

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016

7:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the High School

MISSION STATEMENT

Spring-Ford Area School District strives to be educationally relevant, focused on achievement and growth, and have a priority on people so that students are fully prepared to positively contribute to their society.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

II. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of of **Resolution 2016-01** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Boys' Cross Country Team** and their coaches Brian Sullivan, Heather Giovagnoli, Jack Kraynak and Matt Varaday for winning the 2015 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Championship. (**Attachment A1**).
- B. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-02** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Football Team** and their coaches Chad Brubaker, Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, DJ Fox, Steve Moyer, Jamie Gray, Chuck Nessley, Dale Bergman and Mike Egro for winning the 2015 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC-10) Championship. (**Attachment A2**).
- C. Presentation by **Teresa Carboy**, Principal, on The Hybrid Learning Model at Royersford Elementary.
- D. Presentation honoring the **Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors** who volunteer their time for the betterment of public education in our community.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report	Dana Ludgate/Daniel Ciresi	
Policy	Kelly Spletzer	2 nd Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Property	Joseph Ciresi	2 nd Tues. 6:30 p.m.
Community Relations	Todd Wolf	3 rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
MCIU Legislative Committee	Dawn Heine	3 rd Weds. 7:30 p.m.
MCIU Board	Tom DiBello	4 th Weds. 7:00 p.m.
Superintendent Report	Dr. David R. Goodin	
Solicitor's Report	Mark Fitzgerald	

IV. MINUTES

- A. Administration recommends approval of the November 16, 2015 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A3)**
- B. Administration recommends approval of the November 23, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A4)**
- C. Administration recommends approval of the December 7, 2015 Reorganization Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A5)**

V. PERSONNEL

A. Resignations

- 1. **Michele A. Benek**; Clerical Assistant, District Office. Effective: December 11, 2015.
- 2. **Peter F. Dabback**; Science Teacher, 8th Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 20, 2016 or the last workday of the 2015-2016 school year.
- 3. **Helen E. Johnstone**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: December 17, 2015.
- 4. **Marianetta L. Kubacki**; Elementary Teacher, Royersford Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 20, 2016 or the last workday of the 2015-2016 school year.
- 5. **Jason E. Miller**; Special Education Teacher, Senior High School - 9th Grade Center. Effective: February 1, 2016.
- 6. **Rose M. Ward**; Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach, Senior High School. Effective: January 4, 2016.

New Resignations

- 7. **Debra L. Cavello**; Clerical Assistant, District Office. Effective: January 29, 2016.
- 8. **Joseph A. Giampa**; 10-month Field Technician, Senior High School. Effective: January 29, 2016.

B. Leaves of Absence

- 1. **Jessica H. Aikens**; School Psychologist, Royersford Elementary School, for child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: February 11, 2016 through June 30, 2016.
- 2. **Dana L. Green**; Special Education Teacher, Senior High School - 9th Grade Center, for child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: February 3, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.

3. **Shannon M. Tolas**; Special Education Teacher, Evans Elementary School, for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through April 8, 2016.
4. **Amy M. Torrence**; Registered Nurse, Upper Providence Elementary School, for an unpaid leave of absence per Board Policy. Effective: May 8, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.

New Leave of Absence

5. **Andrea Sandberg**; Elementary Teacher, 5/6th Grade Center, for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: April 9, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.

C. Professional Staff Employee

1. **Megan L. Wilmarth**; Literacy Coach, Upper Providence Elementary School, replacing Jamie L. LaForgia who resigned. Compensation will be set at MS, Step 9, \$58,900.00, prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: To be determined.

D. Support Staff Employees

1. **Colleen Deschamp**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), 5/6th Grade Center, replacing Loraine L. Livergood who had a change of assignment. Compensation will be set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: December 7, 2015.
2. **Jennifer L. Holcomb**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School 10-12 Center, replacing Wendy Monte who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistant's Plan. Effective: January 21, 2016.
3. **Lorraine R. Moyer**; Attendance Secretary, Senior High School 10-12 Center, replacing Holly Yabroski who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.00/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Secretarial Plan. Effective: January 4, 2016.
4. **Scott W. Neafcy**; Maintenance I, replacing Edward M. Koneski who had a change of assignment. Compensation will be set at \$19.95/hour with benefits per the Maintenance Plan. Effective: December 7, 2015.

New Support Staff Employee

5. **Kyle J. Smolsky**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Helen E. Johnstone who retired. Compensation will be set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistant's Plan. Effective: January 25, 2016.

E. Support Staff Substitute

1. **Kathleen L. Mills** Food Service

F. Change of Status

1. **Lorraine L. Livergood**; Part-time Food Service (4 hours/day), 5/6th Grade Center, to Part-time Food Service (5.75 hours/day). Effective: December 17, 2015.

- G. Administration recommends approval of **Heidi A. Rochlin**, Curriculum Supervisor–Math/Science, District Office. Compensation will be set at \$100,000.00, prorated with benefits per the Administrator’s Plan. Effective: March 28, 2016.

H. Personnel Information Item

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

1. **Gillian M. Arganetto** Special Education Teacher 5/6th Grade Center
2. **Jennie C. Donlan** Special Education Teacher Senior High School

- I. Administration recommends approval of the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2015-2016 school year. **(Attachment A6)**

VI. FINANCE

- A. Administration recommends approval for 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.

B. Checks:

1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 159376 – 159908	\$4,711,711.81
ACH 151600174 – 151600286	\$ 51,097.91

2. Athletic Fund Checks

Check No. 308665 – 308872	\$ 77,940.02
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3. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1181 - 1182	\$ 35,840.59
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4. Food Service Checks

Check No. 12498 – 12592	\$ 241,472.70
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- C. The following monthly Board reports are submitted for your approval:

- Cash Balances – Liquidity
- Skyward Reports
 - General Fund Check Register
 - Athletic Fund Check Register
 - Capital Reserve Check Register
 - Food Service Check Register
 - Summary Revenue Report
 - Summary Expense Report

- D. Administration recommends approval of the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations and the Parent Teacher Organizations:
1. **Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler – Spring Mount, PA.** Provide an assembly at Spring City Elementary entitled “DEAFinitely Magic. Funding will be paid through the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$500.00.
 2. **Benmor Enterprises (Mike and Roberta Straka) – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Dino Dig” as well as 2 dig workshops for 3rd grade students at Brooke Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$525.00.
 3. **Benmor Enterprises (Mike and Roberta Straka) – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Dino Dig” as well as 2 dig workshops for 2nd grade students at Limerick Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$525.00.
 4. **Main Line Health Paoli Hospital – Paoli, PA.** Provide two assemblies entitled “Cruisin Smart” at the 10-12 Grade Center for all juniors and seniors. The assemblies will take place on Monday, April 25th and the timing of the assembly is purposeful in the hopes that our students will make good choices, especially during prom season. There is no cost to the district as these assemblies are funded through a grant provided by Main Line Health.
 5. **Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists, Inc. – Lawrence, KS.** Provide an acrobatic assembly for students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$790.00.
- E. Administration recommends approval of the following independent contracts:
1. **Jack Bracale, DMD – Royersford, PA.** Perform state mandated dental screenings of students in grades 3 and 7 during the 2015-2016 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$5.00 per screening.
 2. **American Red Cross – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide CPR and First Aid Training for 12 Instructional Assistants. Funding will be paid from the Staff Development Account and shall not exceed \$1,205.00.
 3. **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Norristown, PA.** Provide Hybrid Coaching Services at Royersford Elementary and Spring City Elementary. Funding will be paid from the Curriculum and Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$7,000.00.
 4. **Lakeside Educational Network (Lakeside School) – North Wales, PA.** Provide educational services for a maximum of 123 days during the 2015-2016 school year for a student as per the discipline agreement. Funding will be paid from the Alternative Education Budget and shall not exceed \$23,985.00.

5. **Lakeside Educational Network (Souderton Vantage Academy) – Souderton, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student for a maximum of 122 days during the 2015-2016 school as per the discipline agreement. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$27,450.00.
6. **Lakeside Educational Network (Upper Merion Vantage Academy) – Bridgeport, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student for the 2015-2016 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$29,475.00.
7. **Lakeside Educational Network (Upper Merion Vantage Academy) – Bridgeport, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student for the 2015-2016 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$24,750.00.
8. **Devereaux Cares – Downingtown, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student for the 2015-2016 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$20,114.00.
9. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Direct Services and supervision of Applied Behavioral Analysis for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct Services will be provided for up to 12 hours per week for 36 weeks at a rate of \$30.00 per hour for a total of \$12,960.00. Supervision of Applied Behavioral Analysis will be provided for up to 12 hours per month for 9 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour for a total of \$10,260.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$23,220.00.
10. **Kara Canale – Collegeville, PA.** Provide psychological services for special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for 30 hours per week for 21 weeks at a rate of \$70.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$44,100.00.
11. **Kara Renninger – Connecting the Pieces – Norristown, PA.** Provide instructional services for a special needs student during the 2015-2016 school year as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 4 hours per week for 41 weeks at a rate of \$50.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$8,200.00.
12. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Behavior Specialist Services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month for 7 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$5,320.00.
13. **Pathway School – Norristown, PA.** Provide one-on-one support services during the 2015-2016 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$24,098.89.
14. **Pathway School – Norristown, PA.** Provide educational services during the 2015-2016 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$37,562.46.

15. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide educational services for two special needs students as per their IEPs. Applied Behavior Analysis program supervision services will be provided for 26 hours per month for 10 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour for a total of \$24,700.00. Direct Applied Behavior Analysis services will be provided for 8 hours per week at a rate of \$32.00 per hour for a total of \$9,216.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$33,916.00.
 16. **Dr. Lisa Hain – Narvon, PA.** Provide a psychological evaluation for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will include the evaluation, the written report and participation in the follow-up meeting. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,500.00.
 17. **Yvonne Rivera – Phoenixville, PA.** Teach two dual credit virtual high school courses to students attending Spring-Ford Area High School who enroll in the courses through Montgomery County Community College. The courses being taught will be Dual Credit World Civilization I and Dual Credit World Civilization II and will be offered during the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year. Funding will be paid from the Curriculum and Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$3,300.00 per course or a total of \$6,600.00 for both courses.
- F. Administration recommends approval to enter into an independent contract with a parent to provide transportation during the 2015-2016 school year for their child to and from the Melmark School in Berwyn, PA at the IRS approved rate. Funding will be paid from the transportation budget and shall not exceed \$8,200.00.
 - G. Administration recommends approval to enter into a contract with the legal firm of Hughes, Kalkbrenner & Ozorowski, LLP to represent the district in matters concerning the Target Stores Tax Assessment Appeal. Services will be billed at an hourly rate of \$245.00.
 - H. Administration recommends approval of the membership payment for the 2015-2016 school year to the MCIU - Montgomery County Superintendent's Academy for Dr. David Goodin. Funding is covered under the terms of the Superintendent's contract and shall not exceed \$2,000.00.
 - I. Administration recommends approval of the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$150,650,250.00.
 - J. Administration recommends approval to file with the Department of Education the 2016-2017 referendum exceptions for Special Education Expenditures (\$1,746,218.00) and Retirement Contributions (\$949,442.00), for a total estimated amount of \$2,695,660.00. These referendum exceptions represent 2.7% and could be used for allowable millage over the Act 1 State Index cap amount of 2.4%. Exceptions are permitted due to the recognition that there are extraordinary district expenses above the rate of inflation.
 - K. Administration recommends approval of Ambler Savings Bank as an additional district depository of funds. Ambler Savings Bank offers competitive interest rates and is locally based. All funds deposited over the FDIC insurance level of \$250,000.00 would be collateralized by Ambler Savings Bank in accordance with Pennsylvania Act 72.

- L. Administration recommends approval of the 2014-2015 Independent Audit Report completed by Maillie LLP for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The audit was without findings or material weaknesses. A display copy of the audit is available at the district office and can also be found on the district website.
- M. Administration recommends approval of the applications for **Use of Facilities Permits** received during the period of November 12, 2015 through January 13, 2016.
- N. Administration recommends approval of the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2015-2016 school year:

Limerick Township	No. 001 - 023
Royersford Borough	No. 015

- O. Administration recommends approval of the following **deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2015-2016 school year:

Royersford Borough	No. 431 - 495
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VII. PROPERTY

- A. Administration recommends approval of the continuation of the contract for district-wide mowing for year three of a three year option with Black Forest Landscaping & Snowplowing, Inc., the lowest RFP, and rejecting all other RFPs. The total cost for year 3 is \$1,351.00 per mowing based on an average of twenty-three mowings per year. Funding will come from the General Maintenance Budget.
- B. Administration recommends approval of the continuation of the contract for district-wide cleaning services for year one of a three year RFP with Interstate Maintenance Corporation of Horsham, PA. The total cost of Contract #1 is \$754,525 beginning June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. Contract #2 is \$28.00 per hour per employee and Contract #3 will be billed at \$25.25 per hour per employee. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

- A. Administration recommends approval of the following new textbooks for 2016-2017. Funding will come from the 2015-2016 Curriculum Budget and shall not exceed \$123,500.00.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Textbook Program</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1. Social Studies (7th) \$56,881.82	<i>Discovering World Geography</i> Class sets with 6yr online license for all students	ISBN: 9780076635139 Glencoe McGraw Hill PO Box 182605 Columbus, OH 43218
2. World Language Spanish 3 & French 3 \$50,577.25	<i>Avacemos Level 3 & Bien dit! Level 3</i>	ISBN: 9780544020009 ISBN: 9780544020344 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 9205 S. Park Ctr. Loop Orlando, FL 32819

- B. Administration recommends approval of the following new curricular resource for 2015-2016. Funding will come from the 2015-2016 Curriculum Budget and shall not exceed \$86,000.00.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Textbook Program</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1. 7th Grade Reading	<i>Study Sync</i> 7 year consumables and online access for all students and teachers	ISBN: 9780076660452 Glencoe McGraw Hill PO Box 182605 Columbus, OH 43218

- C. Administration is seeking approval to expand the Pre-Kindergarten Summer Readiness Program to all of our incoming kindergarten students. The program will run 4 days a week for 5 five weeks from Tuesday, July 5 through Thursday, August 4th at locations to be determined by student need and facility availability. Students will be instructed in the areas of Reading Readiness, Listening and Speaking, Math Readiness, Fine Motor Readiness, and Social/Emotional Readiness. The program will be staffed by one teacher and one instructional assistant per location. Funding has been built into the Curriculum and Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$28,000.00.
- D. Administration recommends approval of the following new course for the 2016-2017 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the process of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of the course in the student's course guide.

NEW COURSE FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2016-2017

1. Yearbook:

In this course students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. This would be a minor course where students could earn .5 elective credit.

Cost: There is no cost to add this course and no additional staffing is needed.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

The following individuals are recommended for attendance at the following conferences:

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Allyn J. Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, and **Dr. Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to attend the "*Greater Philadelphia Teacher Job Fair*" at the Oaks Expo Center in Oaks, PA on April 6, 2016. The total cost for this job fair will be \$440.00.
- B. **Justin Webb**, Director of Technology, **Sandy Bernat**, Manager of Technology Operations, and **Kathy Cox**, Software Specialist, to attend the "*Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)*" in Hershey, PA from February 21, 2016 through February 24, 2016. The total cost for this conference is \$2,646.00.

- C. **Christine Raber**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend the *"PDE Bureau of Special Education Annual Conference"* in Hershey, PA from February 10, 2016 through February 11, 2016. The total cost of the conference is \$120.00.
- D. **Richard Grove**, Systems Technician, to attend *"Cyber Security Institute"* at the Lancaster Intermediate Unit on May 2, 2016. The total cost for this training is \$242.55.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Gwen Phillips**, School Police Officer, to attend *"Advanced ALICE Training"* at the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center on November 21, 2016 and November 22, 2016. The total cost of this active shooter training is \$595.00.
- F. **Kelly German**, Business Teacher and FBLA Advisor, to attend *"Future Business Leaders of America-State Leadership Conference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on April 11, 2016 and April 12, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$903.00.
- G. **Chadwin Brubaker**, Teacher/Head Football Coach, **James Mich, Jr.** and **Chad Strickler**, Teachers/ Assistant Football Coaches to attend *"PSFCA State Clinic"* at Penn State University from February 10, 2016 through February 13, 2016. The total cost for this clinic is \$150.00.
- H. **Stacey Bogus** and **Adrian Frain**, Teachers/Student Council Advisors, to accompany 4 students to the *"Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils 19th Annual Student Summit"* in Harrisburg, PA on February 18, 2016. The advisors and students will use district transportation. The total cost for attending this summit is \$300.00.

5TH/6TH GRADE CENTER

- I. **Brenda Haydt**, Special Education Teacher, to attend *"How the ELL Brain Learns"* at the MCIU in Norristown, PA on February 2, 2016. The total cost for this conference is \$245.00.
- J. **Jennifer McGlade**, Reading Specialist, to attend *"Project Max Internal Coach Meetings and Making a Difference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA on February 9, 2016 through February 11, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$652.06.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- K. **Sue Choi** and **Gabrielle Procario**, Math Instructional Coaches, to attend the *"Montgomery County Intermediate Unit: Math and the Adolescent Brain"* at the MCIU in Norristown, PA on February 4, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$150.00.

New Conference and Workshop

- L. **Dawn Heine**, Board Member, to attend *"National School Board Association's Annual Conference"* at the Boston Convention and Exposition Center from Friday, April 8, 2016 through Monday, April 11, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$2260.62.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. The following policies are submitted for approval:

1. Policy #137 – PROGRAMS: Home Education Programs (**Attachment A7**)
2. Policy #317 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A8**)
3. Policy #417 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A9**)
4. Policy #517 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A10**)

B. Administration recommends approval of **Nimrah Baqai** for Early College Admission. Nimrah is a strong student ranked in the top ten percent of her class and meets the qualification under the Spring-Ford Guidelines for Early College Admissions. The High School Guidance and Professional Staff feel that Nimrah will succeed in college and endorse her application.

C. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #214 – PUPILS: Class Rank (**Attachment A11**)
2. Policy #217 – PUPILS: Graduation Requirements (**Attachment A12**)

New Other Business

D. Board approval is needed in order to begin using a Paperless School Board Meeting format. If approved, beginning with the February Work Session, Board Members will use electronic devices(personal or district provided) for viewing the meeting's agenda. The agenda will continue to be projected onto overhead screens for the public's viewing during the meeting. The agenda will still be available on the district's website for anyone wishing to print out a hard copy for themselves. Paper copies will no longer be available at the meetings.

XI. INFORMATION ITEM

A. Effective January 1, 2016, the IRS mileage rate will be **54 cents per mile** which is a decrease from the 2015 rate of 57.5 cents per mile.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

XIII. ADJOURNMENT



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin
Superintendent

Dr. Allyn J. Roche
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas J. DiBello
Board President

Joseph P. Ciresi
Board Vice President

Mark P. Dehnert
Region III

Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Jr.
Region I

Dawn R. Heine
Region II

Bernard F. Pettit
Region I

Kelly J. Spletzer
Region I

Todd R. Wolf
Region II

Colleen Zasowski
Region II

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2016-01

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford, Boys' Cross Country Team, the Coach Brian Sullivan and his Assistant Coaches Heather Giovagnoli, Jack Kraynak and Matt Varaday for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 9 wins, 0 losses,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a score of 38,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team won their first Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship in school history,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team's varsity and junior varsity players all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding cross country season.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this _____ day of _____, 2016.

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

By: _____
Thomas J. DiBello
School Board President



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin
Superintendent

Dr. Allyn J. Roche
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas J. DiBello
Board President

Joseph P. Ciresi
Board Vice President

Mark P. Dehnert
Region III

Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Jr.
Region I

Dawn R. Heine
Region II

Bernard F. Pettit
Region I

Kelly J. Spletzer
Region I

Todd R. Wolf
Region II

Colleen Zasowski
Region II

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2016-02

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford High School Football Team, the Coach Chad Brubaker and his Assistant Coaches Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, DJ Fox, Steve Moyer, Jamie Gray, Chuck Nessley, Dale Bergman, and Mike Engro for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 9 wins, 0 losses,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win the PAC 10 Championship defeating Perkiomen Valley 28-14,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team won their first PAC 10 Championship since 1998 with an overall record of 10-1,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team's varsity and junior varsity players all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding football season.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford High School Football Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this _____ day of _____, 2016.

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

By: _____
Thomas J. DiBello
School Board President

On November 16, 2015 the Work Session 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:	Willard D. Cromley, Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II:	Dawn R. Heine
Region III:	Joseph P. Ciresi and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer:	Mark P. Dehnert
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Dana K. Ludgate and Daniel J. Ciresi

The following Board Members were absent: Clinton L. Jackson and Todd R. Wolf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dehnert announced that the Board met in an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting on personnel.

Danny's congratulated two of the band members and Spring-Ford seniors, Christopher Barth, Sousaphone player, and Michael Sneff, Marimba player, who were accepted into the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Marching Band. He reported that these students were selected from more than 1,300 students across 47 states for Music Education, All-American Games and Drum Corps International. Danny announced that it is American Education Week which presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. He added that this year's theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," and will be reflected in special observances each day of the weeklong celebration. Danny advised everyone to check their school's homepage for more information about events held throughout the week.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATION

Dr. Goodin stated that they were here tonight to present the 2016-2017 Proposed Preliminary Budget and discuss the budget timeline, the challenges in preparing the budget, the budget highlights, and offer some closing comments. Dr. Goodin explained the Act 1 Budget Timeline. He next explained the challenges in preparing the budget which included the timeline for the budget being moved up 1 month due to the early 2015 Primary. Dr. Goodin stated that the major challenge in preparing the budget is the fact that to date the state still has not approved a budget for 2015-2016 so the education subsidy, transportation subsidy, special education subsidy and any further property tax reforms are still unknown for the current year as well as for the 2016-2017 budget year.

Dr. Goodin presented some of the highlights for the 2016-2017 preliminary budget including expenditures for salaries, benefits and debt service.

Mr. Fink next presented more detailed information on the 2016-2016 preliminary budget expenditures which showed a \$6.8 million increase from the previous budget which equates to a 4.8% increase in expenses. A large portion of the increase is a result of salaries and benefits with the majority being due to the PSERS employer contribution mandated increase of 15% and the increase in medical and dental costs. Mr. Fink highlighted the major items effecting revenues which included local, state and federal. He pointed out that with the district's elimination of the per capita tax that the district would see a \$260,000 decrease in revenue in this area. Overall the change in revenue reflects a \$1.87 million increase which equates to a 1.13% increase. Mr. Fink reported that when you combine the expenditures with the revenues, and after appropriating \$4 million to the Fund Balance, you are left with a shortfall of \$4.9 million. Mr. Fink reminded everyone that this is only a preliminary budget and a lot of work is yet to be done on this over the next couple of months. Mr. Fink stated that the next steps will involve diving deeper into the expense lines, taking a ground-up approach by department/building, the development of a 5-year rolling plan/model, filing for PDE exceptions as well as keeping an eye on Harrisburg for an approved state budget.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Mr. Fink and his department on the presentation of their first budget as he knows it has been a bit of a challenge. Mr. Ciresi reported that both he and Mr. DiBello travelled to Harrisburg today to fight for education and fair funding was a huge topic of conversation. Mr. Ciresi stated that it has been 5 months and there still is no budget from the state but yet we have to follow the law and develop a preliminary budget for the next school year. Mr. Ciresi expressed his disgust at this and stated that he felt that the state had failed us. He said that as a Board they need to go to the state and express that they will not do a budget until the state has a budget in place and we know what numbers to take to the public. Mr. Ciresi applauded the Business Office, the Administration and the Staff on being able to come up with this budget as right now it is a guessing game and it is time it stops. Mr. Ciresi asked about the PSERS increase and Mr. Fink explained that it was a 15% increase from last year and that the overall PSERS contribution will total approximately \$17 million. Mr. Ciresi showed the Cyber Charter School Performance Profile that they received today which indicated that not one cyber school performed at the state index. Mr. Ciresi suggested that a letter be sent from the Board to the state legislators saying that we will not come up with a budget until the state does and he encouraged the public to do the same. Mr. Ciresi asked the Board to take more of a step towards starting a campaign.

Mr. DiBello spoke about the district being mandated to pay over \$2 million dollars to fund charter schools and commented that the state proficiency rate for passing was at 70% and not one charter school scored above the 70% standard set by the state. Mr. DiBello commented that part of the budget negotiations that are going on in Harrisburg deals with back end referendum which means every tax increase the district seeks will have to go to the voters for approval. Mr. DiBello stated that the people in Pennsylvania have been driven towards hating property tax and driven towards hating the funding of school. He added that what is being done in Spring-Ford with minimal tax increases is keeping this district moving forward and 80% of the funding for the district comes from the local tax base. Mr. DiBello stated that it is near impossible for us to not look at some type of tax increase because of rising operational costs. He added that the district is not doing anything special here as a large portion of the budget changes are due to salary, benefits

and pensions. Mr. DiBello stated that he knows there was a huge push to make everyone believe that we are building a \$12 million fitness center, which was a fabrication, and got everyone fired up but he wanted to once again state, for the record, that we are not building a \$12 million fitness center as this was a lie to the community and it is not part of this budget. Mr. DiBello stated that he wished some people would own up to this fact and come clean but he doubted that would happen.

Mr. Dehnert held up paperwork and stated that it was presentation that Mr. DiBello made in 2014 at the Property Committee meeting. Mr. DiBello questioned if Mr. Dehnert was saying that he made the presentation and Mr. Dehnert said it was Mr. Ciresi's committee. Mr. DiBello again questioned the comment that he made the presentation and Mr. Dehnert said that Mr. DiBello was there and talked to the presentation. Mr. Dehnert referenced that one of the slides states that one of the options would be "to build a state of the art fitness center which would make Spring-Ford the envy of every school district in the country". Mr. DiBello said that presentation was brought forward by administration and he felt Mr. Dehnert was changing his story. Mr. Dehnert denied this and said that it took place at a Property Committee meeting so it was a true story and not a fabrication. Mr. Dehnert offered the presentation he had with him to anyone who may want to view it. Mr. Dehnert added that Mr. Ciresi also went over the presentation that took place at the Property Committee meeting at a Board Meeting and this appeared in the meeting minutes. Mr. DiBello stated that there are a lot of presentations at committee meetings and he wanted to make clear that we are not building a \$12 million fitness center. Mr. Dehnert denied that he said that but rather that they were talking about it and he felt that Mr. DiBello was the one who could not face reality.

Mr. DiBello commented that if this budget gets passed and back end referendum is part of the budget then he is not sure what next year is going to look like. Mr. DiBello stated that he does not know how they can pass a preliminary budget next week but these are all of the topics being discussed in Harrisburg with our state legislators who do not even understand school funding and how money is being spent because their perspective is that we are wasting money and he has yet to see Spring-Ford waste money in the last several years. Mr. DiBello asked how they deal with not having a state budget for this year when trying to pass a budget for next year as we still do not know the impact on this year's budget.

Mr. Fink stated that what he would need to do is go back and start building the budget from the ground up which entails going back line by line over all of the operations in the district and building a budget from there rather than just throwing percentages and looking at things from there. Mr. Fink stated that the hard part is the contract is the contract which has to be dealt with as the people are here and that is what we have. Mr. Fink stated that there are other components that we do not have any control over for example, charter schools and PSERS. Mr. Fink commented that there will be a lot of pencil sharpening being done.

Mr. Pettit stated that it should be made clear that this is only the preliminary budget with a deep and through analysis still to be done on where the costs are that can be limited. He added that the public needs to be aware that this is strictly preliminary and not what our budget is going to be.

Mr. Ciresi stated that when you are the chairperson of a committee and there is a presentation that is not your responsibility when the administration presents it. Mr. Ciresi stated that if this was the case he could say that Mr. Dehnert presented a 4.8% budget. Mr. Ciresi asked that this type of discussion be dropped and Mr. Dehnert replied that they keep bringing it up which Mr. Ciresi denied. Mr. Ciresi directed the conversation back to the topic of the state budget and said that they as a board need to take a hard line with the state. He stated that we have to plan a budget when the state has no budget and this is not fair to all of our residents and our community. He asked the residents in the Spring-Ford community to please use their outlets to get to their state legislators. He suggested putting their comments into SoundOff and write to the editor in order to help them as a Board do the right thing that they need to for the community. Mr. Ciresi said they need to have the community start the ground swell of what we are doing and how we expect to do this. Mr. Ciresi questioned at what point the district will run out of money this year as we are heading in that direction where we need to borrow in order to keep the district moving forward. Mr. Ciresi questioned if the district still had to make the payments to the charter schools and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that this had been discussed a month or two ago regarding not making the payments that are coming from the state as a pass through but there are limitations on what we have to do as of right now because we do not have that revenue. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if there is a budget then all of that will change but as of now he presumed the district was withholding the commonwealth's contribution to charter school payments. Mr. Fink confirmed this was correct. Mr. Ciresi stated that he would hope we could get the community to work with us and understand the dilemma that we sit at right now.

- A. **Dr. David R. Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, and **Mr. James D. Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to present the 2016-2017 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Dana Ludgate/Daniel Ciresi

Dana reported that this today marked the first day of American Education Week, and from now until the 20th parents are welcome to come to school to visit and observe their child's classroom experience anytime during the day. She advised that parents will need to be "raptured" upon entry to the school, a process which necessitates a driver's license. Dana announced that parent-teacher conferences will take place between Thursday the 19th and Monday the 23rd during predetermined appointments with individual instructors. Dana reminded all students who signed up for the student blood drive on Friday the 20th to make sure to get plenty of sleep, fluids, and food before donating and remember to bring a photo ID and a salty snack with them to their appointment. Dana also stated that there are only four days left until fall break and she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

WMCTC Ciresi, Cromley, Heine 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Cromley reported that WMCTC JOC met on November 2, 2015. Mr. Moritzen advised that recruitment has begun for the 2016-2017 school year with presentations being made at the sending schools. The presentation was done at the 8th Grade and 9th Grade Centers. Mr. Moritzen also reported that the Skills USA Leadership Conference will have 17 students from the Western Center participating. Mr. Cromley reported that \$6,000 was raised by the students through fundraising efforts. Mr. Cromley announced that the Western Center will hold an Open House on December 3rd from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. He also advised that the Community Dinner Buffet was held on November 2nd and was a tremendous success as

110 people were seated for dinner. Western Center Culinary Arts students were able to practice the skills they are learning in the classroom. The next community dinner will be held on January 11, 2016. Mr. Cromley announced that the Western Center had launched a new responsive website design in order to bring a fresh and modern look to the website as well as increase the ability to reach customers on mobile devices, promotes events taking place and highlights the achievements of the staff and students. Mr. Cromley reported that Western Center teachers had an in-service on Google Classroom in order to prepare them to engage students on their personal electronic devices. This comprehensive training was held on October 12th. Mr. Cromley stated that Google Classroom is an online course management system that teachers can use to communicate with their class and accept paperless assignments with Google Apps for Education. Mr. Cromley added that this also provides content digitally to engage students on their personal devices is a key strategy for any successful mobile learning initiative. Mr. Cromley reported that the Western Center hosted Huntington County's Career and Technical Center's Director and Principal as they are in the midst of a renovation project and toured our facilities in search of new ideas on how to maximize their space and keep it up to date. They were amazed at our facility and what our students had access to and they were very impressed with our 9th Grade Program and our expansion of bring your own device. Mr. Cromley reported that the Keystone Miller Blood Drive will be held at the Western Center on December 8th from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM and sign ups can be done online at giveapint.org.

Mr. Ciresi commented that this was the first JOC meeting where they were completely paperless and the JOC Members were given Chromebooks to use for the meetings. He stated that he believes this is something Spring-Ford should consider doing and he referenced the agenda packet and the volume of paper use. He stated that the Board Members did not need to keep the computers but only use them at the Board table. He invited everyone to come out to a JOC meeting and see how the process works.

Curriculum/Technology
Report next week.

Dawn Heine

1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Extracurricular

Tom DiBello

2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Extracurricular Committee met and that the Tech Club presented a new club proposal. All of the proper paperwork has been completed for this new club. The purpose of the club is to provide students the opportunity to explore STEM areas of interest beyond classroom instruction and foster the pursuit of high demand technical careers. Mr. DiBello stated that expressed areas of interest include vex robotic competitions, artificial intelligence, machine learning, mobile application development, game development, electronics, and programming competitions. Mr. DiBello reported that there are roughly 60 members of this club and of that 60 there are 45 that are very active members. The students already competed in a robotics competition and although they only had 3 weeks to prepare for the competition, they felt that it was a huge success. Mr. DiBello added that the club plans on having guest speakers consisting of students pursuing STEM majors in college and engineers from corporations. He stated that the club has obtained corporate sponsorship from Lockheed Martin. Mr. DiBello added that the recommendation from the Extracurricular Committee is to move forward next week with the approval of this club and the funding of a contract for an advisor to oversee the club. Mr. DiBello stated that he felt this was an excellent club and that it fell in line with the STEM initiative taking place in the district. Mr. DiBello reported that the committee also had a presentation from the Spring-Ford Rampage where it was reported that the club was running very smoothly and the first issue for this school year will be coming out in a few weeks. Mr. DiBello stated that this school newspaper tries to put out approximately 4-5 issues per year.

and the club obtains its own advertisers. He added that there are roughly 30 students who are part of this club and participate in many roles as part of this great club underway here at Spring-Ford. Mr. DiBello reported that the committee also viewed a presentation by Mr. Racich on middle school fall athletics. Mr. Racich reported that the 7th, 8th and 9th grade levels had very successful and rewarding seasons. Mr. DiBello stated that there were 233 boys registered and 248 girls and as a result there were 463 activity fees paid. Mr. DiBello added that if you include orchestra the numbers rise to 496 kids participating in some type of extra-curricular at the middle school level. Mr. DiBello reported that there were changes made to the eligibility rules in order to meet the PIAA requirements with regards to working with the students and teachers who may not be eligible due to some academic deficiencies. Mr. DiBello stated that this is being worked on in order to satisfy that deficiency so that the kids can still participate but what is important from this is that academics in Spring-Ford is a number one priority and extra-curriculars are secondary.

Policy

Will Cromley

2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Cromley reported that the Policy Committee met on November 9th and discussed Policy 217 – Graduation Requirements with regards to a review of the parameters of dual enrollment courses both part-time and full-time and also the caveat of early college admissions. Dr. Nugent highlighted and recommended changes to the policy that addressed both part-time and full-time enrollment as well as early college admissions. This policy will be going back to the committee in January for a few refinements. Policy 606 – Tax Collection was reviewed in order to make sure the policy and the process for tax collection are in alignment both with the tax collectors and with Mr. Fink and Mrs. Davidheiser. The Policy Committee asked the administration to go back to the drawing board and work on rewriting Policy 606 and bring back an updated policy draft to the January meeting. Mr. Cromley reported that Policies 317, 417 and 517 – Disciplinary Procedures were reviewed and adjusted with regards to the time period required for all employees to submit clearances from 3 to 5 years and these policies appear on the agenda for a first reading. Policy 137 – Home Education Programs was reviewed due to recommended changes from PSBA; this policy is on the agenda as a first reading. Policy 819 – Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response had some slight word-smithing changes and this policy appears on the agenda as a first reading. Policy 815 – Acceptable Use of Computers, Network, Internet, Electronic Communications and Information Systems needs a major review but this is on hold until the new Director of Technology, Justin Webb, is on board.

MCIU

Tom DiBello

4th Weds. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that there was no meeting last month.

Finance

Mark Dehnert

2nd Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Report next week.

Property

Clinton Jackson

2nd Tues. 8:00 p.m.

Report next week.

PSBA Liaison

Todd Wolf

Report possibly next week.

Asst. Superintendent Rpt. Dr. Allyn J. Roche

Dr. Roche reported that beginning this Thursday, November 19th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled to take place. Conferences continue next week on Monday, November 23rd during the day and in the evening from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and

on Tuesday, November 24th for the kindergarten and 5th and 6th grade families. Dr. Roche added that information was sent home from each school regarding the Parent-Teacher Conferences and any questions about time and location should be directed to your children's teachers. Dr. Roche reported that on Tuesday, November 24th, there will be a jam-packed professional development day for the 1st – 4th grade teachers, 7th -12th grade teachers and all special area teachers, counselors and instructional assistants. Dr. Roche next advised that the district had been notified that Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School meets the eligibility criteria to be considered and recognized as a National Title I Distinguished School for the State of Pennsylvania. He added that schools to represent Pennsylvania will be chosen based on exemplary school effectiveness in the following areas: use of research based strategies, opportunities provided for all students to achieve, coordination of Title I with other programs, implementation of sustained research-based professional development, established partnerships with parents, families and the community and the improvement of school climate. Dr. Roche stated that on tonight's agenda there was a motion seeking approval to move forward with the application process. He added that more importantly, he wanted to offer congratulations to the students, families, faculty, staff and administration at Spring City Elementary School. Dr. Roche thanked the Spring-Ford Football Team on an exciting season and congratulated them on their PAC 10 Title. He stated that the team continues to make us proud each season. He next congratulated the Spring-Ford Girls' Soccer Team for going to the State Quarterfinals three years in a row. Dr. Roche also offered congratulations to the Spring-Ford Golden Ram Marching Band for being the Tournament of Band Gold Medal recipients and all of the accomplishments of our talented students. Dr. Roche reported that next Tuesday evening, he will be attending a banquet alongside many Spring-Ford Area School District employees, alumni and friends to congratulate Dr. Patrick Nugent as he is inducted in to the Montgomery County Coaches Hall of Fame for his contributions, dedication and time as a Wrestling Coach at Spring-Ford! Dr. Roche invited everyone to offer their congratulations to Dr. Nugent when they see him for being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Dr. Roche wished everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Ciresi commented that the report on Spring City Elementary is a great report and to hear that the dedication that the Board had made at that time to move the school into what it became, a hybrid learning center, says a lot to the community and to the people. He added that there had been some push back in different places but he felt it was important to note that he remembers standing there for the 50th Anniversary and saying he was committed to this school and always would be and that he hoped to be there for the 100th anniversary. Mr. Ciresi stated that he believes that Spring City really has been a model set for this district in a lot of ways. Mr. Ciresi applauded the commitment of the community and said that just because they are smaller does not mean a thing. He stated that the commitment they took as a Board says a lot and he would hope that Spring City could win this award. Mr. Ciresi commented that Spring City is an important part of our district and he congratulated the teachers, the administration and the community.

Mr. Dehnert commented that it was his understanding from the Board's weekly memo that in order to apply for the award the district must commit to sending someone to the organization's conference in Houston. Dr. Roche replied that there is a commitment that is a part of this whole package to apply and if you do receive the award then there is an expectation to send someone. Mr. Dehnert stated that he thought it was a requirement to send someone and Dr. Roche responded that there was an expectation/requirement. Mr. Dehnert commented that in order to get an award you have to commit to spending a couple thousand dollars to send a person there. Mr. Dehnert stated that he felt if we were going to be recognized then we should be recognized on our merits and not because we

were going to send someone to their conference. Dr. Roche replied that this was their requirements and if we are not going to support that piece then we should vote no to applying because it is part of the requirement to do that. Mr. Dehnert stated that this is some separate organization that is running this and not the federal government. Mr. Dehnert commented that he went to the organization's website and it looked like it was a private organization and not the Pennsylvania Department of Education or the U.S. Federal Government. Dr. Roche replied that the district had qualified under the criteria. Mr. Dehnert again stated that in order to apply for this we have to say that we are going to spend at least \$2,000 to send someone to a conference to accept an award as opposed to just applying and getting an award. Dr. Roche again replied that that this was the criteria set up for this.

Mr. DiBello stated that he thinks it would be an honor if the district were to win and if we have to send a couple of people down there to receive the award for a school that is setting the example for not only Spring-Ford for Hybrid Learning but nationally then he thinks it would be an honor. Mr. DiBello clarified that we are not paying to win the award. He added that there are many schools across the country that have been nominated and now we are going to the next step to fill out the paperwork and hopefully we will win it and send a representative down to accept the award and the recognition. Mr. DiBello stated that we are trying at Spring-Ford to put the district on the map and the Hybrid model is something that we are rolling out to Royersford Elementary and he believes that we will be excited to see that become a successful program as well. Mr. DiBello said he thinks it would be an honor to support something like this.

Solicitor's Report Mark Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that last week he had the opportunity to meet with the various police departments within the district to discuss a number of ongoing issues that are important to bring up from time to time including the sharing of student records when there are criminal investigations that might be occurring, overlapping investigations and just general housekeeping that both parties need to continue to communicate on. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the meeting was very productive in getting the departments together and discussing concerns such as FERPA related issues. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that it is important that dialogue between everyone continues.

IV. MINUTES

There were no questions.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the October 19, 2015 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A1)**

V. PERSONNEL

There were no questions.

A. Resignations

1. **Stacy A. Bogus**; Softball Coach – Grade 8. Effective: November 5, 2015.
2. **Kate E. Gabel**; Talent Show – Grades 7 & 8. Effective: October 14, 2015.
3. **Wendy Monte**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School. Effective: November 27, 2015.

4. **Holly Yabroski**; Secretary 10-month, Senior High School. Effective: November 3, 2015.

B. Leaves of Absence

1. **Jennifer Basom**; Elementary Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.
2. **Miranda Paradise**; Elementary Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.
3. **Racquel Richter**; Social Studies Teacher, 8th Grade Center; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.

C. Support Staff Employees

1. **Nicole L. Collins**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), 5/6th Grade Center, replacing Billie J. Amerine who had a change of assignment. Compensation will be set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: November 26, 2015.
 2. **Tricia A. Falco**; College Career Coordinator, Senior High School, replacing Maren L. Bhalla who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$45,000.00, prorated with benefits. Effective: December 1, 2015.
 3. **Katie F. Johns**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Lisa J. Denner who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 30, 2015.
 4. **Brittany L. Kern**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), 5/6th Grade Center, replacing Annette Freed who had a change of assignment. Compensation has been set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: November 26, 2015.
 5. **Colleen A. Lewis**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.
 6. **Jayne M. Oyler**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Kathleen Pignon who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.
 7. **Susan S. Warren**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Beth C. Morello who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.
- D. Administration recommends approval of **Justin C. Webb**; Director of Technology, District Office, replacing Steven Reynolds who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$125,000.00 prorated with benefits per the Administrator's Plan. Effective: November 30, 2015.

- E. Board approval is needed to add the following extra-curricular clubs/contracts at the High School level as reported in the November minutes from the Extra-curricular Committee.
 - 1. Tech Club – High School
 - A. Advisor \$1,104.00
- F. Administration recommends approval of the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2015-2016 school year. **(Attachment A2)**
- G. Administration recommends approval of an agreement with Mary Roberts and approval of her resignation effective June 20, 2016.

VI. FINANCE

Mr. Pettit commented on Item D saying that once again the Home and School Associations of this district always come up large as there are 7 assemblies listed on tonight's agenda that they are funding on behalf of the district. Mr. Pettit stated that these organizations should be commended for this.

- A. Administration recommends approval for 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.

B. Checks:

1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 159023 – 159375	\$2,617,842.42
ACH 151600147 – 151600173	\$ 9,416.01

2. Athletic Fund Checks

Check No. 308537 – 308664	\$ 46,821.98
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3. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1180	\$ 30,609.00
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4. Food Service Checks

Check No. 12430 – 12497	\$ 236,369.11
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- C. The following monthly Board reports are submitted for your approval:

- Cash Balances – Liquidity
- Skyward Reports
 - General Fund Check Register
 - Athletic Fund Check Register
 - Capital Reserve Check Register
 - Food Service Check Register
 - Summary Revenue Report
 - Summary Expense Report

- D. Administration recommends approval of the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations and the Parent Teacher Organizations:
1. **Great Valley Nature Center – Devault, PA.** Provide four assemblies entitled “Animal Colors”, “Winter Wonders”, “Eggstraordinary Spring” and “Reptiles” for the students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$596.00.
 2. **Trudy Phillips/Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four assemblies entitled “Winter Secrets.....Animals in Winter” for the Kindergarten classes at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$550.00.
 3. **Sciencetellers – Hillsborough, NJ.** Provide two assemblies entitled “The Super Power of Science” for the students in grades 1-4 at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed \$900.00.
 4. **The Montgomery County SPCA – Conshohocken, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Pet Care” for the 2nd grade students at Royersford Elementary School. There is no cost for this assembly.
 5. **Slim Goodbody Live – Tobyhanna, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Musical Health Show” for students at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$500.00.
 6. **Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Dino Dig” for the 2nd grade students at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed \$525.00.
 7. **John D. Hadfield – Newark, DE.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Science Show” for students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$475.00.
- E. Administration recommends approval of the following independent contracts:
1. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Specialist services for the 2015-2016 school year for two special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month/per student for 7 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$10,640.00.
 2. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Specialist services for the 2015-2016 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month for 8 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$6,080.00.
 3. **MCIU – Amber Molloy – Norristown, PA.** Provide Literacy Professional Development to secondary English Teachers during the November 24, 2015 in-service. Funding will be paid from the Curriculum & Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$675.00.

- F. Administration recommends approval for the following Independent Educational Evaluators to be utilized on an as-needed basis for specialized evaluations and /or Independent educational evaluations at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00 per evaluation.
1. Mrs. Kara Canale
 2. Dr. Lisa Hain
 3. Dr. Margret Kay
- G. Administration recommends approval of a confidential settlement and release agreement **#2015-06** with the parents of a student in special education and authorization of a special needs trust in the amount of \$20,000.00. The district also agrees to reasonable attorney fees in the amount of \$10,000.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$30,000.00.
- H. Administration is requesting authorization to seek bids for supplies for the 2016-2017 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, paper, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
- I. Administration requests authorization to participate in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for copier paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2016-2017 school year.
- J. Administration requests approval for a High School Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- K. Administration requests approval for an 8th Grade Center Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- L. Administration requests approval for a 7th Grade Center Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- M. Administration requests approval for the establishment of the Class of 2019 High School Activity account.
- N. Administration recommends approval of the applications for **Use of Facilities Permits** from October 1, 2015 through November 11, 2015.
- O. Administration recommends approval to make public the 2016-2017 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 27, 2016 and to submit referendum exceptions to the PA Department of Education before February 11, 2016.
- P. Administration recommends approval of the reimbursement of costs incurred (\$857.57) for the overnight travel of one Boys' Golf Team Member and Coach who advanced to the PIAA State Individual Championship. The student-athlete and coach traveled Sunday, October 25 through Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Dr. Goodin approved the qualifier and coach for travel and Board approval is now being sought. Funding will come from the Athletic Budget.

- Q. Administration recommends approval of the reimbursement of costs incurred (\$472.74) for the overnight travel of two Girls' Cross Country Team Members and Coaches who advanced to the PIAA State Individual Championship. The student-athletes and coaches traveled Friday, November 6 through Saturday, November 7, 2015. Dr. Goodin approved the qualifiers and coaches for travel and Board approval is now being sought. Funding will come from the Athletic Budget.
- R. Administration recommends approval of **Resolution 2015-30** authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016 in the maximum principal amount of \$9,880,000 in order to refund a portion of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2010.
(Attachment A3)

VII. PROPERTY

There were no questions.

- A. Administration recommends approval of a contract with SimplexGrinnell to install 3 Avigilon 2mp IP cameras in the High School 10-12 Grade Center. These cameras will replace the 3 analog cameras that are currently located by the gym and the band room. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve and shall not exceed \$3,370.40.
- B. Administration recommends approval to award a contract for Snow Removal Services district-wide to C&C Landscaping Inc. - Glen Clarke, Royersford, PA, the lowest responsible hourly RFP. The cost will be \$68.00 per hour/per truck, \$68.00 per hour/per 6 wheel dump truck, \$85.00 per hour for skid loader, \$125.00 per hour for loader. Funding will come from the 2015-2016 Maintenance General Fund Budget.
- C. Administration recommends approval to develop specifications for re-paving district-wide as per the Capital Improvement Plan. This work will be completed over the summer of 2016. Funding will come from the Maintenance Capitol Plan.
- D. Administration recommends approval to go out to bid and/or receive RFPs for the Maintenance Department service contracts district-wide for the 2016/2017 school year. All of these bids and RFPs will be placed on the June 2016 Board Agenda for approval. Funding will be come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- E. Administration recommends approval to have the library furniture replaced at the 8th Grade Center. The existing library furniture is over 30 years old, outdated, and in poor condition. The furniture will be supplied by Benjamin Roberts Office Interiors, Lancaster PA who is a state contract vendor for a total cost of \$42,376.45. Funding will come from the Capitol Reserve Fund.
- F. Administration is recommending approval to have Master Locators Inc., Glen Mills, PA locate the Geo Thermal fields at the 5/6/7 Building, Upper Providence Elementary, 9th Grade Center and Evans Elementary to insure the existing location of these fields. Funding will come from the Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed \$18,000.00.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

There were no questions.

- A. Administration recommends approval to submit the required information to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Federal Programs in order for

Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School to be considered and recognized as a National Title I Distinguished School for the State of Pennsylvania.

- B. Administration recommends approval of the following adoption of a new K-6 English/Language Arts (ELA) Program for 2016-2017. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Fund and shall not exceed \$1,100,000.00.

Course
K-6 ELA

Textbook Program
Journeys, c. 2017

Publisher
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
9205 South Park Center Loop
Orlando, FL. 32819

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

There were no questions.

The following individuals are recommended for attendance at the following conferences:

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Allyn J. Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, **Kimberly Bast**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, **Catherine Gardy**, Literacy Supervisor, and **David Krakower**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend *“The SAS Institute –College and Career Readiness: Strategies for Student Success”* from December 6 through December 8, 2015 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. The total cost of the conference is \$1371.40 (registration, mileage, lodging and meals) from the 324 and 580 accounts. No substitutes are needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- B. **Gillian Arganetto**, **Stacy Eddinger**, **Dana Green**, **Emily Norman**, **Sarah Pinard**, **Susan Prophet**, and **Michael Siuchta**, Teachers, to attend *“Adolescence and Autism: Addressing Hygiene and Sexuality”* on December 8, 2015 in the morning only at the MCIU in Norristown, PA. The total cost of this conference is \$589.52 (\$64.52 registration, mileage and \$525.00 for 7 half-day substitutes) to be paid from the Ice for Autism Funds.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no questions.

- A. The following policies are submitted as a second reading for approval at next week’s meeting:
1. Policy #216 – PUPILS: Student Records (**Attachment A4**)
 2. Policy #819 – OPERATIONS: Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response (**Attachment A5**)
 3. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers (**Attachment A6**)

- B. Administration recommends approval of the following annual reports of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.
1. Brooke Elementary Home and School Association
 2. Evans Elementary Home and School Association
 3. Limerick Elementary Home and School League
 4. Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association
 5. Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
 6. Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School Home and School Association
 7. Upper Providence Home and School Association
 8. Spring-Ford 5/6 Grade Home and School Association
 9. Spring-Ford Middle School Home and School Association
 10. Spring-Ford High School Home and School Association
 11. Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club
 12. Spring-Ford Music Association
- C. Administration recommends the removal of **Mary E. Davidheiser**, Controller, as Board Treasurer, effective at the end of business on December 15, 2015 and the approval of the appointment of **James D. Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to the office of Board Treasurer of the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors for the remainder of the one-year term ending June 30, 2016.
- D. Administration recommends the removal of **Mary E. Davidheiser**, Controller, from School District bank accounts, signature lines on the accounts payable checks and payroll checks, and replaced with **James D. Fink**, effective December 15, 2015. Additionally, effective December 15, 2015, **Mary E. Davidheiser** shall be removed as an authorized signer for purchase orders and replaced with **James D. Fink**.
- E. Administration recommends the approval for all Winter Athletic Teams/Individuals that qualify for post season play to be granted permission for overnight travel, when deemed necessary by the Athletic Department, and approved by the Superintendent or their Designee. The School Board will be notified of this travel and Board approval will be sought at the next scheduled Board meeting. Funding will be paid from the Athletic Budget.
- F. Administration recommends approval of the following high school winter sport teams for overnight travel during the 2015-2016 school year. There will be no cost to the district as funds for lodging and meals will be paid from the respective team's Booster Club Account.

Wrestling

1. Cumberland Valley Tournament – Depart 12/4/15 - Return 12/5/15
2. Manheim Central Holiday Classic – Depart 12/28/15 – Return 12/30/15

Girls' Basketball

1. Art Turner Memorial Showcase, Fairfax, VA – Depart 12/5/15 – Return 12/6/15
2. New York-Philly Challenge, Oyster Bay, NY – Depart 1/2/16 – Return 1/3/16

Indoor Boys' & Girls' Track

1. New Balance Games – New York City, NY – Depart 1/23/16 – Return 1/24/16
2. PTFCA State Championships – Penn State University in University Park, PA – Depart 2/27/16 – Return 2/28/16

G. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #137 – PROGRAMS: Home Education Programs (**Attachment A7**)
2. Policy #317 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A8**)
3. Policy #417 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A9**)
4. Policy #517 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A10**)

XI. INFORMATION ITEM

There were no questions.

- A. Upper Providence Elementary school wishes to work with the Home and School Association for a fundraiser to install a Pavilion which is approximately 20' X 24' at the rear of the building. The pavilion will be similar to the ones located at Royersford, Limerick, and Oaks Elementary Schools to be used for outdoor activities and classroom time. The total cost will be approximately \$15,000.00 which will be paid for by the Upper Providence Home and School Association. There will be no cost to the district.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. DiBello stated that he wanted to make a recommendation to the Board that they reevaluate the committees moving forward. He commented that in the past School Board Members were held accountable for the votes that they have taken whether they voted yes or no. He added that apparently now a new norm is going to be set where School Board Members will be held accountable for presentations that are brought by administration even though no vote is occurring and it is only informational. Mr. DiBello questioned the purpose, moving forward, of committees and presentations to the committees if we are going to sit here and hold School Board Members or chairs of committees responsible for what is brought forward to the committees. Mr. DiBello stated that the sole purpose of the committee is to have ideas, talk through suggestions and different concepts and then bring recommendations to the Board. Mr. DiBello said if they are going to go down this path of holding School Board Members accountable for what committees are set up to do which is to be visionary and think beyond just tomorrow then he believes that for future meetings they should have a full discussion on the purpose of what the committee is for.

Mr. Dehnert stated that committees are in the policy so he would recommend that those discussions be taken to the Policy Committee as the committees have been created through policy.

Mr. DiBello commented that he was not looking for Mr. Dehnert's recommendation but rather that at a future meeting the full Board needs to look at the full purpose of the committees.

Rhonda Zimmerman, Limerick Township, referenced the news and the tragedy that occurred last Friday and stated that it seems like these things happen more and more and things are occurring not just abroad but in our country as well. She questioned how often security is reviewed in the district. Dr. Goodin replied that they have a Security Committee that meets weekly. Mrs. Zimmerman asked what kinds of things are discussed and Dr. Goodin stated that he is not prepared to discuss this right now but they do meet weekly. Mrs. Zimmerman commented that as a community member how do they know what kinds of things are in place or what is being reviewed so that they can have the peace of mind that it is being looked at and our kids are safe. She stated that her children attend school in the district and this is on her mind often. Dr. Goodin replied that he understands completely and the procedure piece is being reviewed constantly.

Mr. Fitzgerald commented that there are limitations that the law allows for and it is recommended that public knowledge be limited with regards to security measures that are specifically in place on school campuses. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that if you review the Right to Know Law there specific information in that regard. Mr. Fitzgerald relayed that when Dr. Goodin says he is limited in what he can say there are some things that he is able to announce but a lot of the particulars are confidential to the police departments and to certain representatives of the administration.

Mrs. Spletzer commented that the one thing she can say is that in her two years on the Board they have had an external company do a full security audit and the results were very favorable compared to other school districts. Mrs. Spletzer added that she does know that the district does take this very seriously.

Mrs. Zimmerman questioned that with regards to the evaluation as a parent would they ever know any of that and Dr. Goodin replied no. Dr. Goodin added that the security audit done for the district is serving as the blueprint going forward both in their weekly meetings and when working with our other departments in order to make sure their recommendations are being put into place. Dr. Goodin advised that they are in the process of enacting the study that was done. Mrs. Zimmerman asked if local authorities are at the weekly meetings and part of the discussion and Dr. Goodin replied sometimes.

Mr. Cromley stated that he would like to recognize Katie Gardy and her committee work saying that it was a very aggressive schedule that was put forth to the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting a month and a half ago. He added that he knows she spent many hours and he would like to personally and publicly thank her and her committee members and asked that she pass his appreciation along for the very thorough and detailed process involved with the new ELA Program. Mrs. Spletzer said she will second this as she did question Mrs. Gardy's very aggressive timeline a month ago and when they came back to this month's meeting she was very impressed.

Ed Dressler, Oaks, stated that in his neighborhood there are rumors going around that there is legislation in Harrisburg to do away with all property taxes and at least do away with it for seniors. Dr. Dressler stated that since two Board Members had been in Harrisburg today he wondered if they could tell him if there was any validity to these rumors or what the current legislation to modify property taxes was based on what they learned today.

Mr. Ciresi replied that the biggest thing they learned is that everyone has a different story on what is happening with that. He added that there is no consistent story and they heard at least three or four different stories on what they are going to do about property tax reform, back end referendum and front end referendum. Mr. Ciresi commented that he believes it is more rumor based and he does not think they will see complete property tax elimination as he thinks this is one of the biggest rumors out there.

Dr. Dressler stated that he believes there is House Bill 87. Mr. DiBello responded that the current budget that is being discussed on the hill now, there is really nothing in there substantial for property tax reform. Mr. DiBello stated that they are talking about increasing the sales tax to 7.5% which is about a 21% increase. Mr. DiBello added that a lot of that money is allocated and not really coming back to the districts. Mr. DiBello stated that one of the parties is re-introducing Bill 76. Mr. DiBello indicated that he has heard nothing in Harrisburg or talked to anyone that has brought up anything with regards to the elimination of property tax for seniors or freezing the property tax for seniors. Mr. DiBello relayed that there is an additional \$700 million that is part of this budget that is coming for education K-12 and is spread over 2 years and spread across 500 school districts. Mr. DiBello said that he is assuming that they will use the current funding formula to disburse those funds so Spring-Ford who receives 80% of their funding from the local tax base will probably see a smaller piece of that initial \$350 million versus some other school districts. Mr. DiBello said that as of right now there is really nothing of substance growing on the Hill with property tax reform and this budget. He commented that he does believe there is something with pension reform but he knows that there is a lot of pushback with this. Mr. DiBello stated that he is not sure why the pushback continues as the money is not there and there is a \$26 billion shortfall so if they do not change the current situation then at some point they will run out of money and the people expecting the pension to be there will not have it there. Mr. DiBello added that one of the legislators they spoke to said that some of the pushback is that property tax will go completely away for some school districts but Spring-Ford on the other hand would see roughly an average of about \$1,000 - \$2,000 reduction in property tax which all goes back to the local funding issue that we are dealing with. Mr. DiBello advised that residents should not hold their breath and they should pay their property tax bill because it is not going down. Dr. Dressler stated that he thinks it is important for the public to hear this. Mr. DiBello reported that he and Mr. Ciresi while in Harrisburg today talked about three points; back end referendum, property tax reform and fair funding the school district. Mr. DiBello stated that some of the changes that were pro-posed with the fair funding formula would have Spring-Ford seeing an additional increase from the state which if that did occur then the district would be able to look at future reductions in property tax but it would not go completely away. Mr. DiBello said that the problem with back end referendum is that school districts are way underfunded by the state and he is not sure where the funding would come from and this will impact education as class sizes will grow, programs will be cut, and staff will be cut. Mr. DiBello stated that this is why it is very important to get involved and talk to your legislators because this is real and he does not want to see staff cut, programs cut and class sizes increase but this is the direction it is going. Mr. DiBello advised that we could potentially down the road, depending on what gets passed in Harrisburg, see class sizes of 30-35 students. Dr. Dressler expressed his appreciation to Mr. Ciresi and Mr. DiBello on travelling to Harrisburg to find out what is going on.

Mr. Dehnert reported that he spoke to Representative Quigley over the weekend and what he got from him was that the basic pieces for the budget would be to increase the

sales tax. He added that one of the big things would be to take away the casino money we get now and move that to the pension fund and then take some of the sales tax increase and give that back to districts for property tax reduction to make up for the difference. Mr. Dehnert stated that the concern for Spring-Ford would be that there would be a little bit of relief for property tax and a lot of tax increase. Dr. Dressler asked if some of the gambling money is going to the charter schools and Mr. Dehnert replied no that the gambling money would be going to PSERS and the pension fund. Dr. Dressler commented that he heard a couple of weeks ago that they were talking about deferring some of the money to bail out the charter schools.

Mr. DiBello replied that there movement and an arm of Harrisburg that is wholeheartedly behind funding and supporting pushing charter schools forward. Mr. DiBello commented that he believes this is crazy because charter schools do not perform or even come close to the standards set by the state. Mr. DiBello advised that there is a state legislator and some groups of people that are pushing for providing more funding to charter schools. Dr. Dressler stated that he would imagine that charter schools are feeling the impact of this budget impasse more than perhaps the other schools because the school districts do not have the money to give to the charter schools to support them so this is why these legislators are trying to take money out of another pot to support them. Mr. DiBello replied that a district like Spring-Ford that does not get any charter school relief is paying charter schools out of taxpayer money and he provided the example of the Renaissance Academy which gets roughly \$1 million from Spring-Ford and built a beautiful campus down in Phoenixville. He encouraged everyone to drive down and look at the campus since they paid for it.

Mr. Dehnert congratulated Dr. Goodin, Dr. Roche, the teachers, and the administrators for the SPP score for the high school being significantly higher than the previous year which puts us tied for 10th in the Philadelphia Area. Mr. Dehnert stated that we are getting close to 100% which is an excellent achievement for the district and shows that the things that the entire staff have been doing has paid off and we are seeing real results as far as the achievement for Spring-Ford High School.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Spletzer seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

On November 23, 2015 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:31 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Willard D. Cromley and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II: Dawn R. Heine and Clinton L. Jackson
Region III: Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Mark P. Dehnert
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer: James D. Fink
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.: Dana K. Ludgate and Daniel J. Ciresi

The following Board Members were absent: **Todd R. Wolf**

The following Board Members arrived late: **Bernard F. Pettit** (arrived 7:41) and
Joseph P. Ciresi (arrived at 8:12)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dehnert requested a moment of silence for Joe Burns, a Spring-Ford Employee, who recently passed away. Mr. Dehnert reported that Mr. Burns was a Master Plumber employed by the district for the last 8 years. He was an avid hunter and fisherman who loved the outdoors. Mr. Dehnert added that Mr. Burns was also a talented furniture refinisher, antique collector and enjoyed travelling with his wife Marie on their Harley Davidson.

Danny announced that he wanted to address a rumor that has been circulating this week. He stated that contrary to popular belief, eating turkey isn't the main reason you feel sleepy after a Thanksgiving feast. Danny advised that according to an article published by Live Science, the oft-repeated turkey myth stems from the fact that turkey contains the amino acid tryptophan, which forms the basis of brain chemicals that makes people tired. He stated that turkey is not any more sleep-inducing than other foods and in fact; consuming large amounts of carbohydrates may be the real cause of a post-Thanksgiving meal snooze. Danny commented that on behalf of himself and Dana, he would like to wish everyone an enjoyable break and an even more enjoyable turkey dinner.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

II. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum/Technology Dawn Heine

1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Heine reported that the Curriculum and Technology Committee met on November 4th and started the meeting with good news regarding the High School SPP score of 97.3 which is the highest to date. The committee next received a STEAM update from Mrs. Bast

who shared an action plan with the group which will be a regular part of the meeting and included in the monthly committee minutes. The committee also discussed the Project Lead the Way Advisory Board who held their first meeting of the year on October 19th and saw business contacts, community members, teachers, administrators, and many students present. Mrs. Heine advised that they will be having an Hour of Code encompassing the entire district this year and plans are still in the works for this with the event being held sometime between December 7th and December 18th. The committee received an update on report cards with the K-4 report card remaining the same with a 1 through 4 scaling but some changes were made to the wording of categories in order to better align with the PA Core Standards. Mrs. Heine reported that there are some new resources that are being purchased this year with Board approval and they are books for French III, Spanish III, 7th grade Social Studies, High School Government, Psychology and Sociology. Mrs. Heine reported that there were some Technology Education changes discussed which were Technology Systems II and Materials Manufacturing II which will be changing next year from majors to minors in the hopes of attracting more students. The next topic discussed was the K-6 ELA Curriculum where Mrs. Gardy reviewed and presented the choices for the new program. Reviewed were the stakeholders involved, the steering committee that was selected and included teachers, principals, reading specialists, curriculum supervisors, and the discussion with MCIU Literacy Supervisors. Mrs. Heine reported that stakeholder input was sought from all teachers including librarians, ISTs and others. Mrs. Heine added that all staff were invited to sessions for questions and answers and were given the opportunity to provide input, full investigations were done, reading and discussion of research for alignment with PA Core, vendor presentations and site visits were conducted to review both of the contenders in action. Mrs. Heine reported that the recommendation of the committee is to purchase Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys as their reading research supports have a balanced literacy approach, they have alignment with current supplemental resources which is Foundations, they have alignment with Dellicker which ties into our Hybrid Learning Model, they have qualitative and quantitative supported decisions, this came recommended from the teachers and was the most fiscally responsible. Mrs. Heine reported that the cost is approximately \$1,018,893.92. Mrs. Heine stated that she was happy to report that it included all teacher and student printed resources, a 7 year online resource availability and 7 years of all consumable products. She added that the team is looking into additional professional development which may or may not be needed in support of the items. Mrs. Heine thanked Mrs. Gardy for the hard work she did on this incredibly aggressive timeline to get this done and in doing so we will have the materials in hand and be able to provide our teachers with the professional development prior to the end of the school year in hopes of a smooth roll out next year. Dr. Goodin provided the committee with an update on Modernized Learning which also included an action plan for Hybrid including the Hybrid Elementary Model. Mrs. Heine advised that this action plan will also be shared at monthly meetings with updates provided and will also be part of the committee meeting minutes.

Finance

Mark Dehnert

2nd Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dehnert reported that the Finance Committee met on November 10th and reviewed the monthly executive reports which revealed that as of the end of October we had collected 70% of our budgeted revenue and are short \$5 million on state revenues due to the budget impasse. Earned income tax revenues are about \$400,000 under budget and this will continue to be monitored as this fluctuates widely month to month. Mr. Dehnert reported that net assessments were up \$11 million which includes the Teleflex assessment appeal that resulted in a \$1 million assessment reduction. The Target appeal resulted in no change to the assessment. Mr. Dehnert advised that the self-funded insurance claims are in line with the budget. Food Service is showing an \$82,000 deficit due to ticket sales

being down and part of this is being attributed to seven less school days for the year which totals about \$20,000. Mr. Dehnert reported that Ed Murray from our bond company of Boenning and Scattergood was at the meeting and talked about 2 refunding candidates. One was the 2010 Series which is callable April 1st of next year and this bond presents an opportunity of \$228,000 in savings. The other bond is the 2007 Series which is callable in March of 2017 but we will have to wait to see what the potential savings would be on this one. Mr. Dehnert stated that the Western Center Bonds will have a February 2018 call date and Dr. Goodin will be discussing this with the Western Center at their next meeting. Mr. Dehnert advised that the committee also reviewed the 2016-2017 preliminary budget that was presented last week and is to be approved tonight for advertising.

Property

Clinton Jackson

2nd Tues. 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Jackson reported that the Property Committee met on November 10, 2015 and discussed the installation of a pavilion by the Home and School Organization at Upper Providence Elementary School. There was a verbal update based on the meetings held with Crabtree regarding the high school weight room and another meeting was due to be held today with the initial stakeholders. Mr. Jackson reported that there was an update and discussion on the feasibility study and this will be addressed at the January Work Session. The committee also received an update on the geothermal fields and an RFP was accepted in the amount of \$18,000 and this appears on tonight's agenda for approval. Discussion took place on paving district-wide and this work will be handled through the summer and funding will come out of the Capital Budget.

Mr. Pettit arrived at 7:41 p.m.

PSBA Liaison

Todd Wolf

There was no report.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin

Dr. Goodin announced that he is pleased to report that Spring-Ford Area High School was recognized as one of 425 districts across the U.S. and Canada in the 6th Annual AP District Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes districts who have increased access to Advanced Placement course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. He added that reaching these goals indicates that these districts are successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work. Dr. Goodin added that Spring-Ford is one of only 43 districts in Pennsylvania, which made the list. Inclusion is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2013 to 2015, for criteria including increased student participation, improved performance levels and overall growth of the AP Program. Dr. Goodin reported that the district has consistently increased the number of AP courses offered each year and have seen great results from our students. He noted that our students recognize the long-term benefit of taking AP courses in high school and see that they are ahead of the game when they reach college and find they are more comfortable with collegiate level work. Dr. Goodin offered his congratulations to Dr. Nugent and his staff for this outstanding achievement. Dr. Goodin wished the Board, the staff and the public a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Solicitor's Report

Mark Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that there is a parameters resolution on the agenda this evening with regard to the refinance of the 2010 General Obligation Bonds. He stated that being it is a parameters resolution the Board will be empowering Mr. Murray, the district's financial

consultant, to a minimum savings under the resolution. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that based on his office's discussion with Mr. Murray the anticipation is that the bonds will be going to sale sometime right after the new year.

III. MINUTES

Mrs. Spletzer made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

A. The Board approved the October 19, 2015 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A1)**

NEW MINUTES

B. The Board approved the October 26, 2015 Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A2)**

IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. DiBello asked that Item G be separated.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-F, Item H and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Heine made a motion to approve Item G and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 5-2 with Mr. DiBello and Mr. Jackson voting no.

A. Resignations

1. **Stacy A. Bogus**; Softball Coach – Grade 8. Effective: November 5, 2015.
2. **Kate E. Gabel**; Talent Show – Grades 7 & 8. Effective: October 14, 2015.
3. **Wendy Monte**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School. Effective: November 27, 2015.
4. **Holly Yabroski**; Secretary 10-month, Senior High School. Effective: November 3, 2015.

New Resignations

5. **Susan J. Kelly**, Instructional Assistant; Oaks Elementary School. Effective: November 13, 2015.
6. **Jacquelyn M. Raco**, Certified School Nurse; 5/6th Grade Center. Effective: November 19, 2015.
7. **Jacquelyn M. Raco**, Health Services Department Head. Effective: November 19, 2015
8. **Susan J. Reber**, Technical Support-10 month; 7th Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: January 15, 2016.

B. Leaves of Absence

1. **Jennifer Basom**; Elementary Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.
2. **Miranda Paradise**; Elementary Teacher, Oaks Elementary School; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.
3. **Racquel Richter**; Social Studies Teacher, 8th Grade Center; for an extension of child-rearing leave per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 29, 2016 through the 2015-2016 school year.

C. Support Staff Employees

1. **Nicole L. Collins**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), 5/6th Grade Center, replacing Billie J. Amerine who had a change of assignment. Compensation will be set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: October 26, 2015.
2. **Tricia A. Falco**; College Career Coordinator, Senior High School, replacing Maren L. Bhalla who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$45,000.00, prorated with benefits. Effective: December 1, 2015.
3. **Katie F. Johns**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Lisa J. Denner who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 30, 2015.
4. **Brittany L. Kern**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), 5/6th Grade Center, replacing Annette Freed who had a change of assignment. Compensation has been set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: October 26, 2015.
5. **Colleen A. Lewis**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.
6. **Jayne M. Oyler**; Part-time Food Service (3 hour/day), Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Kathleen Pingon who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.
7. **Susan S. Warren**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School-9th Grade, replacing Beth C. Morello who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$17.36 (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 16, 2015.

New Support Staff Employees

8. **Rachael Fenyus**; Staff Accountant, District Office. Compensation will be set at \$51,000.00, prorated with benefits. Effective: December 14, 2015.

9. **Andrew T. Rothermel**, Media Communication Assistant, Senior High School, replacing Nancy R. Gambino who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$20.00 an hour. Effective: November 30, 2015.
- D. The Board approved **Justin C. Webb** as the Director of Technology, District Office, replacing Steven Reynolds who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$125,000.00 prorated with benefits per the Administrator's Plan. Effective: November 30, 2015.
- E. The Board approved the addition of the following extra-curricular clubs/contracts at the High School level as reported in the November minutes from the Extra-curricular Committee.
 1. Tech Club – High School
 - A. Advisor \$1,104.00
- F. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2015-2016 school year. **(Attachment A3)**
- G. The Board approved an agreement with Mary Roberts and approval of her resignation effective June 20, 2016.

New Personnel Motion

H. Support Staff Substitute

1. **Arlene M. Blevins** Food Service

V. FINANCE

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-R and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. 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.
- B. Checks:
 1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 159023 – 159375	\$2,617,842.42
ACH 151600147 – 151600173	\$ 9,416.01
 2. Athletic Fund Checks

Check No. 308537 – 308664	\$ 46,821.98
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 3. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1180	\$ 30,609.00
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 4. Food Service Checks

Check No. 12430 – 12497	\$ 236,369.11
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- C. The following monthly Board reports were approved:
- Cash Balances – Liquidity
 - Skyward Reports
 - General Fund Check Register
 - Athletic Fund Check Register
 - Capital Reserve Check Register
 - Food Service Check Register
 - Summary Revenue Report
 - Summary Expense Report
- D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations and the Parent Teacher Organizations:
1. **Great Valley Nature Center – Devault, PA.** Provide four assemblies entitled “Animal Colors”, “Winter Wonders”, “Eggstraordinary Spring” and “Reptiles” for the students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$596.00.
 2. **Trudy Phillips/Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four assemblies entitled “Winter Secrets.....Animals in Winter” for the Kindergarten classes at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$550.00.
 3. **Sciencetellers – Hillsborough, NJ.** Provide two assemblies entitled “The Super Power of Science” for the students in grades 1-4 at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed \$900.00.
 4. **The Montgomery County SPCA – Conshohocken, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Pet Care” for the 2nd grade students at Royersford Elementary School. There is no cost for this assembly.
 5. **Slim Goodbody Live – Tobyhanna, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Musical Health Show” for students at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$500.00.
 6. **Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Dino Dig” for the 2nd grade students at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed \$525.00.
 7. **John D. Hadfield – Newark, DE.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Science Show” for students at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed \$475.00.
- New Independent Contract**
8. **Thom Stecher & Associates – Malvern, PA.** Provide an assembly on Resiliency in conjunction with Upper Providence Elementary’s Unity Day. Funding shall not exceed \$1,000.00 and will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Association.

- E. The Board approved the following independent contracts:
1. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Specialist services for the 2015-2016 school year for two special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month/per student for 7 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$10,640.00.
 2. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Specialist services for the 2015-2016 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month for 8 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$6,080.00.
 3. **MCIU – Amber Molloy – Norristown, PA.** Provide Literacy Professional Development to secondary English Teachers during the November 24, 2015 in-service. Funding will be paid from the Curriculum & Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$675.00.
- F. The Board approved the following Independent Educational Evaluators to be utilized on an as-needed basis for specialized evaluations and /or Independent educational evaluations at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00 per evaluation.
1. Mrs. Kara Canale
 2. Dr. Lisa Hain
 3. Dr. Margret Kay
- G. The Board approved a confidential settlement and release agreement **#2015-06** with the parents of a student in special education and authorization of a special needs trust in the amount of \$20,000.00. The district also agrees to reasonable attorney fees in the amount of \$10,000.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$30,000.00.
- H. The Board approved seeking bids for supplies for the 2016-2017 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, paper, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
- I. The Board approved participating in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for copier paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2016-2017 school year.
- J. The Board approved a High School Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- K. The Board approved an 8th Grade Center Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- L. The Board approved a 7th Grade Center Activities account for the 2015-2016 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.

- M. The Board approved the establishment of the Class of 2019 High School Activity account.
- N. The Board approved the applications for **Use of Facilities Permits** from October 1, 2015 through November 11, 2015.
- O. The Board approved making public the 2016-2017 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 27, 2016 and to submit referendum exceptions to the PA Department of Education before February 11, 2016.
- P. The Board approved the reimbursement of costs incurred (\$857.57) for the overnight travel of one Boys' Golf Team Member and Coach who advanced to the PIAA State Individual Championship. The student-athlete and coach traveled Sunday, October 25 through Tuesday, October 27, 2015. Dr. Goodin approved the qualifier and coach for travel and Board approval is now being sought. Funding will come from the Athletic Budget.
- Q. The Board approved the reimbursement of costs incurred (\$472.74) for the overnight travel of two Girls' Cross Country Team Members and Coaches who advanced to the PIAA State Individual Championship. The student-athletes and coaches traveled Friday, November 6 through Saturday, November 7, 2015. Dr. Goodin approved the qualifiers and coaches for travel and Board approval is now being sought. Funding will come from the Athletic Budget.
- R. The Board approved **Resolution 2015-30** authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2016 in the maximum principal amount of \$9,880,000 in order to refund a portion of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2010.
(Attachment A4)

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Jackson seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved a contract with SimplexGrinnell to install 3 Avigilon 2mp IP cameras in the High School 10-12 Grade Center. These cameras will replace the 3 analog cameras that are currently located by the gym and the band room. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve and shall not exceed \$3,370.40.
- B. The Board approved awarding a contract for Snow Removal Services district-wide to C&C Landscaping Inc. - Glen Clarke, Royersford, PA, the lowest responsible hourly RFP. The cost will be \$68.00 per hour/per truck, \$68.00 per hour/per 6 wheel dump truck, \$85.00 per hour for skid loader, \$125.00 per hour for loader. Funding will come from the 2015-2016 Maintenance General Fund Budget.
- C. The Board approved the development of specifications for re-paving district-wide as per the Capital Improvement Plan. This work will be completed over the summer of 2016. Funding will come from the Maintenance Capitol Plan.
- D. The Board approved going out to bid and/or receiving RFPs for the Maintenance Department service contracts district-wide for the 2016/2017 school year. All of these bids and RFPs will be placed on the June 2016 Board Agenda for approval. Funding will be come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.

- E. The Board approved having the library furniture replaced at the 8th Grade Center. The existing library furniture is over 30 years old, outdated, and in poor condition. The furniture will be supplied by Benjamin Roberts Office Interiors, Lancaster PA who is a state contract vendor for a total cost of \$42,376.45. Funding will come from the Capitol Reserve Fund.
- F. The Board approved having Master Locators Inc., Glen Mills, PA locate the Geo Thermal fields at the 5/6/7 Building, Upper Providence Elementary, 9th Grade Center and Evans Elementary to insure the existing location of these fields. Funding will come from the Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed \$18,000.00.

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item B be separated.

Mrs. Spletzer made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

Mrs. Spletzer made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Cromley seconded it. Mr. Dehnert questioned the money being taken out of the Capital Reserve Fund and wondered how the money would be replenished back into this account. Dr. Goodin replied that the money for this expenditure had been budgeted to be put back into the Capital Reserve. Mr. Dehnert asked if this would be for the 2016-17 budget and Dr. Goodin replied it is in the 2015-16 and the 2016-17 budget. The motion passed 6-0 with Mr. Dehnert abstaining from the vote stating that the company is a client of his company. Mr. DiBello asked if a Board Member could abstain from voting for this reason and Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed this was acceptable if the Board Member felt that there was a conflict of interest.

- A. The Board approved submitting the required information to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Division of Federal Programs in order for Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School to be considered and recognized as a National Title I Distinguished School for the State of Pennsylvania. If Spring City is chosen, the district will send two representatives to the national conference and the award ceremony in Houston, Texas in January 2016. The total cost shall not exceed \$1,500.00 (travel expenses and meals). PDE will pay the registration and the lodging for the two representatives.
- B. The Board approved the adoption of a new K-6 English/Language Arts (ELA) Program for 2016-2017. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Fund and shall not exceed \$1,100,000.00.

Course
K-6 ELA

Textbook Program
Journeys, c. 2017

Publisher
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
9205 South Park Center Loop
Orlando, FL. 32819

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Cromley made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Jackson seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Allyn J. Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, **Kimberly Bast**, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, **Catherine Gardy**, Literacy Supervisor, and **David Krakower**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend *"The SAS Institute –College and Career Readiness: Strategies for Student Success"* from December 6 through December 8, 2015 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA. The total cost of the conference is \$1371.40 (registration, mileage, lodging and meals) from the 324 and 580 accounts. No substitutes are needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- B. **Gillian Arganetto**, **Stacy Eddinger**, **Dana Green**, **Emily Norman**, **Sarah Pinard**, **Susan Prophet**, and **Michael Siuchta**, Teachers, to attend *"Adolescence and Autism: Addressing Hygiene and Sexuality"* on December 8, 2015 in the morning only at the MCIU in Norristown, PA. The total cost of this conference is \$589.52 (\$64.52 registration, mileage and \$525.00 for 7 half-day substitutes) to be paid from the Ice for Autism Funds.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cromley made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mrs. Spletzer seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved the following policies:
1. Policy #216 – PUPILS: Student Records (**Attachment A5**)
 2. Policy #819 – OPERATIONS: Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response (**Attachment A6**)
 3. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers (**Attachment A7**)
- B. The Board approved the following annual reports of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.
1. Brooke Elementary Home and School Association
 2. Evans Elementary Home and School Association
 3. Limerick Elementary Home and School League
 4. Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association
 5. Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
 6. Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School Home and School Association
 7. Upper Providence Home and School Association
 8. Spring-Ford 5/6 Grade Home and School Association
 9. Spring-Ford Middle School Home and School Association
 10. Spring-Ford High School Home and School Association
 11. Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club
 12. Spring-Ford Music Association

- C. The Board approved the removal of **Mary E. Davidheiser**, Controller, as Board Treasurer, effective at the end of business on December 15, 2015 and the approval of the appointment of **James D. Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to the office of Board Treasurer of the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors for the remainder of the one-year term ending June 30, 2016.
- D. The Board approved the removal of **Mary E. Davidheiser**, Controller, from School District bank accounts, signature lines on the accounts payable checks and payroll checks, and replaced with **James D. Fink**, effective December 15, 2015. Additionally, effective December 15, 2015, **Mary E. Davidheiser** shall be removed as an authorized signer for purchase orders and replaced with **James D. Fink**.
- E. The Board gave approval for all Winter Athletic Teams/Individuals that qualify for post season play to be granted permission for overnight travel, when deemed necessary by the Athletic Department, and approved by the Superintendent or their Designee. The School Board will be notified of this travel and Board approval will be sought at the next scheduled Board meeting. Funding will be paid from the Athletic Budget.
- F. The Board approved the following high school winter sport teams for overnight travel during the 2015-2016 school year. There will be no cost to the district as funds for lodging and meals will be paid from the respective team's Booster Club Account.

Wrestling

- 1. Cumberland Valley Tournament – Depart 12/4/15 - Return 12/5/15
- 2. Manheim Central Holiday Classic – Depart 12/28/15 – Return 12/30/15

Girls' Basketball

- 1. Art Turner Memorial Showcase, Fairfax, VA – Depart 12/5/15 – Return 12/6/15
- 2. New York-Philly Challenge, Oyster Bay, NY – Depart 1/2/16 – Return 1/3/16

Indoor Boys' & Girls' Track

- 1. New Balance Games – New York City, NY – Depart 1/23/16 – Return 1/24/16
- 2. PTFCA State Championships – Penn State University in University Park, PA – Depart 2/27/16 – Return 2/28/16

- G. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

- 1. Policy #137 – PROGRAMS: Home Education Programs (**Attachment A8**)
- 2. Policy #317 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A9**)
- 3. Policy #417 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A10**)
- 4. Policy #517 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Disciplinary Procedures (**Attachment A11**)

X. INFORMATION ITEM

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Upper Providence Elementary school wishes to work with the Home and School Association for a fundraiser to install a Pavilion which is approximately 20' X 24' at the rear of the building. The pavilion will be similar to the ones located at Royersford, Limerick, and Oaks Elementary Schools to be used for outdoor activities and classroom time. The total cost will be approximately \$15,000.00 which will be paid for by the Upper Providence Home and School Association. There will be no cost to the district.

XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Gordon Pealock, Upper Providence Township, stated that he was specifically here on behalf of the Rivercrest Homeowners Association in their continuing effort to request that an exception be made and that the School Board would allow busses to enter the Rivercrest community and alleviate the dangerous circumstances that exist at both of the bus stops that service this community. Mr. Pealock commented that tonight there were a couple of folks from the community, residents who have dealt with the issue over the years and they would just like their voice to be heard in order to try and alleviate this issue.

Joel Vincent, Upper Providence Township, stated that he has lived in Rivercrest for about 5 years now and he feels like this is an accident waiting to happen. He spoke of the bus picking up 50 +/- students at Rivercrest Drive and Route 29 and there being people who blow past the bus coming up 29 as it is a 35 – 45 mile per hour road. Mr. Vincent commented that he believes it is foolish that the bus was not being directed to come into the community where he feels it is a safer opportunity for the kids to exit and enter the bus. Mr. Vincent stated that he did not know how long this topic has been going on but he thinks that the 5 years that he has been living there is too long.

Emily Moore, Upper Providence Township, commented that she has lived in the Rivercrest neighborhood for 10 years and this discussion has been going on since that time. Ms. Moore stated that she has a daughter who is heading into 10th grade and since she was in kindergarten Ms. Moore has been dealing with this. She indicated that she had contacted Dr. Hurda previously and also circulated petitions. Ms. Moore stated that she believes this is a very dangerous situation and in past years the bus had travelled in the opposite direction so that students were actually crossing Route 29 or Blackrock Road to get on their bus. Ms. Moore advised that at least every other week they are seeing cars blow by and she feels that this is an extremely dangerous situation. Ms. Moore relayed that when she spoke with the Transportation Office they said it was a liability issue but she felt that it would be more of a liability issue if a child gets injured or killed rather than having the busses come in.

Nirav Shah, Upper Providence Township, reported that 3 months ago his wife was involved in an accident where her car was nearly totaled with his kids being in the car at the time of the bus pick up. Mr. Shah stated that there are about 20 parents who line up on the road to pick up their kids. Mr. Shah commented that he believes it is extremely unsafe and the speed limit is not enforced as people are driving a lot faster than 45 miles per hour. Mr. Shah stated that he feels it is a very simple solution as the community is shaped so a bus can come into one entrance and go out the other. Mr. Shah spoke of another issue he has heard about is that because it is a private drive it is not allowed but his understanding is that the rule is not set in place as there are other communities in the

school system where the bus does drive on the private drive. Mr. Shah stated that they would strongly recommend the Board reconsider for the safety of the kids.

Ravi Ghanta, Upper Providence Township, stated that he has been living in Rivercrest for about 7 years and has 3 children, 2 of which attend the Spring-Ford School District. He commented that he has seen several near misses and the Board just heard of one accident already. He added that it is not if something will happen but rather when. Mr. Ghanta said he does not get the luxury of picking his kids up every day but when he picks them up once a week he holds his breath. He advised that his children get picked up on Black Rock Road in front of the police station where he sees people cutting through the school bus. Mr. Ghanta stated that he holds his breath for any student who is not paying attention as he believes one day someone is going to get killed. Mr. Ghanta added that as a community they represent a huge number of families and students so by number alone they have a good number of people who attend the school district and secondly as a tax base they pay a disproportionate amount of taxes compared to most other communities in the district. Mr. Ghanta stated that he does not see what benefit they are getting from this. Mr. Ghanta said he is asking and begging that this be reconsidered and give them an opportunity to have a safer pick up for their children. He added that their community is only growing and as the Board has probably seen there are more developments that are going on in the area in a very short distance from the Rivercrest community so the traffic situation is only getting worse.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Shah to provide more details on the car accident his wife was involved in. Mr. Shah stated that it occurred at the time of the bus pick up so there were anywhere from 20 some cars lined up as parents were waiting to pick up their kids. He reported that his wife was getting out of the development and turning on 29 with cars parked along the side. He stated that the bus was not there yet but the traffic is getting pretty insane even in the morning when he is leaving. Mr. Shah indicated that he has to be very careful and look 10 times to make sure no kids are crossing just even within the development not even considering Route 29. Mr. Shah added that he believes it is extremely dangerous and as he indicated there could be 15-20 cars when the bus is coming. Mr. Shah stated that if you look at the number of kids coming from the development it is adding up now as there are quite a few so he thinks that making three separate stops within the community is very feasible. Mr. Jackson asked if the incident had been a near miss and Mr. Shah replied that his car was nearly totaled and confirmed that there was an actual accident but no one was injured luckily.

Debbie Warren, Upper Providence Township, stated that she is here about the same issue and wanted to provide information on how large the community is. She commented that they have almost 400 houses in 4 different sections, three school bus stops between all of the schools and she feels this is a dangerous situation from a safety standpoint because the stops are on Blackrock Road or Route 29. Ms. Warren stated that it does not matter if children are crossing the road or not to board a bus as it is the same problem from a safety standpoint. Ms. Warren added that as the children get older and are in 5th grade and up, there are two working parents and the kids walk to the bus stops and to have them walk through the development 3-4 blocks to a bus stop in her opinion is not a safe situation. Ms. Warren stated that safety is not just about traffic but about enabling their youngsters to have the empowerment to walk to their own bus stop independently at the age of 10-14 years old. Ms. Warren said they are talking about many, many children in grades K-12 that are experiencing this and she hoped that the Board would reconsider about coming into the development. She added that the 5th grade bus stop in her com-

munity starts at 8:17 and consistently the bus was late so kids were not getting to school until 9:10 so they were consistently tardy. She reported that the school bus driver was advising 5th and 6th graders, not the parents, to come earlier at 8:05. Ms. Warren indicated that car pools had been set up in order to take children on a 7 minute school ride rather than have them take a bus at 8:17 to get there at 9:15 so that children can be on time for their classroom. Ms. Warren asked that the Board consider all of this entire situation, revisit the direction of the bus and the number of students on it so that they can be safe and not exhausted after a 1 hour bus ride as and evaluate the routes.

Gregg Warren, Upper Providence Township, stated that as a parent, and he would assume that all of the Board has children here, that if they saw what the Rivercrest parents saw then it would be a no-brainer. He felt that the Board would be looking at this and saying it was crazy. Mr. Warren commented that he believed the solution was simple as the busses should be allowed to come into the community.

Praveen Gurukar, Upper Providence Township, commented that he just moved in about a year ago and was surprised that the busses do not come in. He stated that this could be one of the factors actually preventing him from moving into the community. Mr. Gurukar said that he believes this is not only an inconvenience and safety issue for them but it is also an inconvenience to everyone on Route 29 as they see the bus stopped for 5 minutes and there are about 20 cars backed up from there. He asked that the Board reconsider this for everyone's safety and convenience.

Mr. Pettit stated that he wanted to express his appreciation for the people from Rivercrest presenting the fact that there is a real safety issue here. Mr. Pettit advised that come the next Board meeting this will be on the agenda and he wanted to assure them of that. Mr. Pettit said that he is very, very concerned about the safety issue above all and he felt that this must have primary consideration. Mr. Pettit said that they cannot wait for some child to be struck by a car speeding along Route 29 or any other roads as then it is too late. Mr. Pettit stated that he will do his best to see that this gets reconsidered at the next upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Spletzer commented that she does appreciate the traffic concerns on Blackrock and Route 29 and has seen the pictures that have been presented to the Board. She added that she also wanted to make everyone aware that she has children at Royersford Elementary, which is a predominately walking school, and they have third graders, second graders, and kindergarteners who are walking 15 blocks and across Main Street. Mrs. Spletzer reported that there is a crossing guard at maybe one or two streets so if they choose to cross at a different street you will have a 7 year old walking in any weather condition across Main Street in Royersford to get to school. Mrs. Spletzer stated that it is not just 3 or 4 blocks to get to their bus stop as it is a district-wide consideration that you have to figure out with regards to how far the busses go, how many kids they can carry and what the best logistics are in a policy that you can apply consistently across the district.

Joel Vincent stated that he appreciates that but in Royersford he does not believe that there are speed limits of 45 miles per hour where the school district is mandating that 30+ children congregate within a short distance to where traffic is moving at 45 miles per hour. He stated that he does not believe that they have this in Royersford but that is what they currently have and that is what the school district is saying to their children. Mr. Vincent said he appreciates Mr. Pettit's point of getting it on the agenda for next

month. He added that the solution is simple which is to take an extra 7-8 minutes and have the bus hang a right and come into the community, stop at the stop sign on a 20 mile per hour road, have children get on and off the bus and then swing on out. Mr. Vincent stated that he realizes this will add money to the district's costs and 7-10 minutes. He added that it will take 30-40 children off of a 45 mile per hour road where people do not stop for a bus. He urged the Board to poll the transportation company and ask how many times the drivers are blowing the horn at people coming right through there to the point where the residents have asked the Upper Providence Police Department to come out and try to enforce traffic. Mr. Vincent commented that traffic slows down when there is a police car but they cannot sit there every day in the morning and at night. He stated that while he appreciates the Royersford children having to walk to school in the rain, sleet and snow as he feels that is a valid point but he doubts they are walking through 45 mile per hour intersections.

Al Vagnozzi, Upper Providence Township, stated that they have been talking about this for the better part of a year. He commented that the election is now over and some people were reelected and some were not; it is time for this Board to act. Mr. Vagnozzi reported that he was elected to the Supervisor of Upper Providence Township and he is not going away. He commented that this Board needs to fix this problem because he assured that they are not going away. Mr. Vagnozzi stated that it was not going to cost \$1 million, elections are over and this is good government doing the right thing as that is what they are here for. Mr. Vagnozzi commented that he looks forward to next month's meeting.

Mr. DiBello asked if the goal was to still come in off of Route 29 by the golf course and come up through the service road and back out onto Blackrock and Mr. Vagnozzi replied that at this point that is the most logical path for the bus. He added that the community is open to looking at the options of exactly how to get it done and when to get it done as they know it takes time for the Superintendent and his team to work with the Transportation Department to get this done correctly. Mr. Vagnozzi said they just want a commitment to fix this and they are not demanding that it be fixed tomorrow but just give them a timeline to fix it. Mr. DiBello asked if the community had talked to the owners of the golf course. Mr. Pealock responded that he wanted to clarify that the road Mr. DiBello referenced as a service road is not a service road but rather a fully functioning road. Mr. Pealock next addressed Mr. DiBello's question saying that he and Mr. Vagnozzi 3-6 months ago they presented a viable, workable solution to have the busses enter off of Route 29 and they have the agreement of the golf club to allow for both parking and congregating of the kids in areas around the golf club or in common areas within the community. Mr. Pealock stated that from standpoint of providing a viable, workable expedient they feel that from their side that this has been presented and the only thing holding it up is that they are hanging their hat on the letter of a regulation rather than the spirit.

Mark Backer, Limerick Township, stated that he wanted to address the issue of the fitness center. He commented that he spent a few days researching this and what he finds disturbing is how a project that was supposed to cost anywhere from a little over \$1 - \$8.3 million was blown up to \$10-\$12 million. He referenced a presentation by the Superintendent that showed the top price at \$8.3 million if that particular design was used. Mr. Backer stated that the only discussions he sees in the paperwork he had with him was discussions that went back and forth with what they were going to do. Mr. Backer said

he found it very disturbing that if the picture he held up from the presentation was the weight room then the fire marshal would shut them down in 5 minutes because they exceed the legal capacity in a room. Mr. Backer questioned how this room was even being used. Mr. Backer stated that the Superintendent had made clear that they need a room for 85 people which is based on the current needs now but he felt that some of the suggestions were that they needed to look past what they need now because then whatever you build will become obsolete if you build for what your needs are now. Mr. Backer stated that the costs will really depend on what you want to do and he understands the wellness center and whatever that is going to be but he feels there is no way the kids can use the current room in the condition it is in now. He advised that one parent had commented that kids had to go get memberships at a private club because the room just wasn't usable for them and they were not using it. Mr. Backer questioned why kids should have to do that. He said that once you understand what they call occupancy load which is the minimum square footage necessary for the equipment and student's to use it then that would be your base to get you started. He added that you then have to decide, whatever you build, how many years you want the facility to last before you possibly have to replace it or add to it. Mr. Backer stated that he believes the idea of a separate building makes more sense because this township still has a lot of area that has not been developed so our base is only going to grow. Mr. Backer commented that he believes it is a disservice when somebody puts out there that they stopped this building from being built when it never was voted on and the Board has not even agreed on what they want. Mr. Backer stated that he cannot understand why it has taken over 4 years as the need is clearly there. He added that he understood that the district now has an outside organization that is going to come back with a study in January so they will know where they need to go. He questioned why the Board could not sit down and say that they know they need a facility that will handle 85 people and have that be their baseline so that will be the minimum cost. Mr. Backer next suggested that the Board then look at a facility that will last 20 years and look at what the needs will be 20 years out. He stated that if they build a facility like this then they will save money in the long run. Mr. Backer spoke of the district he lived in prior to moving here which was Quakertown and he spoke of their high school project which came about as a result of the poor planning and then not planning for the future of the building and is now costing them a ton of money. Mr. Backer stated that he understands people do not want their taxes increased but he suggested that the Board put information on the website to show taxpayers exactly where the money comes in from and where it goes. Mr. Backer referenced literature he received from Representative Quigley that detailed the legislators wanting to take future tax increases out of the hands of the legislators and into the hands of the electorate. Mr. Backer spoke of how this will not work and stated that you will still have an inequity in education which still exists in this state. Mr. Backer concluded by stated that he feels that the School Board needs to get the electorate educated.

Mr. Ciresi arrived at 8:12 p.m.

Christina Melton, Limerick Township, asked for clarification on the preliminary budget presentation where it had been indicated that there were no new positions included in the budget that was passed tonight. Dr. Goodin replied that no new positions were included in the preliminary budget calculations. Mrs. Melton asked about the three new positions for next year that were approved at last month's meeting with regards to the three new classes being added that required additional staffing. She stated that these positions were not included nor were the positions from last year's budget that had been deferred for next year which are critical needs as we are starting to see high school level classrooms over 30 students and she asked if this was correct. Dr. Goodin responded

that in the preliminary budget they did not calculate any new positions and he emphasized that it was preliminary. Mrs. Melton urged Administration as well as the Board to keep their finger on the pulse of what is needed both in the classroom by the teachers as well as the students. Mrs. Melton said she believes the class size at this point is over 30 students in some classes as the current 9th grade class has 40 or more students over our current 12th grade class. Mrs. Melton commented that they need to make sure the staffing levels are appropriate and that the class sizes do not continue to grow. She added that she believes this is really becoming a strain on our students as well as our teachers. Mrs. Melton again urged that as they look to build out the budget that they make sure that the needs of the teachers and students are in the forefront and our priority.

Dr. Goodin introduced Justin Webb the newly approved Director of Technology and stated that Mr. Webb will be joining the district on November 30, 2015. Dr. Goodin stated that the district is very pleased to have him here and welcomed him to Spring-Ford.

Mr. Dehnert stated that we have 2 Board Members who are attending their last meeting here on the School Board and those individuals are Will Cromley and Clinton Jackson. Mr. Dehnert thanked them for their service and said he has gotten to know both of them very well in the last couple of years. Mr. Dehnert stated that they have contributed a lot to the Board and they will be missed.

Mr. DiBello stated that it was important that everyone understands and watches what is going on in Harrisburg as it is greatly going to impact Spring-Ford as well as all of the school districts in Pennsylvania. Mr. DiBello said there is a lot of talk and he would urge and encourage the residents and taxpayers to contact their legislators. Mr. DiBello stated that everyone needs to understand what is going on because there are a few things happening in Harrisburg that will directly impact the district such as additional staffing which Mrs. Melton spoke about. Mr. DiBello reported that the legislators have taken a position to focus their energy on local school boards and what those school boards can and cannot do. Mr. DiBello relayed that when you talk to other school boards around the county the same is pretty clear that they are trying to push things off onto the school boards. Mr. DiBello cautioned that if they pass the sales tax of 7.25% then there is nothing in place as to how that money is going to get re-funneled back to the school districts. Mr. DiBello added that there is nothing in place to clearly define if there is going to be a property tax reduction. Mr. DiBello spoke of Senate Bill 76 which was tabled and keeps rising up and then going back down but even in that bill there is nothing clearly defined as to how the money will be distributed to the school districts and how property tax will be eliminated and sustained. Mr. DiBello added that every study that has come back and been published has stated that even with the increase in sales tax and the potential increase in income tax, there is still a shortfall. Mr. DiBello said he has heard number up to \$2 -\$3 billion in shortfall and they do not know how they are going to find the money to completely eliminate property tax. Mr. DiBello stated that there is also no plan in place to sustain this after year 1. He added that most school districts see an annual increase of 5%-7% annual increase in operational expenses which include daily operations, salary, benefits and health care. Mr. DiBello stated that nothing has been demonstrated by Harrisburg on how this will be sustained. Mr. DiBello commented that from his perspective there is the referendum where they want to have every tax increase approved by the voters and he does not have any secrets but we have trained voters over the last several years to completely hate property tax. Mr.

DiBello cautioned that if votes go to referendum and voters will have their say he would hope the voters are educated when they have their say. He added that if Boards are forced to go to referendum and voters vote it down, which he anticipated would happen the first couple of years; this will have a direct impact on school districts. Mr. DiBello advised that 95% of the district's budget is already defined as far as salaries, benefits, etc. He said that there is not a lot else as far as what you call discretionary spending from the district standpoint. Mr. DiBello encouraged the taxpayers/voters to educate themselves on what really goes on with school budgeting and what is going on in Harrisburg. Mr. DiBello said that what is going on in Harrisburg right now is that they are passing the buck back to school boards and they are creating a mechanism where we won't be able to increase taxes when necessary to fund and keep the district moving forward. He added that we will still have to pay for all of the mandates that come down from the state. He provided an example of the residents from Rivercrest who spoke this evening asking for bussing to go through their community which will be an expense and these are all of the things that will be directly impacted by all of the stuff going on in Harrisburg right now. Mr. DiBello again encouraged everyone to really educate themselves and really understand what is going on right now because if certain decisions are made with the budget and some bills that are being presented, it will have a detrimental impact on education overall. Mr. DiBello commented that everyone has seen in other states where education suffered greatly and states saw property values and everything else plummet and this is what will happen. He added that we have a strong district here in Spring-Ford that we are all proud of and we are really making a mark as far as creating an environment where our kids are getting the best educational experience possible compared to other areas. Mr. DiBello said that with the changes going on in Harrisburg, they will impact all of the stuff that we are so proud of right now.

Mr. Dehnert cautioned the public that eliminating property taxes would not just be for residential properties but for businesses as well which means that the burden of millions, possibly billions of dollars in Pennsylvania would have to be picked up by the taxpayers. Mr. Dehnert stated that this needs to be considered before eliminating property taxes as everyone will then have to pay more sales tax, more income tax and other taxes in order to make up for the loss of the commercial property taxes being paid today in Pennsylvania.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

On December 7, 2015 the Reorganization 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: Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II: Dawn R. Heine and Todd R. Wolf
Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi, Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Diane Fern (Board Secretary)
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer: James D. Fink
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.: Dana K. Ludgate and Daniel J. Ciresi

REORGANIZATION MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE** (By Diane Fern, Board Secretary)
Board Secretary, Mrs. Fern, opened the meeting with the call to order and noting of the attendance.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING** (By Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor)
Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the Pennsylvania School Code requires that annually during the first week of December the Members of the School Board meet and reorganize. The Board will elect a new Board President and Vice President.
- IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**
There were no comments from the public.
- V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT**
Mrs. Fern opened the floor for nominations of a Temporary Board President. Mr. DiBello nominated Mrs. Heine. There were no other nominations. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0 and nominations were closed. The Board elected Mrs. Heine as the Temporary Board President by a vote of 7-0.
- VI. SWEARING IN OF THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBER ADMINISTERED BY THE HONORABLE JUDGE WALTER GADZICKI**
Mrs. Heine invited Judge Walter Gadzicki to administer the Oath of Office to the two newly elected and re-elected Board Members.

Judge Gadzicki administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Edward Dressler.

Region I: Dr. Edward Dressler

Judge Gadzicki administered the Oath of Office to Colleen Zasowski.

Region II: Colleen Zasowski

VII. SWEARING IN OF REELECTED BOARD MEMBERS ADMINISTERED BY THE HONORABLE JUDGE WALTER GADZICKI

Judge Gadzicki administered the Oath of Office to Bernard Pettit.

Region I: Bernard F. Pettit

Judge Gadzicki administered the Oath of Office to Dawn Heine.

Region II: Dawn R. Heine

Judge Gadzicki administered the Oath of Office to Mark Dehnert.

Region III: Mark P. Dehnert

VIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD PRESIDENT

Mrs. Heine opened the floor for nominations of a Board President. Mr. Ciresi nominated Mr. DiBello. Mr. Dehnert nominated Mrs. Spletzer. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. There was a roll call vote for the Office of Board President with Mr. Dehnert voting for Mrs. Spletzer and Mr. Wolf, Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Zasowski, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Pettit, Mrs. Heine and Mrs. Spletzer voting for Mr. DiBello. Mr. DiBello was elected as the Board President by a vote of 8-1.

Mr. DiBello thanked the full Board for their support in appointing him as the Board President and he stated that he looks forward to a new year, new Board Members coming on and a fresh start. He commented that he is very excited about the district moving forward over the coming months especially with the tough budget season they have ahead of them with PA still not bringing forth a budget. He added that they are going to have to be really creative as they look into the new year. He again thanked everyone.

IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR THE OFFICE OF BOARD VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. DiBello opened the floor for nominations of a Board Vice President. Mr. Pettit nominated Mr. Ciresi. There were no other nominations. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. Ciresi was elected as the Board Vice President by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Ciresi thanked everyone and said he also looks forward to working to continue to move the district forward, working as a team and as a Board over the next year. Mr. Ciresi directed everyone's attention to the band students gathering on the side of the room and stated that this is the reason why they are all here, the students of this district. He commented that he looks forward to the upcoming year. He again thanked everyone.

X. VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOINT OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Joint Operating Committee for the Area Vocational-Technical School serve three year terms. One term expires each year to assure continuity in the operation of the joint program. The most recent representatives and the date of expiration for their terms are as follows:

Dawn R. Heine	2017
Willard D. Cromley	2016 (one-year term)
Joseph P. Ciresi	2015 (three-year term)

Mr. DiBello opened the floor up for nominations for a Board Member to serve on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee for a one-year term which had been held by Willard Cromley. Mr. Pettit nominated Dr. Dressler. Mr. Wolf nominated Mr. Dehnert. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close nominations and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. There was a roll call vote for the Board Member to serve the remaining one-year term on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee with Mr. Dehnert and Mr. Wolf voting for Mr. Dehnert and Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Zasowski, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Pettit, Mrs. Heine and Mrs. Spletzer voting for Dr. Dressler. Dr. Dressler was elected to fill the one-year remaining term on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. DiBello opened the floor up for nominations for a Board Member to serve on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee for the three-year term which had been held by Joseph Ciresi. Mr. Pettit nominated Mr. Ciresi. There were no other nominations. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. Ciresi was elected to the three-year term on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee by a vote of 9-0.

XI. The Board President shall designate a **Member and an **Alternate** to serve on the **Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee**. This committee is sponsored by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors to provide a forum in which local directors can learn about legislative issues, which can affect education in Montgomery County. Mr. DiBello presently serves in this capacity and Mr. Pettit serves as the alternate.**

Mr. DiBello stated that he has personally served in this capacity and Mr. Pettit had served as the alternate. Mr. DiBello designated Mrs. Heine to serve on the **Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee** and stated that he will serve as the **Alternate**.

XII. The Board shall appoint a **PSBA Liaison to represent the Spring-Ford Area School District. Mr. Wolf presently serves as the representative.**

Mr. DiBello stated that Mr. Wolf currently serves as the **PSBA Liaison** and opened the floor up for nominations. Mr. Ciresi nominated Mr. Wolf to continue to serve as the PSBA Liaison and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. Wolf was appointed as the **PSBA Liaison**.

Mr. DiBello stated that he believes the Board should have multiple people participate in PSBA meetings. He stated that in talking with other Board Members in other districts that when PSBA hosts meetings they send multiple Board Members because there are a lot of different seminars and events going on to get the coverage for the district. Mr.

DiBello stated that he thinks that as a district we should be sending 2 if not more Board Members to those different events.

- XIII.** The Board shall appoint a **Representative** to the **Spring City American Legion**. Mr. Cromley had served as the representative.

Mr. DiBello opened the floor up for nominations for the **Representative to the Spring City American Legion**. Mr. Ciresi nominated Mr. DiBello and Mr. Dehnert nominated Mr. Wolf. Mrs. Heine made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. There was a roll call vote to appoint a **Representative to the Spring City American Legion** with Mr. Dehnert, Mr. Wolf and Mrs. Spletzer voting for Mr. Wolf and Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Zasowski, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Pettit, and Mrs. Heine voting for Mr. DiBello. Mr. DiBello was elected as the Representative to the Spring City American Legion by a vote of 6-3.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Spletzer made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that Item B should reflect Mr. DiBello's name as the Board President. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting Dates for 2016. **(ATTACHMENT A1)**
- B. The Board authorized the signature of Thomas J. DiBello as the Board President so that he can sign all documentation on behalf of the Board.
- C. The Board approved **Resolution 2015-31** honoring **Christopher Barth** on being selected to the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. **(Attachment A2)**
- D. The Board approved **Resolution 2015-32** honoring **Michael Sneff** on being selected to the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. **(Attachment A3)**
- E. The Board approved **Resolution #2015-33** in recognition of **Seth R. Jones** and the **Spring-Ford Area High School Golden Ram Marching Band** for successfully placing at the 2015 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Open Championship, the US Bands State Championship and the Bands of America Regional Championships. **(Attachment A4)**

XV. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. DiBello introduced Seth Jones. Mr. Jones announced that tonight we will be recognizing two band members who are seniors. Mr. Jones stated that both band members were recently selected to perform with the United States All-American Army Marching Band. Mr. Jones explained this band is made up of seniors from across the country and there are 120 chosen members out of 1300 applications. Mr. Jones stated that for Spring-Ford to get two members into this group is quite astounding and Spring-ford has had 4 in the last two years which is a high percentage of students from one high school. Mr. Jones noted that these two students are going to get an all-expense paid trip to San Antonio for a week in January to perform at half-time at the All-American Army Bowl Game with an honor band. Mr. Jones stated that he believed the game was being televised on NBC so our community will be able to watch it. Mr. Jones added that

it is a huge honor to be selected and to have these young men in our program every day and to have them representing Spring-Ford in Texas will be very cool.

Mr. Jones introduced Christopher Barth and stated that he is a tuba player in Spring-Ford's Program and has done so for the past 4 years. Christopher is an all-state musician, a district region musician and plays with a local youth wind symphony on the weekends. Mr. Jones stated that Christopher plans on pursuing music as he moves on from Spring-Ford.

Mr. Jones introduced Michael Sneff and stated that Michael has just been offered a position with the Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps and only 3 people have been given spots so far. Mr. Jones stated that Michael has been a percussionist playing the Marimba for the past two years.

Mr. Jones commented that both of these students are outstanding young gentlemen and he invited everyone to keep an eye out for them as they go to San Antonio, Texas the first week of January.

- A. Mr. DiBello and Dr. Goodin presented **Resolution 2015-31** honoring **Christopher Barth** on being selected to the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.
- B. Mr. DiBello and Dr. Goodin presented **Resolution 2015-32** honoring **Michael Sneff** on being selected to the 2016 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

Mr. DiBello pointed out to everyone the banners hanging across the back of the cafeteria showing all of the success that the band has accomplished over the years. He stated that everyone is very proud of the Band Program and he is proud to be able to recognize the Band this evening and that the students should be proud of themselves. Everyone applauded the band for all of their efforts.

Mr. Jones welcomed the new Board Members. He stated that the band is here tonight and will perform for everyone. Mr. Jones reported that they had a very successful season this year and at the first day of band season he told the kids that Spring-Ford is really unique for two reasons and the first is that they only get 4 years of their life where you can make music with 150 of your best friends every day which is awesome and never happens again once you leave high school. Mr. Jones stated that the second reason is that it is really unique to be a Spring-Ford Band Member because they get to be the very best at what they do. Mr. Jones commented that he believes this was really cemented this year as they grew a lot. Mr. Jones reported that they had a lot of new young band members this year as opposed to last year's band. Mr. Jones stated that the Bands of America experience was a fantastic one as this was the first time that Spring-Ford's Program had gone to the national circuit which is beyond the level of what they do in Pennsylvania. Mr. Jones added that to be ranked as a top 10 finalist at a Band of America's regional is quite a big deal. He reported that just today, 2 people from Indiana came to Spring-Ford to view the program and see what we are doing as they had heard about our program. Mr. Jones expressed his pride in the students and how they grew this year and stated that this group is very special in a lot of ways and they deserve all of the praise and recognition they got this year. Mr. Jones also acknowledged the parents of the students and the staff members saying this was not a singular effort but rather a community from the high school. Mr. Jones relayed the story of the night the students won the Atlantic Coast Championship and returned to

Royersford to find the fire departments of Black Rock, Linfield, Royersford, and Limerick. He added that Spring City Police had closed streets for the busses to come through and it was very neat to see the whole community out that night in support of the band. Mr. Jones apologized if he missed any departments that were there on that evening. Mr. Jones stated that the band does have a little bit from their show to present for everyone this evening. Mr. Jones thanked the Administration and the School Board for their endless support of the program.

The Band students played a song for the audience and received a standing ovation.

Mr. DiBello stated that it was obvious to hear how wonderful the band is and how amazing they are. Mr. DiBello commented that they make us all very proud. Mr. DiBello notified everyone that the holiday concert is coming up on Tuesday, December 15th and he invited everyone to attend if their schedules were free. Mr. DiBello thanked the students and Mr. Jones for coming out this evening and performing for everyone. Mr. DiBello stated that you always hear about not supporting extra-curricular activities but how can you not support this kind of activity in our district. Mr. DiBello added that a lot of the students here tonight are, academically, part of the best students in the district which is something to be extremely proud of.

- C. Mr. DiBello and Dr. Goodin presented **Resolution #2015-33** in recognition of **Seth R. Jones** and the **Spring-Ford Area High School Golden Ram Marching Band** for successfully placing at the 2015 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Open Championship, the US Bands State Championship and the Bands of America Regional Championships.

XVI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no comments from the public.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Spletzer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

2015-2016
EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS

	Contract Title	Season	Last Name	First Name	Contract Rate
1	Asst. Wrestling Coach (7/8/9th Grade)	Winter	Anspach	Jason R.	\$4,234.00
2	Volunteer Boys & Girls Track Coach	Winter	Boham	Daniel	Volunteer
3	Homework Club Advisor - Gr. 7 (1/2 contract)	Year	Bologa	Tara	\$735.50
4	Department Head - Health Services	1/2 Year	Bradfield	Cathy E.	\$967.00
5	Spring Play Director - Grade 8	Spring	Butterweck	Daniel	\$1,471.00
6	Volunteer Wrestling Coach-MS	Winter	Bycoski	Drew	Volunteer
7	Ram Buddies - HS (1/2 contract)	Year	DeLange	Karen	\$735.50
8	Tech Club - HS	Year	Flynn	Patricia A.	\$1,104.00
9	Asst. Wrestling Coach - HS	Winter	Hontz	Thomas	\$5,189.00
10	Asst. Swimming Coach - HS	Winter	Huff	Gregory	\$5,189.00
11	Indoor Winter Color Guard Coach - HS	Winter	Marone	Danielle	\$3,197.00
12	Indoor Percussion - (1/2 contract)	Winter	McGuigan	Frank	\$1,107.50
13	Head Cheerleading Winter - 9th Grade	Winter	McIntyre	Jessica	\$1,875.00
14	Department Head - Health Services	1/2 Year	McNeil Murphy	Laura	\$967.00
15	Ram Buddies - HS (1/2 contract)	Year	Norman	Emily	\$735.50
16	Asst. Director Musicale - HS	Spring	Perry	Joseph	\$402.00
17	Asst. Tennis Coach-Boys - HS	Spring	Rendick	Ryan G.	\$3,592.00
18	Asst. Baseball Coach - HS	Spring	Scheck	Jamie	\$3,991.00
19	Volunteer Girls Basketball Coach - 9th Grade	Winter	Shearer	Michael	Volunteer
20	Homework Club Advisor - Gr. 7 (1/2 contract)	Year	West	Cheryl	\$735.50

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ADOPTED: April 23, 2012

REVISED:

REVIEWED: November 9, 2015

137. HOME EDUCATION PROGRAMS	
1. Authority SC 1327, 1327.1 Title 22 Sec. 11.31a	Home education programs for students of compulsory school age residing in the school district shall be conducted in accordance with state law and regulations.
2. Definitions SC 1327.1	<p>Appropriate Education - a program consisting of instruction in the required subjects for the time required by law and in which the student demonstrates sustained progress in the overall program.</p> <p>Hearing Examiner - shall not be an officer, employee or agent of the Department of Education or of the school district or intermediate unit of residence of the child in the home education program.</p> <p>Home Education Program - a program conducted in compliance with law by the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child. A home education program shall not be considered a nonpublic school under the provisions of law.</p> <p>Supervisor - the parent/guardian or person having legal custody of a child who is responsible for providing instruction, provided that such person has a high school diploma or its equivalent.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility	The Superintendent or designee shall develop and distribute administrative regulations for registering and monitoring home education programs.
4. Guidelines SC 1327.1	<p><u>Notarized Affidavit</u></p> <p>Prior to the commencement of the home education program, and annually thereafter on August 1, the parent/guardian or other person having legal custody of the child or children shall file a notarized affidavit with the Superintendent setting forth the information required by law.</p>

SC 1327.1	<p><u>Instructional Program</u></p> <p><u>The instructional program for home education students shall include such courses as required by law.</u></p>
SC 1327.1	<p><u>Loan of Instructional Materials</u></p> <p>At the request of the supervisor, the district shall lend to the home education program copies of the school's planned courses, textbooks and curriculum materials appropriate to the student's age and grade level.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p><u>Student Portfolio and Evaluations</u></p> <p>For each student participating in a home education program, the supervisor shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain a portfolio of records and materials. 2. Provide an annual written evaluation of the student's educational progress.
SC 1327.1	<p><u>Graduation Requirements</u></p> <p>The following minimum courses in grades 9 through 12 are established as a requirement for graduation in a home education program: four (4) years of English; three (3) years of mathematics; three (3) years of science; three (3) years of social studies; and two (2) years of arts and humanities.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p><u>Diplomas</u></p> <p>Students who complete all of the graduation requirements of the home education program shall receive a high school diploma issued by the supervisor or an approved diploma-granting organization.</p>
SC 1327	<p><u>Students With Disabilities</u></p> <p>A home education program meets compulsory attendance requirements for a student with a disability only when the program addresses the specific needs of the student and is approved by a teacher with a valid Pennsylvania certificate to teach special education, a licensed clinical psychologist or a certified school psychologist. Written notice of such approval must be submitted with the required affidavit.</p>
SC 1327	<p>The supervisor may request that the school district or intermediate unit of residence provide services that address the specific needs of a student with a</p>

	disability.
SC 1327	<p>When the provision of services is agreed to by both the supervisor and the school district or intermediate unit, all services shall be provided in district schools or in a private school licensed to provide such programs and services.</p> <p><u>Appropriate Education/Compliance Determination</u></p>
SC 1327.1	<p>A home education evaluator shall certify that an appropriate education is occurring in the home education program. The supervisor shall submit the certification to the Superintendent by June 30 of each year. If the supervisor fails to submit the certification, the Superintendent shall send a letter to the supervisor notifying the supervisor that s/he has ten (10) days to submit the certification.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If the Superintendent has a reasonable belief at any time during the school year that appropriate education may not be occurring in the home education program, s/he may submit a letter to the supervisor requiring an evaluation be conducted and that an evaluator's certification stating that an appropriate education is occurring be submitted to the district by the supervisor within thirty (30) days. The letter shall include the basis for the Superintendent's reasonable belief.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If the Superintendent has a reasonable belief that the home education program is out of compliance, s/he shall submit a letter to the supervisor requiring a certification be submitted within thirty (30) days indicating the program is in compliance. The letter shall include the basis for the Superintendent's reasonable belief.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>As required by law, all letters shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the time for submission of the requested documentation begins upon receipt of the letter.</p> <p><u>Hearings</u></p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If the supervisor fails to submit a certification as required, the Board shall provide a hearing by a qualified and impartial hearing examiner within thirty (30) days.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If the hearing examiner finds that an appropriate education is not taking place in the home education program, the home education program will be determined out of compliance; and the student will be enrolled promptly in a district school, a nonpublic school or a licensed private academic school.</p>

SC 1327.1	<p><u>Appeal</u></p> <p>The supervisor or Superintendent may appeal the decision of the hearing examiner to the Secretary of Education, Commonwealth Court or Court of Common Pleas. The home education program may continue during the appeals process.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p><u>Transfers</u></p> <p>If a home education program is relocating to another Pennsylvania school district, the supervisor must request from the Superintendent a letter of transfer for the home education program. The request must be made by registered mail thirty (30) days prior to relocation.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>The Superintendent shall issue the letter of transfer within thirty (30) days after receipt of the supervisor's registered mail request.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>The supervisor shall file the letter of transfer with the Superintendent of the new district of residence.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If a home education program is out of compliance, the Superintendent shall inform the home education supervisor and Superintendent of the new district of residence of this status and the reason for denial of the transfer letter.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If a home education program is in hearing procedures, the Superintendent shall inform the home education supervisor, hearing examiner and Superintendent of the new district of residence of this status and the reason for denial of the transfer letter.</p>
SC 1327.1	<p>If the Superintendent is informed of pending proceedings related to a home education program relocating to the district, s/he shall continue the home education program until the appeal process is finalized.</p>
Pol. 137.1	<p><u>Extracurricular Activities</u></p> <p>Students enrolled in home education are permitted to participate in the district's extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the Spring-Ford Area School District as per Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students.</p>

	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 1327, 1327.1</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.31a, 11.33</p> <p>Board Policy – 203, 209</p>
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SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES

TITLE: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: August 24, 2015

REVIEWED: November 9, 2015

317. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES	
1. Purpose SC 510, 514	Effective operation of the district's programs requires the cooperation of all district employees in working together under a system of policies and rules applied fairly and uniformly to all employees. The orderly conduct of the district's business requires uniform compliance with these policies and rules, and uniform penalties and disciplinary procedures for violations.
2. Authority	There shall be established procedures whereby administrative employees shall be informed as to the disciplinary actions that are considered appropriate, and that are to be applied, for violation of district policies and regulations.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1151	<p>The Superintendent shall prepare and promulgate disciplinary rules for violations of district policies and rules which provide progressive penalties including where appropriate, verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or dismissal. Based upon Act 24 of 2011 (Act 24), all school employees are required to report to the Superintendent or designee within seventy-two (72) hours any arrest or conviction of an offense listed on PDE-6004 form. Failure to report any arrest or conviction in the time frame will result in disciplinary action against the employee, up to and including termination. In addition, the Superintendent or designee must report to the Department of Education: any educator who has been provided notice of intent to dismiss or remove for cause, notice of nonrenewal for cause, notice of removal from eligibility lists for cause or notice of a determination not to reemploy for cause. The report shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after notice is provided by a school entity.</p> <p>In addition, all employees are required to update Act 34, Act 151 and Act 114 clearances every five (5) years. If an employee's clearance lapse, the employee will no longer be eligible to work for the school district and will face suspension without pay or possible termination of employment.</p>
2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq	In the event it is necessary to demote or dismiss, a hearing shall be provided as required by statute.

<p>SC 1122, 1127</p>	<p>When charges are filed against a professional employee pursuant to the School Code, the Board after hearing the case in accordance with the procedures established in the School Code may vote to discharge any such employee or authorize a lesser punishment short of a discharge such as a suspension without pay or lesser degrees of punishment.</p> <p>The vote to discharge shall be by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board. A vote to provide a degree of punishment less than a discharge shall be by a majority of a quorum present at a meeting at which such vote is to be taken.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 510, 514, 1121, 1122, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1151</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations, Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Education – 22 PA Code Sec. 235.1 et seq.</p> <p>Local Agency Law – 2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq.</p> <p>Educator Discipline Act – 24 P.S. Sec. 2070.1a et seq.</p> <p>Child Protective Services Law – 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.</p> <p>Board Policy – 351</p>
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SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

TITLE: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: August 24, 2015

REVIEWED: November 9, 2015

	417. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES
1. Purpose SC 510, 514	Effective operation of the district's programs requires the cooperation of all district employees in working together under a system of policies and rules applied fairly and uniformly to all employees. The orderly conduct of the district's business requires uniform compliance with these policies and rules, and uniform penalties and disciplinary procedures for violations.
2. Authority	There shall be established procedures whereby professional employees shall be informed as to the disciplinary actions that are considered appropriate, and that are to be applied, for violation of district policies and regulations.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1151	<p>The Superintendent shall prepare and promulgate disciplinary rules for violations of district policies and rules which provide progressive penalties including, where appropriate, verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or dismissal. Based upon Act 24 of 2011 (Act 24), all school employees are required to report to the Superintendent or designee within seventy-two (72) hours any arrest or conviction of an offense listed on PDE-6004 form. Failure to report any arrest or conviction in the time frame will result in disciplinary action against the employee, up to and including termination. In addition, the Superintendent or designee must report to the Department of Education: any educator who has been provided notice of intent to dismiss or remove for cause, notice of nonrenewal for cause, notice of removal from eligibility lists for cause or notice of a determination not to reemploy for cause. The report shall be filed within fifteen (15) days after notice is provided by a school entity.</p>
2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq	<p>In addition, all employees are required to update Act 34, Act 151 and Act 114 clearances every five (5) years. If an employee's clearances lapse, the employee will no longer be eligible to work for the school district and will face suspension without pay or possible termination of employment.</p> <p>In the event it is necessary to demote or dismiss, a hearing shall be provided as required by statute.</p>

<p>SC 1122, 1127</p>	<p>When charges are filed against a professional employee pursuant to the School Code, the Board after hearing the case in accordance with the procedures established in the School Code, may vote to discharge any such employee or authorize a lesser punishment short of discharge such as a suspension without pay or lesser degrees of punishment.</p> <p>The vote to discharge shall be by a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board. A vote to provide a degree of punishment less than a discharge shall be by a majority of a quorum present at a meeting at which such vote is to be taken.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 510, 514, 1121, 1122, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1151</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations, Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Education – 22 PA Code Sec. 235.1 et seq.</p> <p>Local Agency Law – 2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq.</p> <p>Educator Discipline Act – 24 P.S. Sec. 2070.1a et seq.</p> <p>Child Protective Services Law – 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.</p> <p>Board Policy – 451</p>
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SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES

TITLE: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: August 24, 2015

REVIEWED: November 9, 2015

517. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES	
1. Purpose SC 510, 514	Effective operation of the district's programs requires the cooperation of all district employees in working together under a system of policies and rules applied fairly and uniformly to all employees. The orderly conduct of the district's business requires uniform compliance with these policies and rules, and uniform penalties and disciplinary procedures for violations.
2. Authority	There shall be established procedures whereby classified employees shall be informed as to the disciplinary actions that are considered appropriate, and that are to be applied, for violation of district policies and regulations.
3. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1151	<p>The Superintendent shall prepare and promulgate disciplinary rules for violations of district policies and rules which provide progressive penalties including, where appropriate, verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or dismissal. Based upon Act 24 of 2011 (Act 24), all school employees are required to report to the Superintendent or designee within seventy-two (72) hours any arrest or conviction of an offense listed on PDE-6004 form. Failure to report any arrest or conviction in the time frame will result in disciplinary action against the employee, up to and including termination.</p> <p>In addition, all employees are required to update Act 34, Act 151 and Act 114 clearances every five (5) years. If an employee's clearances lapse, the employee will no longer be eligible to work for the school district and will face suspension without pay or possible termination of employment.</p>
2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq	In the event it is necessary to demote or dismiss, a hearing shall be provided as required by statute.

	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 111, 510, 514, 1121, 1122, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1151</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations, Code of Professional Practice and Conduct for Education – 22 PA Code Sec. 235.1 et seq.</p> <p>Local Agency Law – 2 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 551 et seq.</p> <p>Educator Discipline Act – 24 P.S. Sec. 2070.1a et seq.</p> <p>Child Protective Services Law – 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec. 6301 et seq.</p> <p>Board Policy – 551</p>
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SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: CLASS RANK

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: August 27, 2012

REVIEWED: January 11, 2016

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Authority</p> <p>Pol. 216</p> <p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">214. CLASS RANK</p> <p>The Board acknowledges the usefulness of a system of computing grade point averages and class ranking for secondary school graduates to inform students, parents/guardians and others of their relative academic placement among their peers under relatively similar circumstances.</p> <p>The Board authorizes a system of class ranking, by grade point average, for students in grades 9 through 12. All students shall be ranked together.</p> <p>Class rank shall be computed by the final grade in all subjects.</p> <p>Any two (2) or more students whose computed grade point averages are identical shall be given the same rank. The rank of the student who immediately follows a tied position will be determined by the number of students preceding him/her and not by the rank of the person preceding him/her.</p> <p><u>Valedictorian/Salutatorian</u></p> <p><u>Each graduating class will have a valedictorian and salutatorian named based on class rank. A student must be a full time Spring-Ford Area High School student for their entire junior and senior years to be eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian.</u></p> <p>The first position student in class shall be recognized as the valedictorian and the second position student in the class as salutatorian. Students with identical grade point averages may share the first and second positions being recognized as co-valedictorian or co-salutatorian, as appropriate. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be recognized at the graduation ceremony at the high school.</p> <p>Rank in class shall be entered on students' records, including final report card of the school year, and on all transcripts where they will be available for review by authorized persons.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall develop procedures for the computation of grade point averages and the assignment of rank in class to implement this policy which shall include a determination of class rank for students graduating before their class;</p>
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	<p>system for fairly averaging make-up courses; and a statement of the methods for such computation and assignment to be made available for those to whom a student's grade point average or rank in class is released.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.24</p> <p>Board Policy – 216</p>
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SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: November 24, 2014

REVIEWED: January 11, 2016

217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
1. Purpose	The Board will acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the student's interests and needs by awarding a diploma at graduation ceremonies.
2. Authority Title 22 Sec. 4.24, 4.51, 4.52	The Board shall adopt the graduation requirements students must achieve, which shall include course completion and grades, and proficiency on district and state assessments.
SC 1611, 1613 Title 22 Sec. 4.24 Pol. 102, 127, 213	The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this district who meets the requirements of graduation established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, as well as those established by the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors.
SC 1614 Title 22 Sec. 4.12, 4.24, 11.27 34 CFR Sec. 300.102, 300.305 Pol. 113	The Board may permit an identified student with a disability to participate in graduation ceremonies with his/her graduating class, even though the student will not be granted a diploma and will continue to receive educational services.
SC 1613 Title 22 Sec. 4.12 Pol. 102	<p>A requirement for graduation shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9 through 12. Credits toward graduation can only be earned when a student is in grade 9 through 12. High School courses taken by students in grades below 9th grade shall not count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>The Board requires that each candidate for graduation shall have earned at least twenty-two (22) credits and demonstrate proficiency on district and state assessments to receive a diploma and be involved in the commencement ceremony.</p>

217. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS - Pg. 2

<p>3. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>4. Guidelines Pol. 213, 216</p> <p>Pol. 212</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.4, 11.8</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for planning and executing graduation ceremonies that appropriately recognize this important achievement.</p> <p>Accurate recording of each student's achievement of academic standards shall be maintained, as required by law and state regulations.</p> <p>Students shall be informed of graduation requirements and the amount of credits they are required to complete.</p> <p>Periodic warnings shall be issued to students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements. Written notification shall be sent to parents/legal guardians of students in danger of not fulfilling graduation requirements at the end of the student's junior year and at the conclusion of the second and third marking periods of the student's senior year.</p> <p>A student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall not be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but the student may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony when personal conduct so warrants.</p> <p>The fourth year of high school shall not be required if the student has been accepted by an accredited institution of higher learning and has completed all requirements for graduation.</p> <p><u>Early Graduation</u></p> <p>Students requesting early graduation must submit a written request executed by their parent/guardian to do so through their high school counselor, who shall confer with the student and parent prior to recommending the request for approval by the high school principal, Superintendent and Board.</p> <p>Students desiring to graduate early must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Request permission for early graduation by June 1st of his/her sophomore year (10th grade), 2) Have attended Spring-Ford Area School District for one (1) complete school year, and 3) Have an academic ranking in the top ten percent (10%) of their class.
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	<p>By June 1st of his/her sophomore year, the student will submit a plan detailing the manner in which all graduation requirements (twenty-two (22) credits and proficiency on district and state assessments) will be satisfied. By June 30th, the Superintendent or designee will respond to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding approval/denial of the submitted plan.</p> <p>Each course taken offsite and/or on-line needs to be separately approved using the Course Advancement Approval Process to ensure that the course meets the expectation of the Spring-Ford Area School District and graduation requirements. Courses taken offsite and/or on-line are not calculated toward GPA and/or honor roll.</p> <p>To graduate as an honor student, the student shall have a cumulative average of at least ninety percent (90%) at the end of first semester of eleventh grade. Students graduating early forgo their opportunity to be valedictorian or a commencement speaker.</p> <p><u>Early College Admissions – Seniors Only</u></p> <p>Students requesting participation in an early college admissions program must submit a written request executed by their parent/guardian to their child's high school guidance counselor, who shall confer with the student and parent/guardian prior to recommending the request for approval by the high school principal, Superintendent and Board. Application for early college admission must be submitted by June 1st of their junior year.</p> <p>Students who request permission for early admissions application must have completed the 11th grade and be achieving in the top quartile of their class, and have been in attendance in the Spring-Ford Area School District for one (1) complete school year.</p> <p>The student must maintain a C average in his/her freshman year of college work and must be considered a full-time student before the school district will approve a request for a Spring-Ford diploma. Credits presented for the diploma must include all courses mandated by the State Board of Education regulations which have not been completed prior to college entrance.</p> <p>To graduate as an honor student, the pupil shall have a cumulation honor average of at least ninety percent (90%) at the end of grade eleven and shall maintain an Honor Average or Dean's List as determined by the college. To be valedictorian or a commencement speaker, the student shall be a full-time member of the home school.</p> <p>It shall be the obligation of the student to maintain communication with the home school before leaving for college in September and between semesters to finalize</p>
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	<p>details of graduation and for information concerning student activities.</p> <p><u>Dual Enrollment</u></p> <p>Students currently enrolled in the eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) grade may enroll in Dual (credit) Enrollment course options subject to the restrictions noted in the established guidelines. To remain eligible for continued enrollment, students must maintain a 70% average; and must conform to the State Board of Education curriculum regulations for dual high school and college enrollment. All dual enrollment students will be subject to the following guidelines:</p> <p><u>Part-Time Dual Enrollment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual credit classes may count only toward elective graduation requirements • Any dual credit student carrying over 7.0 credits will not have their second semester dual credit course calculated in class rank or GPA. • All students must register for dual enrollment courses through their Spring- Ford Senior High School counselor. • Dual enrollment placement tests determine math course selection, however if a similar course has previously been completed and credit awarded, a student will not receive additional Spring-Ford credit. • Only seniors who take dual credit classes are eligible for open campus. Open campus allows senior students to arrive late or leave early on the days/semester the dual credit class does not meet. • If previously scheduled, students are not permitted to drop a spring semester dual credit class. • Senior Final Exam Exemption does not apply for these college classes. • On a case-by-case basis and with pre-approval by the student's house principal, college courses may be substituted for graduation requirements imposed by the school district. <p><u>Full-Time Dual Enrollment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students must register for dual enrollment courses through their
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	<p>Spring-Ford Senior High School counselor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any junior enrolling as a full-time dual enrollment student must take at least three (3) credit courses in their first semester and four 3-credit courses each semester following and be on track to meet the Spring-Ford graduation requirements. • Any senior enrolling as a full-time dual enrollment student is required to take three 3-credit courses both semesters and must remain on track to meet Spring-Ford graduation requirements. Note that English, math, science, and social studies are required and must align with Spring-Ford Senior High School course offerings (approved via student's counselor). • Participation in PIAA requires students to be enrolled in four courses per semester and passing each course with at least a 70% average. • All full-time dual enrollment students must have scored proficient or advanced on all required Keystone end-of-course exams. • All dual enrollment courses must be approved by the student's guidance counselor one semester in advance. • Any course taken to replace a Spring-Ford required course must be approved prior to the last day of the previous school year, i.e. English Comp 101, American National Government 124, Health and PE. • All dual enrollment health courses will equal .50 Spring-Ford Senior High School credit. • All dual enrollment Physical Education courses will equal .33 Spring-Ford Senior High School credit. • All dual enrollment (3 or more) credit courses will receive 1 Spring-Ford Senior High School credit. • Full-time dual enrollment students are recommended to meet with their counselor once a semester. • Students may not take winter session (condensed) courses for Spring-Ford Senior High School credit. • Any dual credit student carrying over 7.0 credits will not have their
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	<p>second semester dual credit course calculated in class rank or GPA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual enrollment placement tests determine math course selection, however if a similar course has previously been completed and credit awarded, a student will not receive additional Spring-Ford credit. • Students are responsible for checking that all prerequisite requirements have been met before registering for a course. • Senior Final Exam Exemption does not apply for these college classes. • Students participating in full-time dual enrollment are not eligible to be considered for valedictorian or a commencement speaker. <p style="text-align: center;">DIPLOMAS FOR ELIGIBLE VETERANS</p> <p><u>Veterans Of World War II</u></p> <p>In order to recognize and honor veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in World War II, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who completes the required application and meets the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America. 2. Served in the United States military between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. 3. Attended high school between 1937 and 1946 and would have been a member of a graduation class during the years 1941 through 1950 but did not graduate due to entry into military service. <p><u>Veterans Of Korean War</u></p> <p>In order to recognize and honor veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in Korean War, the Board shall grant a diploma to a veteran who completes the required application and meets the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States of America. 2. Served in the United States military between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955.
SC 1611	
SC 1611	

	<p>3. Attended high school between 1947 and 1955 and would have been a member of a graduation class during the years 1951 through 1957 but did not graduate from high school due to entry into military service.</p> <p>Upon proper application, the Board may award a diploma posthumously to a veteran who meets the stated requirements.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall submit to the Board for its approval the names of veterans eligible for a high school diploma.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1611, 1613, 1614</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.12, 4.24, 4.51, 4.52, 11.4, 11.5, 11.8, 11.27</p> <p>Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 300</p> <p>Board Policy – 102, 113, 127, 212, 213, 214, 216, 233</p>
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From: Mary Pat Long, Principal
To: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent
Date: January 2016
Re: January Board Report

HOOR OF CODE: All Brooke students participated in the district-wide Hour of Code during the week of December 7. **Mr. Zach Laurie** was instrumental in preparing our students for this experience to expose our children to the basics of computer science.

WINTER CONCERT: On Thursday, December 10th, Brooke's third grade students performed for the entire school population and sang again that evening at 7:00 PM for their parents, grandparents, and friends. Every year we look forward to this up-lifting concert that is directed by **Miss Karen Schodle**, Brooke's Music Teacher.

WINTER BREAK: Both students and staff returned to school on Monday, January 4th, refreshed after a relaxing and fun-filled Winter Break.

ART GOES TO SCHOOL: Art Goes to School volunteers have been visiting Brooke Elementary since Monday, January 11th, and will continue until Tuesday, January 19th. This art appreciation program meets with Brooke students during their Art classes and talks to them about a variety of paintings and the artists.

R.I.F. DAYS: R.I.F. Days (**R**eading **I**s **F**undamental) is being celebrated at Brooke during the 6-day cycle from Tuesday, January 12th, through Wednesday, January 20th. In conjunction with Brooke's school-wide theme – "Brooke Is Fintastic" – the theme for these R.I.F Days is "Reading Through the Reef". To build excitement about R.I.F., each student is researching one ocean animal at home and writing facts about their animal on an ocean animal shape. Brooke's R.I.F. Days are supported by our Home and School.

EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TO: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Jacqueline Clarke-Havrilla, Principal
DATE: January 19, 2016
SUBJECT: January Board Report



Enrollment: Current enrollment is 612 as of January 4, 2016.

Winter Concert:

The Winter Concert was performed by the second grade students on December 10, 2015 by singing select pieces from Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa. The students not only performed for the school in an afternoon assembly but also parents and families were treated to a special evening performance as well. The program was enjoyed by all! Congratulations to Sarah Fralich, Music Specialist at Evans for putting together a wonderful program.

Winter Celebration Activity Day:

Wednesday, December 23, 2015, a "Winter Celebration Activity Day" was enjoyed by all the students and the staff at Evans Elementary. The day began with a school-wide sing-a-long assembly. Winter Parties took place in classrooms in the afternoon to help kick off the Winter Break.

"The 15 Club" - Fifteen Minutes of Fitness Continues:

Our third and fourth grade students will have an opportunity to take part in 15 minute exercise sessions, twice a week. The goal of the program is to teach students about wellness and how they can develop the skills needed to have an active and healthy life. Mrs. Laura McNeil Murphy, Certified School Nurse and Mrs. Jody Polsz, Physical Education Specialist continuously make this program a fun and successful time for the students.

HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION: Upcoming Home and School Activities:

Home and School is holding a classroom contest for the classroom that turns in the most Box Tops for Education. This contest will run until through January 2016. The winning classroom will receive a water ice party in the spring, as the class enjoys the outdoor classroom.

Yearbook sales have started. Families are able to purchase a yearbook either online or submitting their request to the office.

On January 15, 2016, Home and School hosted a Family Bingo Night. This was a great opportunity for families to join together for a fun evening out with classmates and staff. Teacher and Staff participated in the event as celebrity "BINGO Callers".

Limerick Elementary School

TO: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Mitchel L. Edmunds, Principal
DATE: January 15, 2016
SUBJECT: November & December 2015 Board Report

ENROLLMENT: Current enrollment is 330 students.

2015-2016 PRO-SOCIAL THEME: "Limerick Elementary – Where Learning is a Journey"

RED RIBBON WEEK: Limerick Elementary students teamed up to make healthy choices and to stay drug free during the week of October 26th. Students and staff members participated in special events such as wearing red, wearing mixed-up and mismatched clothing, wearing favorite team sports attire, sitting at a different lunch table, and bringing in a costume to wear in the Halloween Parade.

SPIRIT DAY: Limerick students celebrated Holiday Hat & Headband Day by wearing whatever hat/headband made them happy on December 23th.

OPERATION LEND-A-PAW: Since the 2007 holiday season, Limerick Elementary School has annually reached out to the community to help animals in need. In its seventh year, Operation Lend-A-Paw provided students and their families the opportunity to donate various goods to the Chester County Pet Food Pantry. This organization's mission is to help companion pets stay at home and out of animal shelters by providing donated pet food and pet care services to pet families in financial need. There are many students here at Limerick Elementary that have pets of their own, and therefore love helping out any way they can. Some of the items donated were:

- ✓ Cat or dog food (dry or wet)
- ✓ Small animal food for rabbits, guinea pigs & ferrets
- ✓ Bird food
- ✓ Fish food
- ✓ Cat litter/litter accessories
- ✓ Flea/tick prevention
- ✓ Leashes/collars
- ✓ Treats
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Monetary Donations

Thank you Limerick Families for caring and sharing!

DOGS ARE READERS TOO!: The DART Program continues here at Limerick Elementary again this school year. This program provides a comfortable environment for students to practice reading to a certified therapy dog and dog's handler for approximately 20 minutes.

FALL PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES: Parents met with teachers regarding their child's progress during the first quarter of the school year. Limerick's Home and School League provided lunch/dinners

to express their thanks for the Limerick staff for all they do for their children during the course of the school year.

HOLIDAY SHOPPE: During the early part of December Limerick's Home and School League invited students to participate in the "Holiday Gift Shop Program" which allowed them to choose appropriate gifts for family members, friends and pets. This program created wonderful memories for the children while teaching them to budget their money in making decisions on gifts ranging from \$1.00 to \$6.00.

GREAT VALLEY NATURE CENTER: Great Valley Nature Center came to visit First Grade at Limerick in December. They talked to the children about animal colors. They learned that animal colors can be used for camouflage or to give a warning to other animals. The children were exposed to a variety of animals including a Chinchilla, Blue-Tongued Skink, Barn Owl and a Red-Tailed Hawk.

3RD GRADE WINTER CONCERT: On Thursday evening, December 17th, 62 Limerick third grade students presented a Winter Concert to their families and friends. Song selections were sung in two part harmony, and flashlights were used in choreography.

JOHN HADFIELD / THE SCIENCE SHOW: On Tuesday, January 5th, Limerick students in grades K – 4 experienced a hair-raising assembly with John Hadfield. This was a visually unique presentation of science education - utilizing the skills of juggling, comedy, balancing, magic and music. From a rap song about accidental inventions, to a hair-raising experiment with electricity, the Science Show proves that science can be found at school, on the playground, at home, in your car – it's everywhere! This assembly was funded by Limerick's Home and School League. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1/20 – Spirit Day /Multiple Day – dress alike
1/29 – Pro Social Assembly – Respect
1/25 – Great Valley Nature Center Assembly
Winter Wonders – Grade 1
1/26 – Dr. Pavlow & Dr. McSurdy
Dental Presentation – Grade 1
1/29 – Movie Night
Week of 2/1 – National School Counselors Week
2/4 – School Store
2/5 – Dr. Weiss
Dental Presentation – Grade 4
2/11 – 100th Day of School
2/12 – Parent / Teacher Conferences
2/15 – Presidents Day – no school
2/20 – Basket Raffle



OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TO: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent

FROM: Mark D. Moyer, Principal

SUBJ: December/January Board Report

DATE: January 20, 2016

HOLIDAY SHOP (PTA)

Saturday, December 5, 2015 saw various craft vendors visit Oaks Elementary School for our annual Holiday Shop, sponsored by the Oaks PTA. This fun-filled event included arts, crafts. Proceeds collected benefit Oaks Elementary students.

HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

On Thursday, December 10th, students in grade 2 presented their annual Holiday choral concert held at the school. This year's musical was titled Arf on the Housetop, a holiday musical about caring and sharing. In conjunction with the concert, students collected donations for the SPCA. Some food items were collected along with a cash donation of \$370.00. Nice job Mrs. Steele and Miss Albright!

ASSEMBLY

Second-grade has been very busy at Oaks. They just had the SPCA give a presentation on the proper care of pets on Friday, December 18th. Steven Conway, from the Conshohocken Center of the Montgomery County SPCA, shared many interesting facts with the students. They also enjoyed meeting his companion Faith, a golden retriever. At the end of the program the students presented Mr. Conway with the donations that were collected in conjunction with the 2nd grade concert.

GIVING TREE

For several years the Oaks Elementary community (families and staff) have purchased children's Christmas wishes. This year we were able to offer assistance to 12 families/29 children. We were able to provide a few toys, clothes, a filled Christmas stocking, and grocery store gift cards to help with the families Christmas. This year we also had a lot of assistance from our friends at this District Office to help meet our goal! We appreciate all of their donations!!

THEATER NIGHT

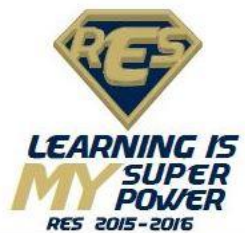
Theater Night, which was held on Friday, January 8th, was a huge success! Cherry Herring Entertainment presented How to Become a Superhero. This show helps kids understand that heroes come in all shapes and sizes. It's not about how strong a hero is....it's about how regular people can do extraordinary things!! The Oaks PTA sponsored this free family fun night!

FUN RUN

The official kick off for the Superheroe Sprint Fun Run was held on Monday January 11th. Our Fun Run includes all students in a fun, team building, and fitness event while helping our school raise funds for a ½ mile walking trail.

PERKIOMEN WATERSHED

Representatives from Perkiomen Watershed will be presenting "Winter Secrets" to each of the kindergarten classes on January 21st, 22nd. Through this educational program, students will learn about hibernation and the various ways animals survive during the winter.



ROYERSFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

450 Spring Street
Royersford, Pennsylvania 19468
(610) 705-6005

TO: Dr. Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Teresa M. Carboy, Principal
SUBJECT: December/January Building Report
DATE: January 19, 2016

PTO HOLIDAY SHOPPE AND WINTER DANCE – On December 4th, RES families celebrated the holiday season with a night of dancing and shopping. Student's favorite songs were played and everyone kicked up their heels and had a great time. If you needed to take a break from all the action, the Holiday Shop was open for business in the LGI from 6:00pm – 8:30pm. Many families got a jump start on their holiday shopping for family and friends. Light refreshments were available for sale throughout the evening.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST – Back by popular demand, our second RES PTO Gingerbread house contest was held in December. Flyers went home detailing rules and categories. Houses were dropped off at school on December 7th and December 8th and remained on display until the winter break. Staff members voted for their favorite house in each category and winners were announced on Friday, December 18th. Each winning student received Regal movie passes. Congratulations to the following students: Ethan Walls in Kindergarten, Matthew Nimmerichter in 1st Grade, Rella Talley in 2nd Grade, Rowan Cook in 3rd Grade, Taylor Mungin in 4th Grade, and Drew Bunning for the Family Entry.

HELP US HELP OTHERS – During the month of December, RES hosted the Giving Tree project. The purpose of the Giving Tree is to come together as a school community to assist RES families who are in need of help for the holidays. Donations were accepted from November 30th – December 18th. Each child who made a donation was given an ornament kit to take home to assemble. The ornament was brought back to school and hung on the Giving Tree. The ornaments served as a visual reminder of the generosity of our RES families. In addition to the holiday ornaments, every child who made a donation had their name entered into a drawing. One winner from each grade level was selected to order lunch from Giovanni's with Mrs. Carboy, Mrs. Prevost and Miss Kerlin.

WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT – RES second grade students performed a fabulous Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 17th at 6:30pm under the guidance of Mrs. Heffernan. Songs included Here Comes The Snow, Winter Again, Ding Dong! Merrily On High, Hanukkah O Hanukkah, Sing For Joy, and Sing A Song of Winter. A Kwanza Poem was read by Audrey Ibach in Mrs. Pogash's class. The 2nd Grade Chorus also featured bell players, soloists, and drummers.

DINE OUT SPIRIT WEEK – The Royersford Elementary monthly dine out for January will be held January 18th – January 22nd at Chick-fil-A Royersford. A percentage of all sales (including catering orders) will benefit the Royersford Elementary School PTO. The RES Spirit Week flyer must be presented to the cashier for credit on all orders from 6:30AM – 10:00PM every day of the week.

Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School

TO: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Mitchel L. Edmunds, Principal
DATE: January 19, 2016
SUBJECT: December/January Board Reports

ENROLLMENT: Current enrollment is 125 Students.



**“Learning is Our Super Power”
2015 – 2016 Pro-Social Theme**

THERAPY DOGS: Beginning in December, volunteers from the **Dogs Are Readers Too (D.A.R.T.)** program started reading with the students at Spring City Elementary. Mrs. Sue Bani, a dog obedience trainer and canine behavior consultant is working with the media center staff to coordinate this program. The main objective of this program is to provide a relaxed and “dog-friendly” atmosphere, which allows students to practice the skill of reading. By sitting down next to a dog and reading to the dog, all threats of being judged are put aside. Reading improves because the child is practicing the skill of reading, building self-esteem, and associating reading with something pleasant. The handlers and their dogs will work with students recommended by their teacher for approximately 15 minutes. The dogs and their handlers have been insured for liability and have undergone reading education training in addition to their extensive training and registration to do animal-assisted therapy.

OPERATION LEND-A-PAW: Operation Lend-A-Paw provided students and their families the opportunity to donate various goods to the Chester County Pet Food Pantry. This organization’s mission is to help companion pets stay at home and out of animal shelters by providing donated pet food and pet care services to pet families in financial need. There are many students here at Spring City Elementary Hybrid Learning School that have pets of their own, and therefore love helping out any way they can. Some of the items donated were:

- ✓ Cat or dog food (dry or wet)
- ✓ Small animal food for rabbits, guinea pigs & ferrets
- ✓ Bird food
- ✓ Fish food
- ✓ Cat litter/litter accessories
- ✓ Flea/tick prevention
- ✓ Leashes/collars
- ✓ Treats
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Monetary Donations

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE:

The H & S Association annual Holiday Food Drive was a huge success for the Spring City Food Pantry. Items were packaged together for a hearty Holiday meal. Items donated were:

Stuffing Mix

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Canned Green Beans

Cream of Mushroom soup

Canned Corn

Canned Yams

Applesauce

Jellied Cranberry Sauce

Jarred Gravy or instant dry mix

Additionally, since the Pantry is always in need of paper products, such as Toilet Paper and Paper Towels were also donated.

Thank you Spring City Families for caring and sharing!

SPIRIT DAY: On December 18th, Spring City students enjoyed a cozy pajama day.

RETHINK YOUR DRINK:

Mrs. Santangelo, the school nurse, asked all the students and staff on Wednesday, January 13th to Rethink Your Drink by signing pledge forms to drink more water instead of sugary drinks like soda and Gatorade or juice to name a few. Too much sugar is bad for your bodies and your teeth. The best drink for our bodies is water!

AUTHOR DAY FOR KINDERGARTEN:

Danelle Matlack is a local children's author and food allergy awareness advocate. She will be reading to our kindergarten classes on January 20, 2016. Her book is titled "Alfie the Allergic Alligator Goes to School" which promotes awareness and inclusion for those children with food allergies. The story also encourages students to ask questions and help keep their allergic peers safe. After reading the book to the students, Danielle will show the students an epi-pen (trainer) and medical/allergy alert bracelets. Students will have an opportunity to purchase the book ahead of time and Danelle will personalize each book before they take the book home.

KINDERGARTEN:

The Kindergarten students at Spring City enjoyed a visit from the Perkiomen Watershed in January. During their "Animals in Winter" assembly, students were each assigned an animal buddy. Throughout the assembly, students learned how to track their buddy, what food they liked to eat, and even acted out their buddy's movements. Students became members of the "sign of the snowflake" club with all their new knowledge about what animals do in the winter.

EVERY STEP COUNTS:

Every Step Counts is a fitness program we implemented at Spring City Hybrid Learning Center in October. Every Step Counts program focus is to combine exercise with school unity. Staff and students will take 15 minutes once a week to engage in a school walk in which students may choose to walk or run laps during their recess time. These laps are counted by the students, submitted to the Physical Education teacher, and the distance is mapped across the United States. Not only does this program promote exercise but it also creates healthy competition and school unity. Here are the results so far:

1st Place – 4th Grade – 146 miles

2nd Place – 2nd Grade – 131 miles

3rd Place – 1st Grade – 100 miles

4th Place – 3rd Grade – 92 miles

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 25 – Dental Hygiene Presentation for Grades 1 & 2
- February 1-5 – National School Counseling Week
- February 2 – H & S Meeting
- February 5 – Dental Presentation for Grade 4
- February 11 – Spirit Day – Red, White and Pink Day
- February 19 – Definitely Magic Assembly
- February 19 – H & S Dance A Thon

UPPER PROVIDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

TO: Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Dr. Melissa D. Patschke, Principal
RE: December Building Report
DATE: January 7, 2015



November 16th – 20th was American Education Week at Upper Providence Elementary School. We had an excellent turn-out of parents and grandparents enjoying the opportunity to come in and observe the classroom setting. A number of grade levels held special events to highlight American Education Week. Kindergarten held their Thanksgiving Program. Second Grade held a review game of Are You Smarter Than a Second Grader with the parents as the contestants

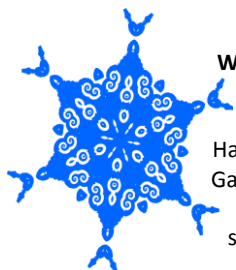
During American Education Week, Mrs. Luchette's AT classes at Upper Providence built model bridges, along with parents, for children in Thailand. The students have been studying bridges and other structures this past semester. They learned about different types of bridges, and connected their learning to a real life situation in Northern Thailand where a small village of children have to swim to school due to the lack of a bridge. Mrs. Luchette's students wrote to the children, learned about their land, and made decisions about the type of bridge that should be built for these children.

PROJECT OUTREACH – During the month of October, UPE students and staff gave back to the community by donating, food, gift cards, and various other items to Project Outreach. This school wide effort yielded over 70 bags of grocery items. Each Friday, food was delivered, organized and immediately given to families in need. The people at Project Outreach were overwhelmed as the UPE donations kept flowing into the food bank.



UNITY DAY — On Friday, November 13th, all UPE students were engaged in lessons involving resiliency, kindness, and the UPE 5! Throughout the Unity Day connections were built, bonding, and genuine caring exhibited. UPE continues to work toward a place of mutual respect and celebration of differences. Throughout the day students and staff worked in teams to understand that together we are creating a unified community. The day was concluded with a School Wide Meeting that included High School Hero introductions, various songs, skits, student messages, and HS Cheerleaders. There was also a visit from Captain Kindness announcing The Great Kindness Challenge that will begin in January 2016.

In the spirit of giving back to the community, during the month of December, Upper Providence students participated in grade level Community Service Projects. This has become an annual event that both the students and adults alike enjoy as they are giving back to their own community. Kindergarten -The Montgomery County SPCA, First Grade - Holiday ornaments for the Montgomery County Geriatric Center, Third Grade - Upper Providence Police Department Toys-4-Tots, and Fourth Grade – Project Outreach.



WINTER CONCERT

The UPE third grade performed their winter concert on Thursday, Dec. 10. There were two performances; afternoon for the students, and in the evening for the parents and families. The musical selections reflected the season of Hanukkah, Christmas and winter. Along with the 105 class chorus there were solos by 2 children, Ian Files and Holly Gasper, and a select chorus ensemble of 12 students. The piano accompanist was Mr. Bill Kinney, husband of Mrs. Kinney from UPE. He is a retired music teacher of Phoenixville Area School District. UPE is thankful for his volunteer services to our music program.



A message from Mrs. Torrence, School Nurse: Annual health screenings are in full swing. Students have been or will be screened for height, weight, BMI, vision and hearing. Students who do not pass an exam will receive a referral. November will be a busy month of health screenings and re-screenings to allow for referrals to go out prior to the winter break.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. David Goodin
FROM: Heather A. Nuneviller
RE: December School Board Report
DATE: January 20, 2016



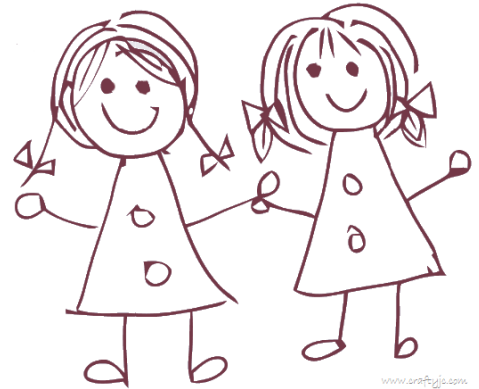
Holiday Concerts: The 5th/6th grade music department finished their winter season with some final rehearsals, and the winter concerts. The 5th grade evening concert was Dec. 7th in the cafeteria. The 5th grade chorus, band, and orchestra all presented selections for the audience. December 9th was the 6th grade concert in the evening, and the same ensembles for 6th grade performed. They finished out the week with assemblies for the students during the school days on Thursday afternoon (5th grade) and Friday afternoon (6th grade). Rehearsals to begin preparing for the spring concert began Monday, Jan. 11th.

The winter 2015 season was busy for the Middle School music department. It included months of preparation from the chorus, gold and blues, band, jazz band, and orchestra, culminating in a successful winter program which featured a variety of repertoire and performers. In addition, many of the performing groups were able to get out in the community, using their talents to perform community service. From the Spring City Veterans' Center to local women's clubs to our elementary schools, Spring-Ford music students exemplified the spirit of the season and gave back this winter through charitable music performance.



Book Fair: The Spring-Ford 5/6 Fall Book Fair was a huge success! Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this year's Book Fair possible! The students chose some great books to read....some of the best sellers included Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School by Jeff Kinney, Nightmares by Jason Segel, and The Zodiac by Stan Lee.

Friends and the Community: Our 7th grade Friends and the Community group sold candy cane grams this holiday season to benefit Spring-Ford families in need of assistance for the holidays. Each candy cane gram sold for 50 cents. Friends and the community sold over \$1500.00 of candy cane grams.



Holiday Helpers: From December 1st-11th, students at the 5/6 Center were invited to donate a dollar or more to help needy families within our own community. For each donation, they wrote their name on a gingerbread man, which was displayed in the lobby. As an additional incentive, students who had donated were randomly chosen each day to enjoy a holiday pizza lunch in the office, served by office staff. Through the generosity of the students of the 5/6 Center, over \$1100 was raised to help families in need!

Geography Bee: The fifth and sixth grade Gifted Support students participated in the National Geography Bee in December. The overall winner from both grades, was 5th grade student Nikhil Turlapati. He will complete the written State Qualifying test to see if he will continue to the state round. In March, the 100 students from Pennsylvania to have earned the highest scores will compete in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Good Luck to Nikhil! Let's hope his score earns a spot in the top 100!





Warm Woolly Week: Fifth and Sixth graders from the Builders Club sponsored the annual WARM WOOLLY WEEK at the Intermediate School in December. They collected hats, gloves, scarves, and socks from the students for PROJECT OUTREACH in Royersford. The Builders Club accumulated over five boxes of winter accessories for the local children. Mrs. Hoff's class also donated 2 cases of canned goods to be delivered along with the winter attire. It was a HUGE success!



Candy Cane Sale: The 5/6 Center participated in a Candy Cane Candy Gram sale the week of December 15th. Students were able to purchase candy grams to send to their friends with a holiday message attached. The over \$2500 raised was used to help families in need within our community and a portion will also be used to support pro-social activities within the building. The funds from last year's candy cane sale enabled each student to receive a welcome back pencil case with supplies at the start of this school year.

Veggie Bowl: The students will once again collect cans for the SOUPER BOWL the week before the actual SUPER BOWL. Students will be able to vote for the team that they hope to win by bringing in a can to purchase a vote.



Bingo Night: The 5th/6th grade Home & School Association will be hosting a family bingo night on Friday, 1/22/16 from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Each family is asked to bring a \$10 wrapped gift or a \$10 gift card to be used as prizes for the evening. Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. Good luck to everyone!!



MEMO

TO: Dr. David Goodin
FROM: Michael J. Siggins/Kathleen Kotch
DATE: January 19, 2016
RE: Monthly School Board Report

HOOPS FOR HEARTS – The 8th Grade Center physical education department once again this year has sponsored a “Hoops for Hearts” program to benefit the American Heart Association. The students collected more than \$1,200. and spent several days practicing their jump shots!

MID TERM EXAMS: All 8th Grade Center students who are enrolled in; Algebra I, Geometry, French I, and/or Spanish, will be taking the corresponding high school mid-term examination. These are high school level courses and students are required to successfully complete the same requirements expected of our high school students. As always, parents with additional questions about these examinations were encouraged to contact their child’s teachers and/or guidance counselors.

9TH GRADE COURSE SELECTION: It is that time of the year again. On Thursday, January 21st our students will attend an informational assembly about the 9th grade course selection process. Students will be provided with hard-copied information that should be shared with their parents. Once the assemblies are completed, all 9th grade course selection materials will be placed on our school’s website for parent access.

CAN TAB COLLECTION: Collecting can tabs is a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling, and raise funds to help children and their families at the same time. Ronald McDonald Houses collect can tabs instead of entire aluminum cans because it's more hygienic to store tabs than cans, and collection and storage is easier. The program is an easy way for people of all ages to support RMHC and know they are making a difference for families and children. After the tabs are collected, the local RMHC Chapter brings the collection to local recycling centers, where they are weighed to determine their value. The recycling center then sends the local RMHC Chapter a check for the total value. All 8th Grade students and families are encouraged to save all of their can tabs and send them into their child’s homeroom.

INTRAMURALS: 8th Grade Center students have the opportunity to work out in the building’s weight room each morning with Mr. Racich. They also have the option of participating in afterschool intramural 3 to 4 days a week. Favorite activities are dodgeball and basketball.

SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
9th Grade Center and 10-12th Grade Center

TO: Dr. David R. Goodin, Superintendent
FROM: Dr. Patrick J. Nugent and Dr. Theresa M. Weidenbaugh, Principals
Dr. Robert M. Colyer, Dr. Jeffrey A. Kollar, Mr. Douglas K. Reigner, Mrs. Elaine M. Ruppert
House Principals
SUBJECT: Monthly Board Report
DATE: January 20, 2016

HONORS

📖 November 23 - We received notification that Spring-Ford was one of only 425 districts across the U.S. and Canada named to the 6th annual Advanced Placement Honor Roll. Districts receiving this honor have increased access to AP[®] course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Reaching these goals indicates that Spring-Ford is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work. This marks the fourth time in the past five years that Spring-Ford has achieved this honor. Congratulations to our Advanced Placement faculty members and to all members of our teaching staff

ACADEMICS/FUTURE PLANNING

- 📖 December 2 – A college financial aid night was held for students and parents.
- 📖 December 2-11 – Keystone exams were administered in Literature, Algebra, and Biology.
- 📖 December 4 – 348 9th Grade Center English students went on a class field trip to the University of Pennsylvania Irvine Auditorium to see several of the 9th grade curriculum short stories performed in a dramatic forum - “The Tell-Tale Heart,” “The Raven,” “The Monkey’s Paw,” “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,” “The Necklace,” and “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.”
- 📖 December 4 - Students attended the Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity Conference at the University of Pennsylvania - seniors Meyajah Carter and Christian Sneed; juniors Kevin Heck and Nia Muhammad; sophomores Kyle Mason and Makayla Brant; and freshmen Shakur Williams and Charleena Moore.
- 📖 December 7-11 – 9th grade students toured the Western Montgomery Career & Technology Center.
- 📖 December 7-13 - The international Hour of Code was held with a video being presented to students during homeroom. Held in celebration of Computer Science Education week, this was an international one-hour promotional introduction to computer science exposing students to coding.
- 📖 December 8 – Thirteen students participated in a job shadowing experience at GlaxoSmithKline.
- 📖 December 9 – The Math League meets monthly and competes against about 130 Pennsylvania high schools. The problems they work out are unique, diverse in topic, and challenging. This month we are proud to submit a perfect combined score for Spring-Ford. The students contributing to the perfect score were Mikey Becht, Chris Lambert, Christian Graff, Edward Lin and Aidan Montare.
- 📖 December 9 – Thirteen students participated in the Model UN summit.
- 📖 December 9 – A SAT Field trial held for 91 juniors and seniors who had taken the former version of SATs earlier in the fall. This redesigned version of the SAT measures knowledge and skills in math, reading, and writing. The new SATs will be launched in March 2016.
- 📖 December 12 – ACT exams were administered to 246 students.
- 📖 January 6-13 - Presentations were given to all sophomore students to orient them to the Future Planning Center and the many services offered.
- 📖 January 15 – Darrin Lenhart’s environmental science students spent part of their class time outside recording the air quality index for the day in addition to recording some vehicle emissions.
- 📖 January 20 – The second semester dual credit courses in Dual Credit World Civilization I and Dual Credit World Civilization II began, being held on the Montgomery County Community College campus.
- 📖 January 20 – Mrs. Josée Voorstad accompanied her Academic Team to Souderton High School for a competition.
- 📖 January 20 - Our newest club at the high school, the Technology Club, held an informative parent meeting. With Ms. Tricia Flynn as the advisor, Tech Club is providing students the opportunity to explore STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) areas of interest beyond the classroom.

UPCOMING

- 📖 January 22 – Laura DiBattista and her Cultural Awareness Club will be showing a moving “Naked Among Wolves” about a young Jewish boy hidden in the suitcase of a prisoner from Auschwitz. Mrs. DiBattista has been a strong proponent of educating people about the Holocaust, having brought in Holocaust survivors to speak to her Social Studies classes for several years.
- 📖 January 25-February 5 – Teacher recommendations for next year’s courses will take place. Teachers have conversations with students as to what they should or should not work into their 2016-2017 class schedule.
- 📖 January 27 – AP and Dual Credit Information sessions will be held for parents and students. This will be an overview of the courses offered and with the AP program and AP potential being discussed.
- 📖 January 27-29 - Spring-Ford will be hosting the 2016 PMEA District Band Festival at the 9th Grade Center, with 128 students from Bucks/Montgomery Counties. Five students from Spring-Ford advanced in competition, enabling them to compete in this Festival.
- 📖 February 20 – Ms. Tricia Flynn and her Technology Club will be hosting our first robotics competition, with 32 teams participating and a VEX representative on site throughout the day. Robotics is still a new endeavor for us, this being only our second competition. Last year our school was able to enter one robot in a late season competition and this year we are entering four robots in three competitions. Staff volunteers are actively being recruited to man the event, with training being provided prior to the competition.
- 📖 March 30-May 6 - As a part of the FCS curriculum, Spring-Ford is offering a free play school program for community preschool children to be held during the morning hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. High school students plan and direct activities for the preschool children under the supervision of the FCS teachers.

FALL ATHLETES

- Congratulations to the Boys' Cross Country team for becoming the Pioneer Athletic Conference champions.
- Congratulations to the Football team for becoming the Pioneer Athletic Conference champions.
- December 28-January 1 – The Boys' Basketball team participated in the Kaylee Scholarship Association Basketball Tournament in Orlando, Florida.
- The Middle School wrestling team (grades 7/8/9) is currently 9-0 and have a 31 match win streak dating back to January 25, 2014. The coaches, parents and wrestlers have been extremely supportive and giving of their time to help the team be so successful. Looking forward to the rest of the season and the chance to win their third consecutive Southeastern PA championship in February. It will be challenging with such a young team, but the kids continue to work hard and impress the coaches each day with their efforts.

FINE ARTS

- ❖ December 10 – The Chamber of Commerce annual holiday breakfast was held at the High School with entertainment by the High School Vocal Ensemble. The Vocal Ensemble also performed at Limerick Green today.
- ❖ January 13 – Seth Jones arranged to have Jenny Neff from Lower Merion School District work with the band students in preparation for the State PMEA Convention performance.
- ❖ January 16-17 - The PMEA District 11 Orchestra Festival was held at Lower Moreland HS; it was a fantastic concert! Two band students, Chris Barth on Tuba and Max Reese on Clarinet, placed first in their sections from Bucks/Montgomery Counties and will be moving on in the hierarchy to PMEA Region VI Orchestra to be held in late February at Council Rock.
- ❖ January 21 & 28 – Six 9th Grade students will be attending rehearsal for the Inter County Band Festival at Owen J. Roberts.
- ❖ January 22 – Seth Jones arranged to have Dr. David Vickerman from the College of New Jersey work with the band students in preparation for the State PMEA Convention performance.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

- November 30 – 9th Grade Center nurse, Sandy Frost-Horvath, began the health screenings of students.
- January 14 – Vision screenings at the 9th Grade Center.
- January 19 – The second round of student teachers began and will spend the spring semester learning the ropes from their Spring-Ford mentors.
- Ski Board Club is now in their second season. They are up to 73 members with 6 trips planned including Bear Creek, Blue Mountain, Camelback, and Elk.
- Art Club currently has 65 members and will begin to paint 6 large murals, fitting the theme “Road Trip,” what one might see traveling down Route 66, on Tyvek material for the post prom party.
- Author, Kim Lehman will visit next month at the Book Club meeting. The students in Book Club have worked with her on her novel production. Two of the club members will be running the next meeting and have created an interactive video to accompany the class discussion. Lehman will answer questions from the students on writing novels and the publication process.
- Reading Olympics - Due to the overwhelming number of student members this year, we have now formed three teams going into the Reading Olympics competition in April. This is the greatest number of students that we have had in several years of participation. The students are very enthusiastic, as always, and are looking forward to a great showing in April!