

On January 23, 2012 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

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

The following Board Member was absent: **Clara M. Gudolonis**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Goodin announced that he is sad to report the death of one of the district's 9th grade students, Kyle Kearney, last Saturday afternoon. He asked that the Members of the Board and the audience please join him in a moment of silence for Kyle and he asked that everyone remember to keep Kyle's family and friends in their prayers.

Mr. DiBello commented that there is a full agenda tonight and there has been some sad news that has come into the district over the weekend but this evening we also have a lot of positive things to recognize and celebrate. Mr. DiBello said the majority of the agenda this evening is going to be focused on recognition.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

II. ACTION ITEMS

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

- A. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-02** commending Madison Gilmartin, a member of the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Golf Team, for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Girls' Individual Championship.
- B. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-03** commending Bennett Detweiler, a member of the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Golf Team, for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Boys' Individual Championship.

- C. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-04** in recognition of the Spring-Ford Football Team, Coach Chad Brubaker, and his Assistant Coaches Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, Steve Anspach, Robert Swier, Dale Bergman, D.J. Fox, Jared Hostetler and Jamie Cutano for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship.
- D. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-05** in recognition of John E. Eckstine, Jr. and the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band for successfully placing first at both the 2011 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. DiBello stated that tonight we several presentation and January is Board Recognition Month so typically what occurs is that the School Board is recognized. Mr. DiBello said the thought this year was to put the Board's energy and focus towards recognition of the student community and also towards the administration and teachers. Mr. DiBello stated that tonight's meeting will be about recognizing all of the positive things and the successes that have occurred in the district over the last four to five months even as far back as last year with the AYP testing.

Mr. DiBello introduced Madison Gilmartin and her coaches. Dr. Goodin presented her with a resolution in recognition of her winning the PAC 10 Championship.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-02** commending Madison Gilmartin, a member of the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Golf Team, for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Girls' Individual Championship.

Mr. DiBello introduced Bennett Detweiler and his coaches. Dr. Goodin presented him with a resolution in recognition of his winning the PAC 10 Championship.

- B. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-03** commending Bennett Detweiler, a member of the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Golf Team, for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Boys' Individual Championship.

Mr. DiBello introduced Coach Chad Brubaker and student representatives of the Football Team. Dr. Goodin presented them with a resolution in recognition of their winning the PAC 10 Championship.

Coach Brubaker announced that he would also like to recognize the team managers and he introduced them and asked them to come up front so that they could be recognized by the Board as well for all of their hard work and dedication to the team.

- C. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-04** commending the Spring-Ford Football Team, Head Coach Chad Brubaker, and his Assistant Coaches Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, Steve Anspach, Robert Swier, Dale Bergman, D.J. Fox, Jared Hostetler and Jamie Cutano for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship.

Mr. DiBello introduced John Eckstine, Jr. and student representatives from the Marching Band. Dr. Goodin presented them with a resolution in recognition of their winning the 2011 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship.

- D. Presentation of **Resolution #2012-05** in recognition of John E. Eckstine, Jr. and the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band for successfully placing first at both the 2011 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship.

Mr. DiBello announced that they were going to skip Item E and go right to Item F for the presentation of the Keystone Achievement Awards. Mr. DiBello announced the names of the schools who were recipients of the Keystone Awards. Mr. DiBello reported on the requirements for receiving a Keystone Achievement Award. Mr. DiBello introduced the Building Principals for each of the schools and Dr. Goodin presented them with their award.

- F. Presentation of the Keystone Achievement Awards to the following schools:

Brooke Elementary	Upper Providence Elementary
Evans Elementary	5/6 th Grade Center
Limerick Elementary	7 ^h Grade Center
Oaks Elementary	8 th Grade Center
Royersford Elementary	9 th Grade Center
Spring City Elementary	

Mr. DiBello announced that there will be a Superintendent's/Parents' Advisory Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 26 in the Hurda Learning Center of the Spring-Ford Area Senior High. Mr. DiBello reminded parents that if they have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2012, to please access the district's Registration Packet at www.spring-ford.net, click on the "Community" tab at the top of the district's home page, select "Registration," and follow the steps that are listed. Kindergarten registration is being held now until February 24, 2012. Mr. DiBello urged parents to please start the process as soon as possible and after they have completed their packet and have the other documents that are needed, to please call the office of the building their child will attend to schedule an appointment to bring in their paperwork. If parents have a neighbor or a friend who is a Spring-Ford resident with a child who will be 5 years old, they were asked to please pass this information on to them. Parents were also reminded to check the district website at www.spring-ford.net for important information on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's new immunization requirements for 2011-2012. Parents can contact their child's school nurse or go online to their Skyward Family Access health information to determine if their child is compliant. Mr. DiBello announced that the Spring-Ford Area School District is inviting parents, students and teachers to share their thoughts on how well its schools are serving their needs through its newest survey, "Perspectives on Your School," which will be launched tomorrow on the district's homepage. Parents and teachers will receive email invitations to participate in the survey. Any parent who does not receive an email may also access the survey by clicking on the box titled, "Your Voice" on the right-hand side of the district's website at www.spring-ford.net. Computer labs at district schools will also be prepared to allow access to the survey. Any parent without access to the Internet may request a paper survey by calling 610-705-6219. The survey closes on February 10, 2012. After the data is compiled, the district will come back to the community with the results, along with an explanation of how it plans to use the information to make critical decisions.

Mr. DiBello said next up Mr. Bruce Cope, Department Chairperson for World Languages, along with a few students from his class will discuss the MyChinese 360 course currently offered at the high school.

Mr. Cope stated he is here to discuss the Virtual Chinese Program which is a new program at Spring-Ford. Mr. Cope said this program is different from other virtual programs offered in that it is an entirely synchronous program. Mr. Cope stated that there is a live teacher that the students Skype back and forth with. Mr. Cope reported that there has been a lot of success with this program this year and they have heard a lot of positive comments about it. Mr. Cope said it is very tough to find a Chinese certified teacher so this program gives students the opportunity to take the course and work with an online course which is a skill that they will need in the future. Mr. Cope commented that from what he can tell it has been quite successful but the best testament to this would be for the students accompanying him to speak about their experience with the course. Bianca Walker stated that she liked the fact that the class was small so students can individually interact with the teacher. She added that the teachers are friendly and patient with the students in providing help with the proper tones, characters and words. Eric Irby stated that although it is difficult learning about another culture and language it is also fun and he regrets not being able to take this course earlier. Jordan Smith commented that it is definitely a great class being able to learn all of this information and students can take the lessons learned in the classroom and apply them elsewhere. Jordan reported that he has family in Milasia and China and by learning the language he is able to communicate better with his family and understand their culture. Colin Smith stated that he really likes the Chinese class because it is not the teacher telling them what to do but it is more the students learn amongst themselves and rely on each other. Colin indicated that it is a tough course but in his case the teacher individually helped him out with speaking the words and with writing them. Colin stated that he was surprised at how much he enjoyed learning Chinese because learning a foreign language never appealed to him before.

Dr. Goodin asked Colin to explain the class set up and Colin replied that on Monday, Wednesday and Friday they are given special assignments which include some speaking and some writing. On Tuesday and Thursday they have live days where everyone logs into a Skype call and the teacher will teach aloud and physically get onto a webcam to teach the students how to say and write characters.

Mr. Dressler asked how many students are signed up for the class and Mr. Cope replied that there are a total of 22 which is enough to constitute two sections. Mr. Dressler asked in what grade the class begins and Mr. Cope responded that it started with 10th grade this first year but will be a 3 year program and will be offered in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. Mr. Dressler questioned if the class was Mandarin Chinese and Mr. Cope replied yes that was correct and that it was the standard version of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Cope explained that this course is very much like a normal live classroom except that in order to speak the students click on a microphone icon and they can then talk to the teacher, they click on a webcam which shows their picture and they can see the teacher's picture, they can click on a hand raising icon to ask a question so it works just like a normal classroom once everyone gets use to the clicking concept. Mr. Cope added that the one possible flaw for this could be the fact that you are absolutely totally at the mercy of technology and what has saved them over and over and over again this year is Steve Reynolds and his team. Mr. Cope stated that they could not have done this and it would have never worked without them. Mr. Cope recognized Bob Bickta saying that he is an unofficial member of the class as he is over there all the time making sure that everything runs smoothly for them and they could not have run the class without his help. Mr. Cope thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of World Language study and for giving them the opportunity as the varied language program will really benefit the students in the future.

Mr. Ciresi commented that he had sat in the class and he thought it was great. Mr. Ciresi acknowledged Mr. DiBello saying he really needs to be thanked as he fought for over a year to get MyChinese added and through the Curriculum Committee was able to get this added. Mr. Ciresi said this was a great accomplishment and shows how as a Board they are beginning to expand into the world languages a little bit more and put a little more emphasis on the globe rather than just locally. Mr. Ciresi said he wants to publicly thank Mr. DiBello for making the push for this language to be added.

Mr. DiBello said they do look forward to continuing the program and as it evolves and we get students involved earlier, because it is a complex language, but he believes a very beneficial one for students to learn as they select careers and as they go through college. Mr. DiBello thanked Mr. Cope for everything he is doing.

G. **Mr. Bruce Cope**, Department Chairperson of World Languages, **Eric Irby**, **Colin Smith**, **Jordan Thurston** and **Biance Walker**, students, to give an update on the MyChinese 360 Course.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Board had a concept of going back to school for the day with the goal being to go into the classroom, be a student and experience what the students experience in the course of a school day. Mr. DiBello stated that a few Board Members were able to take some time off from work and have a schedule put together for them. The Board Members were able to visit five or six different schools. Mr. DiBello said it was very eye opening, uplifting and fun. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board wanted to show express their appreciation to the teachers who worked with the District Office and Dr. Goodin to willingly accept them into their classrooms for the day. Mr. DiBello stated that they had to convince the teachers that they were not coming into the classrooms to evaluate the teacher but were coming in to be a student for the day. Mr. DiBello said he believes that the teachers whose classrooms the Board visited were very excited to have them there and participate in the program. Mr. DiBello said the Board really hopes to continue this over the next several years.

Mrs. Mullin, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. DiBello and Mr. Dressler each spoke about their day as a student, the schedules they followed and the teachers who hosted them. They each presented their teachers with a small token of their appreciation.

The Board asked if any of the teachers would like to speak about their experience from the Board Back to School Day and Kate Seward volunteered. Ms. Seward stated that she is thankful that the Board Members took the opportunity to come in and see what the teachers get to do every day with the students at Spring-Ford. She added that she has an outstanding group of kids that she gets to see come through the building every year and she is glad that the Board had the chance to take part in the curriculum they are learning and share the technology that the Board has provided them with. Ms. Seward stated that she appreciates everything the Board does for them; she thanked them again for visiting and invited them back anytime they are interested in learning some fun history.

Mr. DiBello thanked all of the teachers that welcomed the Board Members into their classrooms and Dr. Goodin for working to try and put a schedule together. Mr. DiBello also acknowledged the principals of each of the schools visited saying without their help in ushering the Board around to get them to class on time.

- H. **Spring-Ford Board of School Directors** to acknowledge and thank those **Spring-Ford Education Association Members** who graciously participated in the 1st Annual Board Back to School Day.

Dr. Goodin stated that as everyone can see we have many fine things taking place throughout the district and he knows that the Board really wanted to have the spotlight on the administration, the faculty and the students this evening. Dr. Goodin said he appreciates the Board taking the time to recognize all of this but we also need to remember that January is Board Recognition Month. Dr. Goodin stated that he wants to thank the Board for their time, their energy and their volunteerism. Dr. Goodin reported that this past weekend everyone had a nice time with the Dancing With the Stars as four of the Board Members and their spouses were involved with this event along with him and his wife and Mr. Roche and his wife. Dr. Goodin stated that we do want to take a moment to recognize the Board and what they do so in honor of this a thank you video was put together. Dr. Goodin played the video thanking the Board for their service to the district.

- E. Presentation honoring the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors who volunteer their time for the betterment of public education in our community.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. The Board approved the November 21, 2011 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the November 28, 2011 Board Meeting minutes.
- C. The Board approved the December 5, 2011 Reorganization Meeting minutes.

V. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Extracurricular

David Shafer

2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Shafer reported that the initiative this year within the Committee is to bring to light some of the good work that potentially does not get highlighted enough at the Board table and in the public. Mr. Shafer said they had two presentations and discussions on the agenda which were the Middle School Intramural Program and also the Spring-Ford High School Interact Community Service Club. Mr. Shafer reported that the Middle School Intramural Program runs from about the second week of school until the end of May two to five days per week with a variety of different activities taking place. Mr. Shafer commented that it is mainly male students who participate but this year there has been an increase in female students. Mr. Shafer added that most of the participants are 8th grade students who traditionally are not involved with sports and at the 7th grade level the participants are mainly those students who were cut from sports teams. Mr. Shafer noted that although the after school activity bus has been removed it has not affected the numbers for the students participating in the Intramural Program. Mr. Shafer next spoke about the High School Interact Community Service Club which has been in existence at Spring-Ford for six years. Mr. Shafer reported that this club is actually the Rotary's service club for young people and the motto of the club which has approximately 300 members is "Service Before Self". Mr. Shafer added that they typically meet twice a month and so far this school year they have logged about 250 volunteer hours thanks to this club. Mr. Shafer advised the Board that placed at their seats was a sheet giving further detailed information about the

Interact Club. Ms. Heine reported that the Board's Student Representative, Elizabeth Brady, is the treasurer of the Interact Club. Elizabeth commented that the club's membership is actually up to 400 members now. Mr. Shafer stated that a community service club in the high school that logs that many hours is fantastic which is positive news for everyone.

MCIU

Tom DiBello

Mr. DiBello reported that the meeting is this coming Wednesday so he will report on this next month.

Property

Joseph Ciresi

2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.

There was no report.

PSBA Liaison

Edward Dressler

There was no report.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin reported that a new survey will be launched tomorrow morning targeting students, teachers and parents looking at their satisfaction and their perceptions of the school climate. Dr. Goodin pointed out for the Board and the public that in July state officials had published a report saying they were looking into a cheating scandal and it was reported that Spring-Ford had received several flags for possible PSSA testing improprieties. Dr. Goodin stated that he is pleased to announce that Spring-Ford has been notified that the district has been cleared on all counts. Dr. Goodin stated that on another note he wanted to let the Board know that when he came into the district from the Connellsville School District that district had also be named in the report and he is happy to inform everyone that Connellsville has also been cleared. Dr. Goodin reported that this past weekend there was a Dancing With the Stars event that took place which proved to be a great experience. He thanked all of the SNAP volunteers, especially Trish Smith, the dance teams and the community for making Saturday evening's event such a success. Dr. Goodin stated that he is not sure how much money SNAP actually raised on this event but it was a great time for a great program in support of the after-prom. Dr. Goodin commented that he asked Mr. Siggins, 8th Grade Principal, to remain this evening in order to notify the Board and the public that the 8th Grade Center has been "nominated" by the State of Pennsylvania to receive a National Blue Ribbon and the district is currently in the process of completing the application. Dr. Goodin congratulated the 8th Grade Faculty, Mr. Siggins and the Administration, the School Board, the K-7 Faculty and Administration, the 9-12 students as they are all a part of making this possible. Dr. Goodin stated that hopefully in the coming months he will have good news to tell everyone regarding this nomination. Dr. Goodin commended Mr. Siggins for what he does and the job that he and his faculty do as they run a fine program over at the 8th Grade Center. Dr. Goodin stated that he is very pleased to have Mr. Siggins onboard and part of the Administration.

Mr. Pettit asked if it was true that Spring-Ford was only 1 of 13 schools in the entire Commonwealth that was cited and Dr. Goodin replied yes.

Mrs. Mullin asked if this was the first time that one of our schools had received this recognition and Dr. Goodin indicated that several Administrators were shaking their heads yes.

Mr. Shafer stated that this was absolutely phenomenal and great news. He congratulated Mr. Siggins saying great job and said that he is very proud to be associated with that nomination. Mr. Shafer offered his congratulations to everyone involved.

VI. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-J and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mrs. Mullin questioned whether under New Resignation, number 6, should also have this same individual included under the Leave of Absence section and Dr. Goodin responded yes because the leave of absence had already been taken so while the Board still had to approve that we also wanted to make sure the resignation was included as well for approval.

Mr. Dehnert said he wanted to thank Johnna Weller as this is her last meeting and she has done a great job for the district and the achievement at the 8th Grade Center can be attributed to her as well. He thanked her for her service.

Mrs. Mullin stated that as the Chairperson for the Curriculum Committee she is in denial. Mrs. Mullin commented that Johnna will be missed and she appreciates the patience show as she was an accountant trying to learn PVAS and all of the other acronyms that education likes to use. Mrs. Mullin added that she appreciates Johnna's time and efforts as both a parent and a Board Member.

Dr. Goodin said his thunder has been stolen and he knew he was going to get to her but had planned on waiting until the end of the meeting. Dr. Goodin stated that certainly Johnna has been an asset to the district and we are certainly going to miss her but we wish her all the best in her new career with another district. Dr. Goodin said it has been a pleasure to know her and he is sure he is speaking on behalf of everyone that has worked with her when he says thank you so much.

The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. DiBello thanked Johnna saying he has had the pleasure of working with her for the past two and one half years. Mr. DiBello stated that the Curriculum Committee meetings at times were kind of fun but she was also there when they tried to introduce the MyChinese 360 into the district and she was very supportive. Mr. DiBello reported that they presented an idea and put it on the table and Mrs. Weller was able to take it, run with it and get it moving for the first pilot year. He stated that he appreciates everything she has done and knows she will be missed but will have success wherever she is going.

A. Resignations:

1. **Andrea M. Curry**, High School; Chemistry Teacher, effective December 12, 2011.
2. **Kathryn Manion**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective with the last work day, January 20, 2012.
3. **Michael Siuchta**, 9th Grade Center; Boys' Lacrosse Coach, effective December 22, 2011.
4. **Ryan Souder**, High School; 9th Grade Baseball, effective December 8, 2011.
5. **Johnna L. Weller**, District Office; Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, effective February 1, 2012.

New Resignation:

6. **David Huzzard**, 7th Grade Center; Custodian, effective January 12, 2012.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Patricia Bateman**, Spring City Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective November 3, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Alisa Fleisher**, 5/6th Grade Center; School Counselor, *extended* per Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the third marking period for the 2011/2012 school year.
3. **Shannon Hetrick**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, *extended* per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the third marking period for the 2011/2012 school year.
4. **David Huzzard**, 7th Grade Center; Custodian, per Board Policy, effective December 2, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Gina Lasky**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective January 30, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
6. **Dominick T. Morello, Jr.**, Oaks Elementary School; Custodian, per Board Policy, effective January 9, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
7. **Christina M. Moyer**, Evans Elementary School; Art Teacher, per Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively, March 15, 2012 until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
8. **Jessica L. Pennington**, 8th Grade Center; Music Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively March 16, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school. Ms. Pennington will also be *extending* her Leave per the Collective Bargaining Agreement effective for the 2012/2013 school year.
9. **Dena Schlichter**, Royersford Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective December 15, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
10. **Nicole Tenthoff**, 9th Grade Center; Social Studies Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence for the 2012/2013 school year.

New Leaves of Absence:

11. **Amanda Burr**, 8th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for an *extended* Leave per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the third marking period for the 2011/2012 school year.
12. **Tracey M. Polini**, 7th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective February 7, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

13. **Kathryn Shortall**, 7th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively April 27, 2012 until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.

C. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Christian G. Riley**, 10-12th Grade Center, Social Studies Teacher, *extension* of current assignment replacing Melanie Bowen who will be on an *extended* Leave of Absence. Compensation will be set at MS, Step 1, \$44,500, prorated, effective January 24, 2012 for the 2nd semester of the 2011/2012 school year.
2. **Emily Sassaman**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, *extension* of current assignment replacing Shannon Hetrick who will be on an *extended* Leave of Absence. Compensation will be set at BS, Step 1, \$43,200, prorated with benefits, effective retroactive September 23, 2011 through the end of the third marking period.

New Long Term Substitute:

3. **Emily Catanese**, Brooke Elementary School; Learning Support Teacher replacing Kara Cooper who will be on a Leave of Absence. Compensation will be set at B, Step 1, \$43,200, prorated, with benefits, effective tentatively February 6, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.

D. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Constance M. Volker**, 5/6th Grade Center; 3-hour food service, replacing Kathy Walker who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.42 per hour without benefits, effective December 5, 2011.
2. **Lucille DeSantis**, Spring City Elementary School; full-time Cafeteria Manager, replacing Lisa Davis who had a change of assignment. Compensation will be set at \$16.74 per hour with benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 23, 2012.

New Support Staff Employees:

3. **Amanda Tamaki**, High School; Instructional Assistant, replacing Denise Bedard who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$16.04 per hour, prorated, with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective January 17, 2012.
4. **Lisa Zink**, District; 20 hour part-time Custodian, for a new position. Compensation will be set at \$16.85 per hour without benefits, effective January 28, 2012.

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Stephen Antrim**, Stage/Scenery All Productions, \$1,104
2. **Adam Bailey**, Indoor Percussion Team Instructor, \$2,215
3. **Ashley Basiaga**, Cultural Awareness Club Advisor, \$276.60
4. **Kristi Holstein**, Minorities Coming Together Club Advisor, \$276.60
5. **Thomas Saylor**, Boys Basketball Scorekeeper, \$33.00/hour
6. **Ryan Souder**, Assistant Baseball Coach, \$3,991

7. **Michael Young**, Boys' Intramural Basketball, \$678.00

F. **Extra-Curricular Contracts:** 8th Grade Center

1. **Steven Anspach**, Assistant Wrestling Coach, 7/8/9th Grade, \$4,234
2. **Annette Eddowes**, Band Front & Majorettes Director, \$1,873
3. **Robert Swier**, Assistant Wrestling Coach, 7/8/9th Grade, \$4,234
4. **Hilary Tutrani**, Girls' Basketball Coach, \$3,186

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

1. **Michael Hoinowski**, Band Director - 5th Grade, \$2,215
2. **Michael Hoinowski**, Band Director - 6th Grade, \$ 2,215
3. **Susan Koss**, Choral Director, \$1,471
4. **Emily McGranahan**, String Ensemble Director - K-12, \$2,215
5. **Bevin Seislove**, Choral Director, \$1,471

H. **Support Staff Substitutes:**

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Steven Anspach | Support |
| 2. Nancy Antonio | Cafeteria |
| 3. Jill Yeager | School Nurse |

I. **Personnel Information Items**

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

Jennifer Weaver	Special Education/Elementary Education
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NEW PERSONNEL ITEMS

J. **Professional Staff Substitutes:**

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Lucinda King | Special Education/English/Health-P.E. |
| 2. Emily Catanese | Special Education/Elementary Education |

VII. FINANCE

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-P and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Ciresi commented on Item I saying that sometimes the community people who do work for the district do not get recognized and he would like to thank and recognize Shirley Shafer who has been here a long time as the Spring City Tax Collector. Mr. Ciresi stated that he has had a lot of interaction with Mrs. Shafer and he would like to personally thank her on behalf of the work she has done for the school district and the community. Mr. Ciresi said he would next like to comment on Letter O with regards to the audit. He thanked the Business Office for the work that they have done once again as the district has come out with a seamless audit. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mr. Anspach and his team of people in the Business Office for everything they do in keeping the district on the straight and narrow.

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item E be separated and stated that he did go back and look at the cafeteria revenue from the last three years and if you look at the revenue you will see that the price increase led to \$155,000 increase in revenue which was attributed to the price

increase. He stated that the actual numbers were a swing of \$122,000, \$154,000, and \$155,000 in the revenues. Mr. Dehnert stated that a quick diagnosis of the numbers shows that the swing was attributed to the price increase and the food cost remained relatively flat. Mr. Dehnert stated that we are going to spend \$5,000 for an audit that is basically going to tell us that the price increase led to the swing. Mr. Dehnert stated that he thinks we can save the \$5,000 and not spend it on something that is not really necessary.

Mr. DiBello asked for a motion for everything identified under Finance with the exception of Letter E. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-P with the exception of E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no.

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

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

1. OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS

a. Oaks Elementary School – Wall Tile Installation

December

Al Swanson Ceramic Tile	Wall Tile Installation- First & Ground Floors	\$ 16,280.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 16,280.00</u>

b. Royersford Elementary School – Parking Expansion

Montco Fence LLC	210' Black Vinyl Coated Chain Link Fencing – Installed	\$ 3,650.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,650.00</u>

c. Spring City Elementary School – Sound & Clock System

Berkshire Systems Group	Installation Intercommunication System	\$ 8,875.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 8,875.00</u>

d. Spring-Ford Intermed./Middle School – Carpet

All About Floors	Replace Carpet w/Carpet Tile-Band Room	\$ 6,881.81
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 6,881.81</u>

e. 9th Grade Center Parking Lot – New Lighting

December

Colonial Electric Supply	Light Standards & Heads East Side (2 Inv.)	\$ 4,803.65
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 4,803.65</u>

f. Senior High School Athletics – Turf Field

December

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 296.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 296.00</u>

g. <u>Senior High School – Baseball Stadium</u>		
Berkshire Systems	CCTV Equip/Labor-Connect	
	Surveillance Cameras	\$ 2,694.00
Walton's Electric	Relamp Ram Stadium	\$ 5,340.00
	TOTAL	\$ 8,034.00
h. <u>Senior High School – Stage Lighting Upgrade</u>		
Center Stage Lighting	Upgrade Lighting-Stage w/LED	
	Chroma-Q Color Lighting	\$ 32,837.32
	TOTAL	\$ 32,837.32
i. <u>Senior High School – Walk-In Freezer</u>		
Clark Installation	Install/Labor Relocate Evaporator	
	Replace Ceiling Panels	\$ 7,850.00
	TOTAL	\$ 7,850.00
j. <u>Maintenance & Operations - District Wide</u>		
Robert E. Little	Ringo Utility Trailer	\$ 695.00
PA DCNR	Title for Gator	\$ 22.50
*John Deere Company	ZTrak Mower	\$ 10,915.78
*John Deere Company	Gator 6x4	\$ 8,519.55
	TOTAL	\$ 20,152.83
k. <u>District Wide – Expansion Tanks</u>		
<u>December</u>		
Hajoca Corporation	Expansion Tanks (8)	\$ 8,802.82
	TOTAL	\$ 8,802.82
l. <u>*9th Grade Center – Surveillance Cameras</u>		
*Berkshire Systems	Light CCTV System Additions	
	(2 Inv.) Cafeteria	\$ 18,164.00
	TOTAL	\$ 18,164.00

B. 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.

C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

<u>November</u>	
Check No. 144537 – 144578	\$ 259,064.23
ACH 111200107 – 111200114	\$ 1,070.88
<u>December</u>	
Check No. 144579 – 144872	\$4,490,909.01
ACH 111200115 – 111200157	\$ 11,671.31
<u>January</u>	
Check No. 144873 – 145003	\$1,568,856.08
ACH 111200158 – 111200165	\$ 296.82

2. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
Check No. 145050 – 145117	\$ 334,822.51
ACH 111200239 – 111200241	\$ 91.55
3. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
Check No. 145004 – 145049	\$ 122,093.63
ACH 111200166 – 111200238	\$ 93,282.04
4. <u>Athletic Fund</u>	
<u>November</u>	
Check No. 304037 – 304103	\$ 36,674.92
<u>December</u>	
Check No. 304104 – 304227	\$ 24,830.40

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

1. **Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a curriculum-based assembly entitled “Dinosaur Dig” for second grade students at Oaks Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Oaks Elementary PTA and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
2. **Quiet Riot, David Mettler – Wyncote, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “7 Strengths” for students in Grades 1 – 4 at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00)
3. **Franklin Institute, Paul Taylor – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide two (2) traveling Science Shows, “Electricity” and “Light and Color” for the 3rd and 4th grade students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed nine hundred ten dollars (\$910.00).
4. **Internet Safety, Chuck Favata – Lansdale, PA.** Provide an Internet Safety Assembly for 3rd and 4th Graders at Upper Providence Elementary School and an Internet Workshop for Parents (K-4). Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00).
5. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “bfit” with Brian Richards, for all students at Brooke Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred ninety dollars (\$1,290.00).
6. **Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital – Malvern PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Cruisin Not Boozin” at the 10-12 Grade Center for all sophomores on Wednesday, February 7, 2012. The timing of the assembly is purposeful in the hopes that students will make good choices, especially during the Winter Ball and Prom seasons. There is no cost to the district as this assembly is being funded by a grant through the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation.

7. Assistant District Attorney, **Brad Richmond**, and Perkiomen Valley Parent, **Richard Bouher**, to present an assembly on Driving Under the Influence Prevention at the 9th Grade Center for all freshmen the week of the Freshman/Sophomore Winter Formal. There is no cost to the district as the assembly is free of charge.
8. **Dr. Judy Sauer, Main Line Pediatric Therapy Center – Bryn Mawr, PA.** Conduct an occupational therapy evaluation including testing, scoring, and a written report for a special needs student. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven hundred fifteen dollars (\$715.00).
9. **Cindy Mosier – Royersford, PA.** Provide Physical Therapy evaluations for Early Intervention Students coming in for the 2012-2013 school year. Services will be provided for a total of sixty-eight (68) hours at a rate of sixty-two dollars (\$62.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand two hundred sixteen dollars (\$4,216.00).
10. **Amy Marks – Royersford, PA.** Provide Physical Therapy evaluations for Early Intervention Students coming in for the 2012-2013 school year. Services will be provided for a total of twenty-four (24) hours at a rate of sixty-two dollars (\$62.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand four hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$1,488.00).
11. **Gateway Employment Resources – Limerick, PA.** Provide Community Based Transition Work Assessment services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for a total of two hundred eighteen (218) hours at a rate of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed eleven thousand nine hundred ninety dollars (\$11,990.00).
12. **Lapreziosa Occupational Therapy Services – Pottstown, PA.** Provide Occupational Therapy evaluations for Early Intervention Students coming in for the 2012-2013 school year. Services will be provided for a total of thirty (30) evaluations at a rate of one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00) per evaluation. Services will also include the participation in a total of thirty (30) Early Intervention meetings at an additional cost of two thousand two hundred ninety-five dollars (\$2,295.00). Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven thousand three hundred ninety-five dollars (\$7,395.00).
13. **Dr. Kara Schmidt – Media, PA.** Conduct psychological testing for a special needs student. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand four hundred dollars (\$4,400.00).
14. **Bryn Mawr Child Study Institute – Bryn Mawr, PA.** Conduct psychological testing for a special needs student. In addition the Child Study Institute will complete a full speech and language evaluation. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand nine hundred dollars (\$4,900.00).

New Independent Contract:

15. **Sam Sandler – Spring Mount, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled, “The Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler” for all students at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- E. The Board approved entering into an agreement with Maillie, Falconiero & Company, LLP to conduct an audit of the Food Services Department for the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2011. Funding shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).
- F. The Board approved submitting PlanCon H – Project Financing to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the completion of the District Administration Office Project. Since this was a cash project paid from the Capital Reserve Account, state reimbursement will be deposited into this same account.
- G. The Board approved the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$130,262.214.
- H. The Board approved filing with the Department of Education the 2012-2013 referendum exceptions for Special Education Expenditures (\$821,388) and Retirement Contributions (\$1,233,936), for a total estimated amount of \$2,055,324. These referendum exceptions represent 1.93% and could be used for allowable millage over the Act 1 State Index cap amount of 1.7% for a total of 3.63%. Recent legislation changed the Act 1 referendum exceptions from 10 down to 3 (Spring-Ford did not qualify for the debt exception). Exceptions are permitted due to the recognition that there are extraordinary district expenses above the rate of inflation.

NEW FINANCE

- I. The Board approved Mary Rex as the newly appointed tax collector for Spring City Borough. The Spring City Tax Collector also collects taxes for the school district. Mary Rex will be replacing Shirley Shafer who retired. The Borough of Spring City is also asking for approval of a “Deputy Tax Collector” to assist Mary Rex with the collection of taxes. While there is no additional compensation there is an additional charge of approximately \$400 for the bonding of the deputy tax collector.
- J. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:
 - General Fund
 - Money Market – December 2011
 - PSDLAF – December 2011
 - PSDMAX – December 2011
 - Checking Account – December 2011
 - PLGIT Account – December 2011
 - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - December 2011
 - Payroll Account – December 2011
 - Tax Account – December 2011
 - Activity Accounts
 - Elementary Activity – December 2011
 - 7th Grade Activity – December 2011

- 8th Grade Activity – December 2011
- High School Activity – December 2011
- Athletic Account – December 2011

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – December 2011

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – December 2011
- Debt Service Fund – December 2011
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – December 2011

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – December 2011
- Cafeteria Checking Account – December 2011
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – December 2011
- Investment Account – December 2011

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

DECEMBER

Check No. 10545 - 10569	\$ 236,069.33
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- L. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 3874 – 3908

- M. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2011-2012 school year:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 001 – 026
Limerick Township Deletions	No. 001 - 847
Royersford Borough Additions	No. 001 – 027
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 001 - 321
Spring City Borough Additions	No. 001 – 018
Spring City Borough Deletions	No. 001 – 175

- N. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2011-2012 school year:

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 052 – 053
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 100 – 115
Upper Providence Township Exonerations	No. 127 – 209

- O. The Board approved the Independent Audit Report as submitted by Maillie, Falconiero & Company LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The audit examined the financial statements, tested evidence supporting the amounts, examined internal controls, insured evidence of proper documentation, compliance with laws, regulations, and in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. The audit was without findings or material weaknesses. A display copy of this audit is available at the district office.

- P. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-06** authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bond Series of 2012 for the purpose of refunding GOB Series 2003 and 2004.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The Board approved sending six (6) students: Nikhil Bhat, Taylor Green, Megha Keshav, Ryan Maher, Jake Mellon, Drew Reimund and their advisor, Ms. Kelly German, to compete at the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference and Competition in Hershey, PA from Monday, April 16 through Wednesday, April 18, 2012. These students qualified to participate in the state FBLA competition as a result of their performance on event tests administered at the FBLA regional competition. The total student cost which includes registration fees, lodging and meals shall be three hundred forty-four dollars (\$344.00) per student, not to exceed a total of two thousand sixty-four dollars (\$2,064.00).
- B. The Board approved the following new course for the 2012-2013 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the process of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of course in the student’s course guide.

NEW COURSES FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2012-2013

1) Rationale:

This major course will provide a higher level course offering for those students interested in European History and will enrich the curriculum of Spring-Ford’s Social Studies program. This AP course will provide an opportunity to qualified students to expand their knowledge of other cultures and countries by developing an understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, an ability to analyze historical evidence and interpretation, and an ability to express historical understanding in writing.

AP European History is intended for students who wish to complete a high school class that is equivalent to college introductory courses in European History.

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

2) Staffing:

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant.

3) Cost:

Initial Curriculum Development (12.0 Hours)	\$ 360.00
AP Training	\$ 2000.00
Textbooks	\$ 6000.00

IX. PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved receiving bids and awarding to the lowest responsible bidder the Trash Removal and Recycling contract for the 2012-2013 school year with the option to extend for two additional years.

X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Pettit 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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Bruce Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend *“All Safe Environmental – Recertification Course”* in New Cumberland, PA on March 1, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$150.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Michael McDaniel**, Director of Athletics, to attend *“Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference”* in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, March 20 through Friday, March 23, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$591.70 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Kelly German**, Business Education Teacher/FBLA Advisor, to attend *“Future Business Leaders of America: State Leadership Conference”* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center from April 16 through April 18, 2012. Ms. German will be accompanying the 6 Future Business Leaders of America students who advanced to the state level competition. The total cost of this conference/competition is \$1011.00 (\$561.00 from the 580 account for registration fees, lodging and meals and \$450.00 from the substitute account).

DISTRICT-WIDE

- D. **Dr. Toni Bradley**, 7th Grade Center Assistant Principal, **Dr. Douglas Kent**, 9th Grade Center Assistant Principal, **Edward Smith**, 5/6 Grade Center Principal, **Christine Raber**, Supervisor of Special Education, and **TBD** (New Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction), to attend *“ASCD’s Annual Conference and Exhibit Show”* in Philadelphia, PA from March 24 through March 26, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$1,102.00 plus transportation costs (mileage/tolls/parking) from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

- E. **Megan Bieleski, Susan Hammond, and Gerard Rogers**, High School Teachers, a **5/6 Grade Center Teacher**, and an **8th Grade Center Teacher**, to attend Student Assistance Program (SAP) Training at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit from February 7 through February 9, 2012. PDE is paying the registration costs for this training. The total cost to the district will be \$2,250.00 from the substitute account plus mileage from the 580 account.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The following policy was approved:

- 1. Policy #201 – PUPILS: Admission of Beginners

- B. The Board approved for **Kelly N. Soto**, a Spring-Ford junior to spend her senior year at Arcadia University. Signed letters of recommendation have been made by the high school principal and guidance counselor. The student is ranked in the top ten percent of her class and meets all of the qualifications under the Spring-Ford Guidelines for Early College Admission.

XII. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

There were no questions or comments on Items A-B.

- A. The Board acknowledged the acceptance of a Target Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to Evans Elementary School. The funds will be used to support Evans Elementary R.E.A.D. (Reading, Exploring, and Discovering Stories) which includes a family reading night in the spring.

NEW INFORMATIONAL ITEM:

- B. Effective January 1, 2012, the IRS mileage rate will remain at 55.5 cents per mile.

XIII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XIV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. Dehnert commented that there is a Board of 9 people and since March there has been one Board Member has not made one regular Board Meeting. Mr. Dehnert stated that according to the School Code if a Board Member misses two successive regular meetings the Board can vote to remove that person. Mr. Dehnert suggested that the Board find out what Ms. Gudolonis' intentions are because a Board of 9 people is needed. Mr. Dehnert stated that Region II deserved to have three representatives at the Board Meeting and she has not been here for a regular Board Meeting for 9 straight meetings. Mr. Dehnert suggested sending Ms. Gudolonis notification or a letter telling her that we have the intention to remove her from the Board unless she is going to make Board Meetings.

Mr. DiBello stated that some of that is accurate but it is not 9 consecutive meetings as he believes she was at a meeting in December. Mr. Dehnert said it was regular Board Meetings and she has not been to a regular Board Meeting since March as he went back

and looked at the minutes. Mr. DiBello said that the Board had a regular Board Meeting in December as there was a Reorganization Meeting and then a Board Meeting. Mr. DiBello said there are a lot of legal questions that we would need to ask. Mr. DiBello said that they would also have to look into whether they can even enforce the policy based on election law because he believes it is pretty hard to unseat and elected official. Mr. DiBello asked Mr. Dehnert if he was making a request for legal interpretation or what was his request.

Mr. Dehnert said he is making the request and it is also School Code and if you look at the policy it refers to School Code 319 where it does not say work it says "A Board Member who neglects or refuses to attend two successive regular meetings of the Board, unless detained by a sickness or prevented by a necessary absence from the district, or if in attendance at any meeting neglects or refuses to act in his or her official capacity as a School Director, may be removed from his or her office on an affirmative vote of the majority of the remaining Board Members". Mr. Dehnert stated that he believes the intention of the law is not for somebody that is on a long-term leave from the Board. Mr. Dehnert added that the Board is going to have a budget vote coming up and if they do not have 9 members then they could be deadlocked and not be able to approve a budget. Mr. Dehnert said he believes it is very important that they have 9 members and that Region II is represented with 3 members and they have not been represented at regular Board Meetings since March.

Mr. Dressler commented that he thinks the first thing we should do is contact Ms. Gudolonis and find out what her intentions are and then make a decision on how to proceed.

Mr. Davis said he will be glad to give an opinion or whatever the Board wants and then suggested that the cases under the statute are very old and there are not any relatively new case law although the old case law indicates that you have to give, even though the statute does not have in it, due process. Mr. Davis stated that if the Board wanted to enforce that section then he would give notice and then give the person the opportunity to respond because it says unexcused and there could be an excuse which could be health reasons. Mr. Davis stated that as Mr. DiBello had indicated there has been no challenge to this particular section of the School Code. Mr. Davis said because of some analogous case law there is some question as to the enforceability but notwithstanding that minimally, in his view, you have to build some due process even though the statute does not give a notice. Mr. Davis stated that if the Board desires a letter would go out signed by the Board Secretary indicating the Board would like to know why. Mr. Davis said he disagrees with Mr. Dehnert's interpretation on regular meetings as the way we advertise our meetings it would be any two meetings whether it be a work session or action agenda. Mr. Davis stated that some of this is unclear because the nature of the case is probably 30 or 40 years old. Mr. Davis informed the Board that if they choose proceed that way he would at least ask for explanation, number one, and number two, he would be happy to write the Board an opinion as to what there may be in terms of challenges.

Mr. Dehnert commented that if you count all of the meetings then she has made 3 out of 16.

Mr. Pettit stated that believes Mr. Davis makes a good suggestion in that we initiate some type of due process and if he could prepare a memo Mr. Pettit thinks it would be good to get a legal opinion from counsel as to what the requirements are, as archaic as they may be, if it is the only case law we have it is still the case law of Pennsylvania. Mr. Davis commented that he is not going to bore them with watching him read the annotations but he believes it is his recollection that the cases go back into the sixties or seventies and to his knowledge

there has not been anything recent. Mr. Pettit stated that he believes Mr. Davis' suggestion about the due process is a good one and he thinks the Board should consider that.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he does not know if Ms. Gudolonis has communicated when she is going to attend a meeting or when she doesn't because it seems that whenever he asks nobody knows if she is attending a meeting or why she missed the last meeting. Mr. Dehnert stated that we can only presume it is because she is in Belgium. Mr. Dehnert stated correct him if he is wrong in that she does not communicate when she is missing a meeting.

Mr. DiBello responded that he spoke to her in January and she indicated that she was finishing her engagement related to work and figured it would be completed through the end of February. Mr. DiBello said he is fine with due process but needs to correct what Mr. Dehnert said when he said that Region II is not being represented and he thinks this is inaccurate because there are two other Board Members from Region II. Mr. DiBello said he thinks that what Mr. Dehnert meant to say or what he believes was being said was that Region II is not being represented by that individual but we do have two other Board Members from Region II. Mr. Dehnert stated that he thinks he said three members and Mr. DiBello replied no, you didn't. Mr. Dehnert said that is what he meant and Mr. DiBello replied okay, that is what he is clarifying because Region II is being represented. Mr. DiBello asked if the Board wanted to take action. Mr. Davis commented that the suggestion is that the Board wants an opinion from him as to the enforceability of the section and how to proceed. Mr. DiBello said it must be a Board Action to make that request. Mr. DiBello again asked if there was Board Action to get a legal opinion to follow due process and Mr. Pettit said he would move to secure a legal opinion from counsel concerning this subject.

Mr. Shafer asked if the Board could get some type of correspondence from Ms. Gudolonis for the record saying what date she will be back which might save a little bit of legal fees. Mr. Shafer stated that at this point if she is returning on some level then it is behind us but if she is not returning then we can address it because we are currently and have been somewhat a Board of 8. Mr. Shafer stated that things are moving forward pretty well with her absence with no disrespect to the vacant chair. Mr. Pettit replied that he thinks the Board could do both, get the opinion and make the request of the Board Member. Mr. Dehnert added that otherwise they would have to wait another month until they could do anything. Mr. Dressler asked if Mr. DiBello could contact Ms. Gudolonis because he seems to be the person who has some connection to her.

Mr. DiBello stated that if we are going to follow this process then he would recommend that the letter or an email be drafted by the Board Secretary and that is the correspondence that we want to send out as he does not want it to be an individual correspondence.

Mr. Pettit suggested that Mr. Davis' office may want to prepare the letter for signature by the Board Secretary. Mr. Davis added that he sees no problem with writing a letter now simply of inquiry. He suggested that if the Board decides to move forward that he would certainly help author that letter saying that the Board intends on a certain date to enforce the certain provision of the School Code and that she has an obligation to come forward and explain why her absences were and if they are excused or not. Mr. Davis stated that the Board can do this on two levels and there is certainly nothing formal about correspondence addressing Mr. Shafer's request and saying what are your intentions and are you coming back. Mr. Davis stated that in the interim he will give the Board a legal opinion on the enforceability and a formal methodology to build a formal process.

Mrs. Mullin asked who ultimately makes the decision on whether they are excused absences or not as it is kind of vague. Mr. Davis responded that he has not in a long time looked at the cases and one of the things that has always puzzled him is that there really are not any cases on what makes it excused. Mrs. Mullin stated that it reads "if you are forced to be away" and you could be forced to be away for many different reasons. Mrs. Mullin said she is just curious on who makes that call. Mr. Davis spoke of a case in Ambler Borough where someone was sworn in and then went to Italy for 9 months and they never got to the fundamental underlying issue because the court ruled in that particular case that they had not given that individual an opportunity for due process so whether the absence was excused or not was never really answered in the case. Mr. Davis stated that is why he would give Ms. Gudolonis the opportunity to explain their absence as this would be the due process that would be built in.

Mr. DiBello said he is fine with moving forward but does past Board precedence have any determination because there was a Board Member a few years that missed many months of meetings due to a necessary reason and at that time the Board did not take any action. Mr. Davis said he does not know of any cases that point an analogous law so he would say no. Mr. Davis said if a prior Board did not act then that does not waive it for a subsequent Board so you are not stopped from doing it. Mr. DiBello asked what the motion is that is on the table.

Mr. Pettit said the motion is to make inquiry of the individual through the Secretary and also to ask counsel to research into the issue and provide the Board with the results of that research. Mr. Shafer seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary