Williams reported that the district has been airing a monthly series of interviews and behind-the-scenes visits to each of its elementary schools and tonight we will be viewing the latest video highlighting Spring City Elementary and the many exciting opportunities available to students there. The videos are also available for viewing through the district website at www.spring-ford.net.

Dr. Hurda introduced the video which highlights the students and staff of Spring City Elementary School.

I. PRESENTATION

Dr. Jerry Shiveley, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit said he would be talking about the services of the IU and then Stan Wisler will follow to speak about the financial side of the IU. Dr. Shiveley said Act 1 is hitting them as hard as it is hitting the school districts. He said that he has promised the superintendents that the IU will not take over a 3.4% increase in any of their rates for this first year. Dr. Shively said this will not be easy as trying to keep special education rates to a 3.4% increase will be painful for them this year and next year school districts should not expect to see a

decreased rate like this next year. Dr. Shiveley reported that a new technology director has been hired and the department has been reorganized. Dr. Shiveley explained that the IU is working with a special education advisory committee made up of superintendents and special education directors to deal with the costs of special education and an agreement was made for next year to unbundle the costs for services for special education; this will be an advantage to districts in terms of costs.

Dr. Shively said early childhood education continues to be an exciting venture for them as the program services handicapped students age 3 through school age and is a very expensive program to operate. Curriculum Instruction and Staff Development is a thrust for the organization because it is about improving instruction for children and this area has been looked at in an effort to economize and centralize to make the program as effective as possible. Dr. Shiveley said the mission of the MCIU is to provide dynamic visionary leadership and effective efficient services to school districts, schools and students. Dr. Shively said the vision of the MCIU is where they want to be long term as an organization. The wish of the organization is to be the first choice of school district that there are five values that the MCIU stands for as an organization and they are integrity, excellence, accountability, dedication and respect. Dr. Shiveley said the four budgets that the School Board must vote on are the statutory ones and do not represent the total budget of the MCIU as the total budget is about 115 million. Dr. Shively turned the presentation over to Stan Wisler, Chief Financial Officer at the MCIU, for the details of the budget.

Mr. Wisler said there are over seventy funds at the IU and some represent pass through funds which means the IU gets the money from the state or a grant entity and the IU is simply the pass through for those funds which must be spent for specific purposes. Mr. Wisler explained that the budgets that the Board will be reviewing represent eleven of the seventy funds for a total of about 6.4 million dollars. Mr. Wisler presented information on the eight major divisions of the IU of which the largest is the special education division which represents approximately 72 million. Mr. Wisler said the budgets that the Board is asked to review and approve are actually four sections of the general operating budget. The four sections are general administrative services, curriculum instruction and professional development services, state and federal legislative services, and instructional materials services. Mr. Wisler said due to Act 1 the budget timelines needed to be moved up. Mr. Wisler said in terms of the budgets that Spring-Ford is being asked to review and act on the total amount is about 6.4 million dollars. Mr. Wisler explained that in terms of the general administrative budget there is no district contribution being asked for as the contribution for this comes from the state and other divisions within the IU. The contribution for curriculum instruction and professional development county wide is \$58,912.00 or an increase of about 3.4%. The contribution for the state and federal legislative services county wide is \$55,430.00 or an increase of about 3.4%. The division that saw the most change is the instructional materials services and the contribution county wide would be kept even and no increase would be in effect for 2007-2008 but this means that there will have to be cuts in this division. The IU anticipates about \$105,000.00 in cuts in order to make this a viable contribution for 2007-2008.

Mr. Petrowski asked how many districts participate in the MCIU and Dr. Shiveley said 22 districts and 180 non-public schools. Mr. Petrowski wondered specifically what Spring-Ford's increase was for this year and Mr. Wisler said Spring-Ford's increase for the three divisions was about 5.7% or about \$5,000.00 which is actually calculated on the

weighted average daily membership. Mr. Masciandaro asked what Spring-Ford's contribution was for last year and what our contribution is for this year and Mr. Wisler said the contribution for the current school year was \$96,622.00 and the projected contribution for 2007-2008 is \$102,001.00 which is an increase of \$5,379.00. Mr. Grispon asked if the state will fully fund early intervention through the IU and Dr. Shiveley said this year they went into the year hoping that they had a budget that would cover the full cost because he told the board that if he did not see that a recommendation would be made to do away with the program but with a change in the Access funds and some legislation they are being pushed hard up against that. The IU is working hard to stay within their budget but this is not an easy program to run because parents want to have what they believe is best for their children but the IU provides services that are required by the remediation and testing of the child. Mr. Shiveley said sometimes parents want more than that and they are use to getting this through the agency but the IU must stop this as it is an expensive which has resulted in some lawsuits being filed against the IU. Mr. Pettit asked about the Early Intervention Program and he wondered if due to budget cuts the children are sometimes getting less than they require and Dr. Shiveley responded that the students are providing remediation at a quality they are proud of but sometimes parents would like more and the IU cannot afford to do that. Dr. Shiveley said they are not sacrificing what the child needs. Dr. Hurda thanked Dr. Shiveley for the supportive relationship the district has enjoyed with the IU and Dr. Shiveley thanked Dr. Hurda for her support of the IU and the support of the district staff.

- A. Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director, and Stan H. Wisler, Chief Financial Officer of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, to present the Proposed MCIU 2007-2008 General Operating Budgets.

Mr. Anspach, Business Manager, explained Act 1 which is called the Pennsylvania Taxpayers Relief Act and the impact on the school district budget. Mr. Anspach said this year the school district can only raise taxes by an approved index of 3.4%. Mr. Anspach pointed out that part of Act 1 requires the district to approve a property tax installment payment plan and minimally offer three installment payments to pay property taxes between the months of July and December. Mr. Anspach said the preliminary budget must be presented and adopted by February 12, 2007. Eventually the final budget will be approved in June. Mr. Anspach explained the budget to budget increase which showed this year's budget at \$110,496,000.00 where last year's budget was \$102,500,000.00 resulting in an increase of almost \$8,000,000.00 or a 7.7% increase. Mr. Anspach emphasized that the numbers presented are preliminary numbers and the district is continuing to work on reducing the numbers further. Mr. Anspach said there are budget concerns from the Finance Committee's standpoint are that this year we are blessed with a million dollar carry over for the start of Evans Elementary School which has helped out this year's budget but the downside is that next year we will have to tax to make up the difference. There will also be additional debt service in the future as a result of the Feasibility Study being conducted in order to address planning for the future. Mr. Anspach pointed out a cost saving initiative that the Board has approved in the early retirement incentive plan for thirty-six teachers that are eligible and over the next five years this could save over two million dollars for the district.

Mr. Anspach explained that personnel salaries and benefits are a big issue and make up approximately sixty to sixty-five percent of the budget. There were increases in the prescription costs of about 13% and an increase of 10.37% in retirement costs. Mr.

Anspach said transportation and special education costs are always continuing to increase. Mr. Anspach said another big change for the district is the Adult Education Program which has been very successful and should certainly bring a lot of new revenue for the district. Mr. Anspach pointed out that the new personnel listing reflects an increase in regular education of \$882,000.00, Evans Elementary School \$1,071,000.00 and special education \$351,000.00 for a total increase of \$2,304,000.00.

Mrs. Williams asked about the section of the budget that shows a one time large capital item that will come out of the Capital Reserve Fund and she wondered what item would fall into this category and Mr. Anspach said he was referring to a plan that came out of the Property Committee to come up with a short range as well as a long range plan that will address some items such as sidewalk repairs, roof repairs, boiler issues, and parking lot repairs which are big one time capital items and could be moved out of the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Account.

Mr. Petrowski said that the fact that this budget is being done at this point and time makes the accuracy a little less than in previous years due to the timeline crunch. Mr. Petrowski pointed out that the district has been successful in previous years with reducing the numbers and the tax increase percentage from the preliminary budget to the final budget. Mr. Petrowski complimented the staff and the Finance Committee for the work in putting the budget together under these timelines. Mr. Petrowski pointed out that the real estate transfers on existing homes and new homes seem to be keeping pace with last years and in addition we will see a premium outlet center and two shopping centers which will have some effect on next year's budget by helping our tax base since commercial properties do not send children to schools.

Mr. Ciresi asked about the exceptions that could be taken for school improvements and he wondered if that pertained to only our buildings or did it include projects such as those needing to be completed at the Western Center for Technical Studies and Mr. Berman said the exceptions deal with financing but not strictly speaking about construction. Mr. Ciresi wondered if we have to float a bond for the Western Center then can we take that as part of the construction and Mr. Berman said any new financing will not fit into the refinancing exception. Mrs. Williams said her understanding is that if we were already into this process then we might be able to get an exception but since we are not we would be subject to front end or back end referendum of Act 1. Mr. Berman said the district must use their whole fund balance prior to being able to enlist an exception. Mr. Grispon clarified that the Finance Committee's plan is to take the money for the Western Center roof repair out of the Capital Reserve so as not to affect this budget. Mr. Masciandaro said one thing he finds interesting about Act 1 is that the way the index is set up and with the exceptions this year we are permitted to go to a 5.5% tax increase and here in our preliminary budget we are already below that so it is very likely that we will not have a problem with staying under the index. Mr. Masciandaro said with the uncertainty of Act 1 there is some incentive for school districts to increase taxes up to the limit which is contrary to what the bill was designed to do. Mr. Anspach added that the index will need to be looked at very closely because what would happen if next year our index cap is 3% and we will have to figure out how to live within that cap.

- B. Tim Anspach, Business Manager, and Shirley Rhoads, Assistant Business Manager, to present the 2007-2008 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. The Board approved the November 20, 2006 work session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the November 27, 2006 board meeting minutes.
- C. The Board approved the December 4, 2006 board reorganization meeting minutes.
- D. The Board approved the December 4, 2006 board meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Extracurricular Robert Weber 2nd Tues. 2 p.m.

Mr. Weber reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on 1/9/07 and received reports on winter athletics. There was an update on the fields and Mr. Parks will be in to speak to the Board after he talks to the joint Property - Extracurricular Committees beforehand next month. Mr. Weber said the Extracurricular Committee received a request from the Spring-Ford Youth Basketball League for changing some backboards. There were also requests for the donation of physical equipment for the weightlifting room, a request from Mr. Eckstine for an indoor percussion group, a request for travel for the cheerleading and wrestling teams, and training by particular trainers.

Property/Facilities Ammon Morgan, Jr. 2nd Weds. 7 p.m.

Mr. Morgan said the Property/Facilities Committees met on 1/17/07 and discussed Brooke Elementary. Dave Hersh, from Schiller and Hersh, is continuing his calculations for the geothermal well system. Mr. Morgan reported that Evans Elementary School is moving ahead and is on time. Mr. Morgan said there is one change order on the agenda tonight and that is for the signaling in front of the school in the amount of \$21,337.00. The final drawings and specifications for the new administration building are being completed for the bidding process in late March. Mr. Morgan pointed out that there an item on the agenda tonight asking the Board to decide whether they want to go for a waiver for a \$50,000 - \$70,000 savings on a storm water management system. Mr. Morgan said Mr. Parks will be at Extracurricular meeting on February 13 to go over the final draft of his study on the fields before it is presented to the Board. Mr. Morgan said the Gottshall Barn has been razed and the foundation is being made ready for the new building when we proceed with bidding. The District has completed their work on the Upper Providence new walking path bridge, which will connect the school to the developments behind the school, and we are now waiting on Upper Providence Township to complete their part of the trail that connects the development. Mr. Morgan reported that Mr. Cooper gave the Committee more background on the pole barn which was included in the 2005 – 2006 budget saying it is a 28x32 pole barn which will be used for storing

electrical, plumbing and HVAC supplies. Mr. Morgan said the noise deficiencies at Spring City Elementary with regards to the HVAC and chiller unit outside have been corrected. Mrs. Williams asked if the neighbors that had the issue with the noise are satisfied and Mr. Cooper said he sent a letter to the township but has not spoken to the owner but we will have to wait for the chiller to start back up again to know whether the noise problem has been solved. Mr. Cooper said he has done everything that could be done to the chiller to quiet it down to meet township requirements. Mrs. Williams thanked Mr. Cooper for taking care of this. Mr. Petrowski said there is nothing on the monthly property report about the Greenstein Property and he asked if that meant it was totally closed out now and Mr. Cooper said it is completed but there is some wood wrapping with aluminum that is taking place right now as well as the closing up of a barn storage unit until we decide what we want to do with that item. Mr. Petrowski asked about Brook Elementary saying we see the same report every month about a few punch list items on the roof and Mr. Cooper said this is mostly due to the weather and the only thing left to be done is some landscape work which cannot be done until the spring. Mr. Masciandaro asked about the waiver on the new administration building and the wording which seems contradictory and Mr. Morgan said his understanding is that the township is offering the waiver but we must formally request the waiver in order to receive it. Mr. Petrowski pointed out that the item on the agenda is for the engineer to redesign the calculations for the storm water system at a cost of \$5,000 - \$6,000 which could potentially save us \$50,000 - \$70,000. Mr. Pettit asked if there was a downside to using the waiver and Mr. Cooper said he doesn't think so and he believes it is worth using the waiver.

MCIU-Legislative John Grispon 3rd Weds. 7:30 p.m.
Mr. Grispon said he has the report combined with the PSBA report which he is slotted to give later in the agenda.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Items A-J and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Resignations:

1. **Sharyn E. Gallino**, Limerick Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective with last day work day January 12, 2007.
2. **Sheryl Gorey**, Supplemental Contract for Playground, effective with last work day Friday, December 22, 2006.
3. **Karen Miscavage**, High School; Fitness Room Supervisor, winter, effective December 12, 2006.
4. **Cynthia R. Trego**, Royersford Elementary School; Part-time Food Service, effective with the last work day January 26, 2007.

New Resignations:

5. **Denver Savage**, District; Maintenance Grounds Employee, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 30, 2007.

6. **Linda Wade-Jones**, Secretary; High School, effective January 17, 2007.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Amanda Burr**, 8th Grade Center; Learning Support, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the professional Agreement, effective tentatively March 19, 2007 for the remainder of the 2006/2007 school year.
2. **Tara Chester**, Oaks Elementary School; English as a Second Language, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 9, 2007.
3. **Virginia Jones**, Oaks Elementary School; Support Technician, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 23, 2007.
4. **Susan Kantner**, 5/6th Grade Center; LPN, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective December 14, 2006.
5. **Mary E. Morgan**, 8th Grade Center; Family & Consumer Science Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 29, 2007.
6. **Jennifer L. Moyer**, 5/6th Grade Center; 5th Grade Teacher, for an extended Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective for the 2nd semester of 2006/2007 school year.
7. **Alynn L. Purdy**, 8th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively March 26, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.
8. **Rebecca M. Rudinsky**, 5/6th Grade Center; LA/Social Studies Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 1, 2007.

New Leaves of Absence:

9. **Sharon L. Hohenstein**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively April 2, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.
10. **Susan McCandless**, District Office; Software Field Technician, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective retroactive January 2, 2007.

C. Temporary Professional Employee:

1. **Jennifer L. Rump**, 7th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective retroactive January 11, 2007.

D. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Daniel Badway**, High School; Mathematics Teacher, for a Long Term Substitute position, compensation will be set at \$45,000, MS + 30, Step 1, with benefits, effective retroactive January 2, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.
2. **Judith Kline**, Limerick Elementary School; 3rd Grade Teacher, for a Long Term Substitute position, compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective retroactive November 27, 2006 until the beginning of the 4th marking period of the 2006/2007 school year.
3. **Marguerite Lownes**, Upper Providence Elementary School; 1st Grade Teacher, to *continue* as a Long Term Substitute for the 2nd semester of the 2006/2007 school year. Compensation will be set at \$43,500 MS, Step 4 with benefits.
4. **Nikol Ryan**, 5/6th Grade Center; LA/Social Studies Teacher, to *continue* as a Long Term Substitute for the 2nd semester of the 2006/2007 school year. Compensation will be set at \$38,500, BS + 18, Step 1, with benefits.
5. **Jaclyn M. Yura**, 7th Grade Center; French Teacher, for a Long Term Substitute position, compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective tentatively February 5, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

E. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Dawn Bateman**, Intermediate/Middle School; 3-hour Food Service position, compensation will be set at \$12.43 per hour *without* benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 23, 2007.
2. **Lisa Huttinger**, High School; 3-hour Food Service Position, compensation will be set at \$12.43 per hour *without* benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 23, 2007. Ms. Huttinger is currently a per diem substitute with the district.

New Support Staff Employees:

3. **Brad Armentrout**, District; Custodian, compensation will be set at \$14.46 per hour with benefits as per the Custodian plan, effective

February 5, 2007. Mr. Armentrout is currently a per diem substitute with the District.

4. **Nancy Kearns**, Intermediate/Middle School; 3-hour Food Service position, compensation will be set at \$12.43 per hour without benefits, effective January 23, 2007.

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **James M. Mack**, Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach, \$2786, Code F
2. **Frank P. McGuigan**, Marching Band Mallet Percussion Leader, \$1930, Code H
3. **Amber M. Rose**, Majorette/Twirler Instructor, \$1930, Code H
4. **Bruce Brobst**, Fitness Room Supervisor, fall, \$591, Code LB
5. **Kevin Czapor**, Anchor Club Advisor, \$350, Code M
6. **Timothy Krause**, Volunteer Baseball Coach, \$1.00, Code 1

New Extra-Curricular Contract: High School

7. **James Mich, Jr.**, Fitness Room Supervisor, winter, \$591, Code LB

G. Extra-Curricular Contracts: Middle School, 8th Grade Center

1. **Rhonda Zimmerman**, 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach, \$2786, Code F
2. **Laurie Exeter**, Variety Show Coordinator, \$175, Code M ½

H. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Megan J. Bieleski | Mathematics |
| 2. | Linda Outterson | Elementary Education |
| 3. | Drew A. Scheeler | Business-Comp Info Technology |
| 4. | Jaclyn M. Yura | French |

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 5. | Lauren Burgess | Elementary Ed. /Early Childhood |
| 6. | Daniel Butterweck | Elementary Education
Special Education K-12 |
| 7. | Jennifer Ilg | Elementary Education |
| 8. | Sharon Lapp | Art |
| 9. | Amy Sgrignoli | Art |

I. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Dawn Bateman | Support |
| 2. | Ronita Bearden | Support |
| 3. | Heather Hazen | Support |
| 4. | Nancy Kearns | Support |
| 5. | Michael Lawhorne | Support |
| 6. | Linda McDermott | Support |

- 7. **Elizabeth McGowan** Support
- 8. **Tracie Minnick** Support
- 9. **Kevin Murphy** Support
- 10. **Tywana Wilhite** Support

New Support Staff Substitute:

- 11. **Janet Copenhaver** Support

J. 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:

- Marguerite A. Hartman** Elementary Education
- Treasure L. Maack** Health & Physical Education

VI. FINANCE

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

Mr. Grispon asked to separate and group together Items F-I. Mr. Rocchio made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ABJ Sprinkler Co	Applic. #2- Fire Protection	\$ 66,960.00
Colonial Electric	Transformer	\$ 338.21
Direct Propane	Propane- Temp. Heat (2 Inv.)	\$ 5,376.48
Robert E. Little Inc.	Ariens Snow blower	\$ 1,995.00
MBR Construction	Applic. #12- Electric	\$ 54,538.00
PA American Water	Start up Water Service	\$ 30.00
PECO	Electricity (2 Inv.)	\$ 1,877.61
Jay R. Reynolds Inc.	Applic. #12- Plumbing	\$ 40,700.28
SMJ Contracting Inc.	Applic. #14- General Contractor	\$ 271,343.75
UPS Store	Copies - Drawings	\$ 43.20
U. S. Laboratories	Soils Testing & Inspection	\$ 3,282.86
U. S. Laboratories	Soils Testing & Inspection	\$ 594.25
Worth & Company	Applic. #12- HVAC Contractor	\$ 135,823.65
School Health Corp.	AED Lifepak 500 (Defibrillator)	\$ 1,453.28
*PA American Water	Water Service	\$ 906.92
*SMJ, Inc.	Applic. #15- General Contractor	\$ 239,169.81
*Worth & Company	Applic. #13- HVAC Contractor	\$ <u>265,020.17</u>
	TOTAL	\$1,089,183.47

2. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

I R S	Arbitrage Rebate Liability	\$ 1,793.99
PFM Asset Managmt.	Professional Services	\$ 4,000.00

U.Providence Twp	Professional Services	\$	365.00
Flex-Y-Plan	Furniture- Guidance	\$	433.60
Hopewell Nursery	Replacement Plantings (2 Inv.)	\$	<u>7,041.25</u>
	TOTAL	\$	13,633.84

3. **9th GRADE CENTER**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	128.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	<u>272.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	400.00

4. **BROOKE ELEMENTARY**

Arthur Altemose AIA	Professional Services	\$	3,631.00
Silas Bolef Company	Applic. #5- Electrical Contractor	\$	1,080.00
SMJ Contracting Inc.	Applic. #8- General Contractor	\$	104,717.95
Worth & Company	Applic. #5- HVAC Contractor	\$	46,521.50
*Silas Bolef Co.	Cooling Tower-install additional Conduit & wiring	\$	<u>3,525.72</u>
	TOTAL	\$	159,476.17

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

1. **Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	2,028.00
Simone Collins	Architect - Professional Services	\$	42.40
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	<u>172.83</u>
	TOTAL	\$	2,243.23

2. **Greenstein Property Repairs**

Charlestown Paving	Pave Area 135'x9'	\$	2,570.00
Colonial Electric Co.	Misc. Supplies	\$	45.21
Clinton Frey Plumb.	Plumbing & Heating Restoration	\$	3,585.78
Home Depot	30 Shades & Mounting Brackets	\$	451.60
Peter Lumber Co.	Misc. Supplies	\$	129.27
Ridenour Chimney	Re-lined Oil Flue & Cleaning	\$	1,995.00
*John DiBattista	Remove/New gutters/downspout Cover Eaves/Gables w/white alum.,cap wood around windows	\$	<u>2,635.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	11,411.86

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

Berkshire Systems	Electro-Voice Microphone	\$	847.00
	TOTAL	\$	847.00

4. **New District Office**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,920.00
Foreman Architects	Professional Services Inv. #12	\$	15,699.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (3 Inv.)	\$	<u>1,120.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	18,739.00

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.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
	<u>November</u>	
	Check No. 113489 - 113563	\$ 541,140.51
	<u>December</u>	
	Check No. 113564 - 113912	\$1,523,131.83
2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
	Check No. 114301 - 114480	\$ 794,831.21
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
	Check No. 114481 - 114663	\$ 230,986.10
4.	<u>Scott Foresman Checks</u>	
	Check No. 114664	\$ 128.20
5.	<u>Athletic Fund</u>	
	<u>November</u>	
	Check No. 298854 – 298950	\$ 38,154.25
	<u>December</u>	
	Check No. 290000 - 290077	\$ 11,062.10

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

1. **The Crossroads School – Paoli, PA.** Provide educational services for a special education student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00).
2. **Caron Treatment Centers Student Assistance Program – Wernersville, PA.** Provide refresher training on Critical Incident Stress Management. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).
3. **Caron Treatment Centers Student Assistance Program – Wernersville, PA.** Provide in-service training on cyber bullying. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
4. **Corporate Psychological Resource Center – Royersford, PA.** Provide a one and one half-hour community presentation on “Managing Stress and Life Challenges: Improving Your Approach to Stressful Life Challenges”. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007

Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

5. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide two presentations for kindergarten students entitled “Winter Secrets” at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Spring City Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed one hundred ninety dollars (\$190.00).
6. **Benmore Enterprise – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly for second grade students entitled “Dino Dig Exhibit” at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
7. **Franklin Institute – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide three assemblies for fifth grade students entitled “Electricity” and three assemblies for sixth grade students entitled “Hot & Cold”. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 5th/6th Grade Professional Education Services Account and shall not exceed one thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$1,450.00).
8. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide seven assemblies entitled “Winter Secrets” for kindergarten students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Upper Providence Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed six hundred sixty-five dollars (\$665.00).
9. **Musicopia – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide two presentations by David Cullen and his Ensemble on February 23 and February 24, 2007 in connection with the Spring-Ford Middle School Jazz Festival. Funding will be paid by from the 2006-2007 General Fund and shall not exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00).
10. **Perkiomen Valley Academy – Frederick, PA.** Provide educational services for two special education students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided at the cost of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per day for two hundred forty (240) days. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Alternative Education Fund and shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).
11. **Kevin McCafferty – Perkiomenville, PA.** Provide tutoring for a special education student as per the IEP. Direct intervention services and consultation will be provided not to exceed thirty (30) hours between 1/1/07 and 6/20/07 at a rate of forty dollars (\$40.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

12. **Upper Moreland Police Department – Willow Grove, PA.** Provide a one hour in-service training on “The Choking Game” for professional staff, instructional assistants and substitute teachers. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).
13. **Franklin Institute – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide an assembly program entitled “Hot & Cold/Traveling Science Show” on Thursday, February 15, 2007 at Limerick Elementary. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Limerick Elementary Professional Education Services Account and shall not exceed six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$625.00).
14. **Perkiomen Valley Academy – Frederick, PA.** Provide education services for a special student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at the cost of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) day for ninety-six (96) days. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Alternative Education Fund and shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00).

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items F-I and Mr. Masciandro seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- F. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-02** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Administrative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
- G. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-03** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
- H. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-04** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit State and Federal Legislative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.
- I. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-05** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Instructional Materials Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008.

Mr. Weber asked that Item K be separated. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item J and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- J. Administration is recommends approval to accept the Utica National Insurance Group settlement in the amount of \$276,761.32 for the fire that occurred at the Gottshall Barn located on district property. The insurance settlement will be utilized for the demolition of the Gottshall Barn and the

building of a replacement storage facility on the same location. The district is in the process of preparing bids for the storage facility.

Mr. Rocchio made a motion to approve Item K and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. Mr. Weber wondered if this item was for equipment for Evans Elementary and whether it was in the original bid and why we are buying furniture or whatever it might be now. Mr. Anspach said it was part of PlanCon G and was approved by PDE for a dollar amount of \$540,000.00 which included movable furniture, items such as student desks, library furniture, office furniture, and teacher desk units. Mr. Weber said this was approved by PDE but the agenda items says we are going to submit it for bidding and he wondered if it was sent out for bid previously. Mr. Anspach said the number for the allocation of \$540,000.00 was approved by PDE but now we are asking for us as a district to go out and bid this or use IU Consortiums and state contracts to purchase the items. Mr. Weber asked if this was included in the Act 34 Hearing and Mr. Anspach said yes. Mr. Weber asked why it was no included in the total bid at that time and Mr. Anspach said the state does not know from whom you are purchasing the equipment from. Mr. Petrowski said this would have raised the Act 34 cost of the project and Mr. Anspach if this would have been part of the general contractor's price then yes and more than likely the contractor would have probably marked up the items by 6%. Mr. Cooper said the teacher desks, chairs and so forth are always purchased by the district after the project and these amounts are never included in the cost of the project. Dr. Hurda said one reason for this is because we have the ability to purchase these items at a better rate than would occur as part of the project. Mr. Anspach said you must be careful if the contractor purchases furniture as it may not be of a quality that is in the best interest of the district as we take pride in buying equipment that will last forever. Mr. Weber asked if we have specification for equipment when we bid this and Mr. Cooper said we did not have this ever in a bid and to his recollection as long as he has been here the general contractor has never had teacher or student desks in their bids. Mrs. Williams said the real question is when we built the building did we have desk and other items outside of the bid and is this the way we have done it in the past and Mr. Anspach said desk units and moveable furniture are always separate allocations. Mr. Petrowski asked where the \$540,000.00 is coming from to pay for this equipment and Mr. Anspach said it is coming from the bond series for Evans Elementary School. The motion passed 9-0.

- K. The Board approved the purchase of equipment for the Evans Elementary School by bidding, receiving quotes, buying from IU contracts, buying from state contracts, and purchasing from PEPPM. PlanCon G has \$540,000.00 allocated for equipment. Funding will come from the Evans Elementary School Construction Account.

NEW FINANCE

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items L-R and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. Anspach announced that the preliminary budget would be on display at the District Office. Mr. Grispon said if someone came to the District Office and wanted to see the budget which copy would they receive and Mr. Anspach said both copies of the budget would be available for the public.

L. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – Nov./Dec. 2006
- PSDLAF – Nov./Dec. 2006
- PSDMAX – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Checking Account – Nov./Dec. 2006
- PLGIT Account – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Payroll Account – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Tax Account – Nov./Dec. 2006

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – Nov./Dec. 2006
- 7th Grade Activity – Nov./Dec. 2006
- 8th Grade Activity – Nov./Dec. 2006
- High School Activity – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Athletic Account – Nov./Dec. 2006

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Note of 2004 – Nov./Dec. 2006

Other Funds

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

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Cafeteria Checking Account – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – Nov./Dec. 2006
- Investment Account – Nov./Dec. 2006

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

November

Checks No. 6674 - 6727 \$ 268,458.82

December

Checks No. 6728 – 6770 \$ 296,501.79

N. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2006 – 2007 school year:

Royersford Borough	No. 27 – 33
Spring City Borough	No. 10
Upper Providence Township	No. 50

O. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2006 - 2007 school year:

Royersford Borough Additions	No. 1 – 83
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 1 – 225
Spring City Borough Deletions	No. 1 - 129

- P. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2006-2007 school year:
- Permit No. 1746– 1786
- Q. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-07**. This resolution authorizes the PA Department of Revenue to determine, collect and enforce the tax interest and penalties on delinquent realty transfers at the Commonwealth's equivalent rate.
- R. The Board approved making public the 2007-2008 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and to advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on February 12, 2007.

VII. PROPERTY

Mrs. Williams reported that she learned today that there is a structural report regarding the roof on the Western Center and this report will be given to the Joint Operating Committee this coming Wednesday. She asked that Item A be tabled until the Joint Operating Committee has a chance to review the report and our JOC Board Members have a chance to share it with us. Dr. Hurda said there is also a visual mold inspection that was ordered to be conducted at the Western Center and that report has also just been received and this report is to be shared with the Joint Operating Committee on Wednesday as well. Dr. Hurda said once this report is available it will be shared with all our Board Members.

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

- A. The Board tabled Resolution **2007-01** approving the Capital Project at the Western Center for Technical Studies for installation of a new roof as proposed by Gilbert Architects at a total cost not to exceed \$649,500.00.

Mr. Ciresi made motion to approve Items B-C and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. Mr. Ciresi asked about Item B and said he would like to see our Board have a solution on our own side where we stand as a board that we may want to pass on to the other boards if there is a point where we will no longer negotiate. Mr. Ciresi asked that Upper Perkiomen and Pottsgrove have some type of proposals prior to February 22 that they can get to us so that we can review them in order to determine whatever questions we may have or if we even want to attend the convention again. Mr. Ciresi said he feels we need to have some sort of resolution to whatever happens in order to move forward. Dr. Hurda said her understanding is that it is the intention of Upper Perkiomen to present their proposal at the next Joint Operating Committee Meeting so that it can be disseminated to all of the boards so there is time to digest it and understand what their proposal is. Mr. Petrowski said at the last convention we had a proposal, we had a motion, we had a position and we had a lot of work that was done by administration on cost differences between the Western Center and here and his understanding is that issue was the addendum dealing with future projects. Mr. Petrowski asked if Mr. Ciresi was looking to amend or change the position that was taken on the capital project at forty million and Mr. Ciresi said he is asking if

there has been a change to anything that took place at the convention that an open discussion should take place now so that it can be presented to the other two school boards before the convention so they can digest it. Mrs. Williams said she has had no communication since the last convention with the other two board presidents. Mrs. Williams said if any of our board members have any new criteria to be launched that you please give her a heads up. Mrs. Williams said she believes there has been no change and we are at a 4-4-1 vote amongst our board. Mr. Masciandaro said the way the motion is written it almost sounds like a new agenda item as this says it is for the purpose of amending the Articles of Agreement. Mr. Masciandaro asked if there is an agenda for the upcoming convention and Mr. Grispon said he believes we should wait until we hear what Upper Perkiomen's proposal is. Dr. Hurda said this is the same motion that was used the last time because in essence ultimately we will be altering the Articles of Agreement if a change is made. Mrs. Williams said our proposal was that we were at 44.3% and we had an additional requirement to support a permanent amendment that any forthcoming projects would be divided equally among all three sending districts. Mrs. Williams said even if we were successful at getting this in the agreement, any future board including as early as next year could change those articles. She asked our Board to consider how much weight they want to give that clause. Mrs. Williams said while all this wrangling is going on the roof is leaking and some of the board members feel the kids are not being served educationally and we are going nowhere as we are at a 4-4-1 vote. The motion passed 9-0.

- B. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-06** waiving the 60 day notice required by the Western Center for Technical Studies Articles of Agreement for the purpose of convening a Convention to amend the Articles.
- C. The Board approved the purchase of a 2007 GMC Canyon work truck for use by the Maintenance Staff to travel between buildings and job sites. The purchase would be made through the CWCG Cooperative Purchasing Program. Funding for this was previously approved in the 2006-2007 Maintenance Budget under new equipment and shall not exceed \$17,805.00.

NEW PROPERTY

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item E be separated. Mr. Cirese made a motion to approve Items D, F and G and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- D. The Board approved going out to bid and awarding to the lowest responsible bidder the installation of a non-skid, epoxy flooring system in the kitchen at Oaks Elementary School. Funding will come from the 2006-2007 Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

Mr. Cirese made a motion to approve Item E and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Masciandaro voting no.

- E. The Board approved building a pole barn at the Maintenance Compound as previously approved as part of the 2006-2007 Maintenance Budget.

superintendents and administrators, to participate in continuing professional education related to these groups of students.

Mrs. Williams noted that Mr. Rocchio had previously given this monthly report but recently PSBA made the change that the Legislative Representative would also be the PSBA Representative.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Leticia M. Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*PASPA 21st Annual Conference*" in Harrisburg, PA from Wednesday, February 28 through Friday, March 2, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$870.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "*Management Skills for Supervisors*" in Pittsburgh, PA on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. This is a pre-conference workshop offered as part of the PASBO Conference. Mrs. Rhoads was previously approved for this conference in November 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$125.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, and **Debbie Smith**, Administrative Assistant Child Accounting, to attend "*A/CAPA Conference*" from Wednesday, March 21 through Friday, March 23, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$1308.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- D. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "*Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo & Conference – Demystifying E-Rate*" in Hershey, PA on Sunday, February 11, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$190.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- E. **Sarah K. Sacks**, Software Specialist, to attend "*Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo & Conference*" in Hershey, PA on Sunday, February 11 and Monday, February 12, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$427.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- F. **Michael Rhodes**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Student Assistance Training Program*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 23, 24 and May 1, 2, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$406.96 from the Safe & Drug Free Grant. No substitute is needed.
- G. **Heather Steinmetz**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*SAT: A Workshop for Supervisors*" in Baltimore, Maryland on Wednesday, February 14, 2007. The total cost of this workshop is \$111.00 from the 580 account.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- H. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend "*PA School Librarian Association Annual Conference*" in Hershey, PA on Thursday, April 12 and Friday, April 13, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$911.00 - \$661.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- I. **Barry L. Shafer**, Coordinator of Athletics, to attend "*PA State Athletic Directors Conference*" at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, March 20 through Saturday, March 27, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$725.00 from the 2006-2007 Athletic Budget. No substitute is needed.

5/6TH GRADE CENTER

- J. **Agnes Bolyn**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Make and Take the PASA*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$135.00 - \$10.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- K. **Denise Bedard**, Instructional Assistant, to attend "*Advanced Braille Note 2007*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, January 5, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$10.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is required.

BROOKE

- L. **Susan Pronchik**, Counselor, to attend "*PA School Counselors Association Conference*" at the Lancaster Conference Center from Wednesday, April 18 through Friday, April 21, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$573.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

LIMERICK

- M. **Kathleen DiBenedetto and Kathleen Mandracchia**, Teachers, to attend "*Conference for PA Kindergarten Teachers*" in Harrisburg, PA on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$689.00 - \$439.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

SPRING CITY

- N. **Connie Henry**, Administrative Assistant, to attend “*Advanced Microsoft Excel Techniques*” in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$524.00 - \$439.00 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- O. **Eric Hetrick and Amy LeForge**, Teachers, to attend “*Pathways to Leadership Conference*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, February 6, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$400.00 - \$150.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

- P. **Wendy Pflugler**, Librarian, to attend “*Auditory Verbal Therapy: Teaching Children with a Hearing Loss to Listen, Talk and Think*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, January 25, 2007. There is no cost to the district for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Weber asked what college the student in Item A would be attending and Mrs. Williams said Ursinus.

- A. The Board approved of Amy Hartl, a current Spring-Ford junior to spend her senior year in college. Signed letters of recommendation have been made by the high school principal and guidance counselor. The student is ranked in the top twenty-five percent of her class and meets the qualifications under the Spring-Ford Guidelines for Early College Admission.
- B. The following policy was approved:
1. Policy #815 - OPERATIONS: Acceptable Use of the Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems Policy.
- C. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District’s 2006-2007 8th Grade Improvement Plan as mandated by The Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- D. The Board gave approval for the Spring-Ford Varsity High School Cheerleading Squad and their coach, Adrian Bortz, to attend the ECA National Cheerleading Championships in Williamsburg, Virginia to be held March 16-18, 2007. The squad has earned this opportunity by

placing first in their division and first overall at the Regional Championships held at Cumberland Valley High School in Cumberland Valley, PA on January 7, 2007. Students will miss classes on Friday, March 16, 2007. The only cost to the school district is for transportation (\$600.00) and one substitute teacher (\$125.00) for Friday, March 16, 2007 for Coach Adrian Bortz. Accommodations and meals will be paid from the 2006-2007 Cheerleading Account in the Booster Club Fund.

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

- E. The Board gave approval for the Spring-Ford 8/9 Grade Wrestling Teams and their coaches, Doug Landis and Chad Strickler, to attend The Southeastern Wrestling Classic at Quakertown High School held on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17, 2007. There will be no cost to the district for this overnight trip as all funds for lodging and meals will be paid from the Wrestling Booster Club Account. The teams will use District transportation.

XI. DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Hurda said in order to guide the Board she has provided the referendum question as posed by the Tax Study Commission, the referendum question as posed by a state recommended template and an additional referendum question that combines both Tax Study Commission recommendation and the state's recommendation. Mr. Ciresi said option one looks like the Board made a new tax and is imposing it so he is not in favor of this option, he favors the second one but suggested making an addendum on the end which tells the public what their new tax rate would be. Mr. Grispon said he believes the third option accomplishes this. Mr. Petrowski said he would like to restructure the wording to say "Do you favor your school district reducing taxes on qualified owner occupied properties by approximately \$860.25 by imposing an additional 0.9% income tax" so that the public will read the entire paragraph. Mr. Pettit said he does not think it should read that the school district is imposing the tax and that wording should not be in there. Mrs. Williams said we are backed into a corner as we are the ones imposing the tax since we will get the revenue. Mrs. Williams asked the Board if they were all in agreement with not being in favor of the wording in option one and the Board all responded yes. Mrs. Williams asked about option two and the fact that it is too strong and option three which reads a bit softer. Mr. Weber asked that the wording be clarified to say real estate taxes as right now it just says taxes Mrs. Williams said we cannot do this as it pertains to only qualified homesteads. Mr. Berman said there are only a few restrictions in the statute which says you must state the rate of the proposed tax, the reason for the tax, the estimated per homestead tax reduction and the current rate of earned income and net profits tax levied by the school district. The language must be clear and readily understandable by a layperson. Mr. Petrowski said the state recommendation does not say anything about the school district imposing the tax so maybe we could eliminate that language. Mr. Masciandro said he agrees with the suggested language of Mr. Petrowski. Mr. Ciresi said he is okay with the language as long as the school district wording is taken out of it. Mr. Ciresi said we are imposing an additional 0.9% tax on the community but 50% of them will not see a reduction in taxes so he wants to make sure that everyone is aware of that fact. Mrs. Williams commented that one thing that was not discussed was

that this would be a real opportunity to provide a form of tax relief to the seniors. Mr. Grispon said this referendum will only provide the opportunity as the ultimate decision is in the hands of the electorate. Mrs. Williams asked the Board to decide on which wording they would like to see on the referendum question and Mr. Grispon said he prefers number three as long as the reduction amount is moved up in the question. Mr. Petrowski gave the following wording, "Do you favor reducing taxes on qualified residential properties by approximately \$602.00 in the first year by imposing an additional 0.9% earned income tax". Mr. Petrowski said if you look at some of the open space questions that were on a previous ballot the more favorable aspects are listed first and then put the burden of the millage rate as the last item. Mr. Berman said you are permitted to make changes to the question but it does have to be in substantially the same form as listed in option 2. Mr. Masciandaro said he believes we should use \$600.00 instead of \$602.18 as we are saying your savings would be approximately and \$602.18 is not an approximate number. Mr. Petrowski and Dr. Hurda gave the following version of the referendum question:

Do you favor reducing taxes on qualified residential property by imposing an additional 0.9% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increased tax rate will be used to reduce taxes on qualified residential properties by approximately \$600.00. The current earned income tax is 0.5% and the current combined municipal/school district rate is 1.0%. The new combined municipal/school district tax would be 1.9%.

Mr. Grispon asked if we need to vote on this and Mr. Berman said it probably should be done by a vote. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve the above wording for the referendum question and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Williams opened the floor up for the public to comment on this topic.

Mrs. Bryant, Upper Providence, asked about the definition of the word qualified and whether it needs to be clarified for taxpayers. Mr. Petrowski said he just read a publication from IRS and the same wording was used so it is a word that is known by the tax or business community but hopefully the newspapers will expand on this. Mrs. Bryant said we are asking taxpayers to vote on this and it is our duty to provide the voters with this definition. Mr. Berman said accompanying the actual ballot question will be a non legal interpretive statement so voters will have a chance to see other definitions that go along with this. Mrs. Bryant said as a courtesy and out of responsibility we should define for voters what a qualified property is, give examples somewhere and then let the voters decide yes or no. Mrs. Bryant said we could post the information on our website or send it home in the District Newsletter.

Mrs. Williams said we could add the language "owner occupied" to the referendum question. Mr. Petrowski said this could be more confusing. Mrs. Williams said the wording "qualified owner occupied residential property" and Mrs. Williams said yes. Dr. Hurda restated the referendum question adding Mrs. Williams wording. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to amend the previously approved motion in order to add the new verbiage. The new referendum question reads as follows:

Do you favor reducing taxes on qualified owner occupied residential property by imposing an additional 0.9% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increased tax will be used to reduce taxes on qualified residential properties by approximately \$600.00. The current earned income tax is 0.5% and the current combined municipal/school district rate is 1.0%. The new combined municipal/school district tax would be 1.9%.

Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. Referendum Question
- Statement of Board's Intention

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no questions or comments

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:05.

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