The January 28, 2002 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: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit,

and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.

Region II: Martha Magee Block, Janet A. Stokes,

and Robert A. Weber

Region III: Ed Cummins, John S. Grispon, and

Richard J. Schroeder

Administrators: Dr. Genevieve D. Coale, Superintendent of

Schools, Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant Superintendent, and Timothy C. Anspach,

Business Manager

Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.

Student Representative: Amy March

Clerk: Pat Dillon

Mr. Weber opened the meeting with the call of order, roll call, and Pledge of Allegiance.

I. INVOCATION

A. **Pastor Wesley Boyer**, Vincent Mennonite Church, Spring City

II. PRESENTATION

Dr. Dennis Booher, assistant principal at the Intermediate School, presented the Intermediate School's pro-social program and community building. The program is based on "In all that I do, I'll respect myself and you." Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and to strive to do their personal best.

Thea Block arrived 7:40 p.m.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Quigley, mayor of Royersford borough. Said he appeared before the board at the January 14th meeting to read a resolution regarding the board seat allocation plan. Said there was a potential of Royersford citizens to be disenfranchised and that articles in *The Mercury* lended credence to this possibility. Recommended that the board table or not vote on the board seat allocation plan.

Mary DeAngelis, Limerick

Thanked Dr. Booher for his presentation and said she was very impressed with it.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. The Board approved the November 19 work session, November 26 board meeting, and December 3 organizational meeting minutes.

Mr. Grispon asked Mr. Weber to separate the minutes for each meeting. The solicitor said that there was no need for a motion to do this and that Mr. Weber could separate them.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve the minutes from the work session of November 19, 2001. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve the minutes from the board meeting of November 26, 2001. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved 5-4 with Mr. Grispon, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Schroeder, and Mrs. Block voting against it.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve the minutes from the special board meeting of December 3, 2001. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Masciandaro voting against it. Mr. Masciandaro said that the board received a packet with the January 14th meeting and asked why they were not on the agenda. Dr. Coale responded by saying the minutes from the prior month are sent to the board for their review before they are put on the agenda to give board members time to review and correct the minutes if there is a problem. Mr. Masciandaro mentioned that these minutes were from two weeks ago. Dr. Coale responded by saying that it could be changed and to ask Mr. Weber.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Items A-P. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

A. The individual(s) listed below have completed three years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee(s) and are, therefore, entitled to tenure status. The Public School Code requires that a record of this accomplishment be incorporated in the Minutes of this Board of School Directors. Board approved the execution and presenting of a professional employee contract to:

Kristen Morrow Dina Preston Learning Support Elementary

- B. The Board approved the acceptance of the resignation, with regret, of **Tina Engelbart**, Instructional Asst. at the Middle School, effective January 18, 2002. Ms. Engelbart will be furthering her education.
- C. The board approved the acceptance of the resignation, with regret, of **Holly Bradley**, Instructional Asst. at the Intermediate School, effective December 19, 2001. Ms. Bradley will be relocating.
- D. The board approved of **Charlene Lapp**, Special Education Teacher at Brooke Elementary School, for a medical/sabbatical leave of absence beginning January 15, 2002 until the end of the 2001/2002 school year.
- E. The board approved the following **maternity/childrearing leaves**:
 - 1. **Mary Burkholder**, 3rd grade teacher at Brooke Elementary School, for an extension to her maternity/childrearing leave for the remainder of the 2001/2002 school year. Ms. Burkholder is currently on maternity/childrearing leave.
 - 2. **Katie Davis**, Learning Support Teacher at the High School, beginning tentatively March 13, 2002 for the remainder of 2001/2002 school year.
 - 3. **Megan Miller**, Learning Support Teacher at Royersford Elementary School, beginning tentatively March 8, 2002 for the balance of 2001/2002 school year.
 - 4. **Lyndia Puleo**, 7th grade English teacher at the Middle School, beginning tentatively March 1, 2002. Ms. Puleo's expected dated of delivery is March 14, 2002.
- F. The board approved of **Stacy Hull**, Lansdale, PA, as a **Temporary Professional Employee**, for the new Learning Support Position at Royersford Elementary School. Ms. Hull is a graduate of Bloomsburg University with certification in Mentally & Physically Handicapped. Compensation will be set at \$32,668, BS, Step, 1, prorated with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 29, 2002, pending updated clearances.
- G. The board approved of **Kelly A. Meyer**, Downingtown, PA, as a **Long Term Substitute** for the Math position at the Senior High School replacing Stephanie Wuertz who is on maternity/childrearing leave. Ms. Meyer is a graduate of Ursinus College with certification in Mathematics. Compensation will be set at \$32,668, BS, Step, 1, prorated with benefits, effective January 2, 2002.
- H. The board approved of **Matthew Von Minden**, as a **Long-Term Substitute** for the Elementary position teaching Grade 3 at Brooke
 Elementary School replacing Mary Burkholder who is on an extended maternity/childrearing leave. Mr. Von Minden was previously approved as a long-term substitute through the 1st semester in the same position.

- I. The board approved the following **support staff**:
 - 1. **Diane Fisher-Campbell**, Royersford, PA, as a special education Instructional Assistant at Limerick Elementary School replacing Donna Jarvis who transferred to another assignment in the building. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus \$.25 an hour for a degree, for a total of \$12.25 an hour, plus benefits as per the assistants' plan, effective January 2, 2002.
 - 2. **Patricia Moore,** Linfield, PA, as a special education Instructional Assistant at the Intermediate School replacing Susan Martin who transferred to another building. Ms. Moore is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus benefits as per the assistants' plan, effective January 10, 2002.
 - 3. **Patricia Carfagno**, Limerick, PA, as a special education Instructional Assistant at the Middle School replacing Pam Nicolella who resigned. Ms. Carfagno is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus \$.25 an hour for a degree, for a total of \$12.25 an hour, plus benefits as per the assistants' plan, effective January 15, 2002.
 - 4. Regina Gerhard, Spring City, PA, as a one-to-one Instructional Assistant at the Middle School as designated by the student's IEP. Ms. Gerhard is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus benefits as per the assistants' plan, effective January 15, 2002.
- J. The board approved a new position for a one-on-one instructional assistant at Brooke Elementary School as designated by the student's IEP to begin on January 2, 2002. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus .25 an hour for a degree, per the assistants plan. Funding source is the special education contingency fund recently allocated to the district.
- K. The board approved a new position for a one-on-one instructional assistant at Oaks Elementary School as designated in the 504 Service Agreement Plan to being December 12, 2001. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus .25 an hour for a degree, per the assistants plan. Funding source is the general fund.
- L. The board approved a new position for a one-on-one instructional assistant at Oaks Elementary School as designated by the student's IEP to begin as of January 23, 2002. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus .25 an hour for a degree, per the assistants plan. Funding source is the special education contingency fund recently allocated to the district.

- M. The board approved a new position for a one-on-one instructional assistant at Spring City Elementary School as designated by the student's IEP. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus .25 an hour for a degree, per the assistants plan. Funding source is the special education contingency fund recently allocated to the district.
- N. The board approved a new position as a classroom instructional assistant at Limerick Elementary School due to an increase in the number of students in the Learning Support Classroom. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, plus .25 an hour for a degree, per the assistants plan. Funding source is general fund.
- O. The board approved the following **independent contracts:**
 - Peter Catalanotto, Doylestown, PA, to present an "Author's Assemblies" to be held at Oaks Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$1400 and will be in effect on May 21, 2002. Funding will be from the Oaks PTA.
 - 2. **Sharon Cichocki of Yellow Dyno**, Collegeville, PA, to present a puppet show for kindergarten students to be held at Spring City Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$270 and will be in effect on February 22, 2002. Funding will be from the Spring City PTA.
 - 3. Great Valley Nature Center, Devault, PA, to present "Winter Wonders" assemblies for Kindergarten students to be held at the Royersford Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$158 and will be in effect on February 26, 2002. Funding will be from the Royersford PTA Program Funds.
 - 4. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy**, Schwenksville, PA, to present "Winter Secrets" program for kindergarten students to be held at Oaks Elementary School. The total cost will be \$75 per presentation for 5 assemblies not exceed \$375 and will be in effect on January 25 until February 11, 2002. Funding will be from the Oaks PTA.
 - 5. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy**, Schwenksville, PA, to present "Winter Secrets" program for kindergarten students to be held at Brooke Elementary School. The total cost will be \$75.00 per presentation for 8 assemblies not exceed \$600 and will be in effect on February 1 until February 8, 2002. Funding will be from the Brooke Home and School Association.
 - 6. **Buxmont Academy**, Pipersville, PA, to provide special education services for a student located at the Community Service Foundation in Upper Providence. The cost of the program is \$97 per day for a period of 28 days for a total cost of \$2716. Funding will be provided from district budget for

Alternative Education Programs. This service is retroactive to January 7, 2002.

- 7. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit**, Doylestown, PA, to provide Central Auditory Processing Evaluations for 2 special education students. The total cost will not exceed \$600. Funding will be provided from district budget.
- 8. **Invo-Health Care Associates**, Doylestown, PA, to provide a speech clinician for 103 days, 7 ½ hours per day, at \$54 per hour for a total cost of \$41,715. This contract will replace Wendy Pflugler who is on professional development leave for the second half of the 2001/2002 school year.
- 9. Pro-Action Team, Kennett Square, PA, to provide a Pro-Action Team Motivation Program to the students at the Middle School concerning violence and substance abuse. The program includes 2 assemblies and one evening family program. The total cost will not exceed \$1700 and will be in effect on through February 21, 2002. Funding will be from the Middle School Home and School League.
- P. The board approved the following **substitutes**:

Tina Engelbart Instructional/Clerical Assistant

Boyertown, PA Playground Assistant

Mark Eardlev Custodian

Royersford, PA

FINANCE

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A. Mrs. Stokes seconded the motion. It was approved 7-2 with Mr. Grispon and Mr. Weber voting against it.

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:

1/. Check List

Check No. 83483-83598	\$594,307.19
Check No. 83599-83987	\$1,966,195.38
Check No. 83988-84293	\$1,398,227.23

2/. Check List Held for Board Approval

Check No. 84294-84464 \$120,364.32

3/. Addison Welsey/Scott Foresman

Check No. 84465 \$38.34

4/. Athletic Fund

 Check No. 293337-293436
 \$25,528.47

 Check No. 293437-293537
 \$12,624.99

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items B-G. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

B. The board approved of the following exonerations from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

Limerick Township	No. 17
Royersford Borough	No. 19-22
Spring City Borough	No. 7-12
Upper Providence Township	No. 51

C. The board approved of the following additions/deletions from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

No. 1-698
No. 1-91
No. 1-151
No. 1-40
No. 1-49
No. 1-77
No. 1-470

D. The board approved of the Cafeteria Listing of Bills:

Checks #3888-3917 \$123,809.34

E. The board approved the following Treasurers' Reports:

General Fund – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Treasurer's Report – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Money Market – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Nataturium Fund – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Payroll Account – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Series A 2001 – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
G.O.B. of 1999 – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Athletic Fund – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Investment Schedule – December 31, 2001
Note of 2000 – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
Capital Reserve Fund – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
General Obligation Bonds Series 1994/97 -- November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
General Fund – Tax Account – November 30, 2001/December 31, 2001
General Fund – Investment Schedule – November 30, 2001

Cafeteria M/M Account – December 31, 2001 Cafeteria Checking Account – December 31, 2001

F. The board approved following reports:

Cafeteria Savings Schedule
Cafeteria Investment Schedule
Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement
Cafeteria Participation Report
Cafeteria Manager's Meeting Reports
Cafeteria List of Bills
Use of Facilities Report
Revenue Budget Report

G. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of <u>JANUARY</u>, in connection with the NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – 1994/1997 G.O.B.:

Schoor DePalma	Professional Services/Fields	\$ <u>3,133.13</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 3,133.13

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item H. Mrs. Stokes seconded the item. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting against it.

H. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **JANUARY**, in connection with the **G.O.B. SERIES OF 1999:**

1. LIMERICK ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS

Anchor Fire Protection	Applic. #15- Fire Protection	\$ 593.75
Anchor Fire Protection	Applic. #16- Fire Protection	\$ 2,098.08
Acton Mobile Industries	Modular Building Rental	\$ 90.00
Architectural Studio	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 7,595.00
Builders Equipment	Misc. Bldg. Supplies	\$ 81.27
Denney Electric Supply	Misc. Electric Supplies	\$ 175.84
Mario D'Orsaneo	Stainless Steel Sink Divider	\$ 105.00
D D C Publishing Co.	Books - Library (3 Invoices)	\$ 224.60
John Dibattista	Labor-Dismantle Ramps & Misc.	\$ 1,525.00
Ferguson Enterprises	Misc. Plumbing Supplies	\$ 79.50
Follett Library	(326) Library Books	\$ 4,339.60
K&A Environmental	Asbestos Removal (Floor Tile)	\$ 6,308.40
Kurtz Brothers	(1)Pro-Rite Dry Erase Board	\$ 256.13
Dave Kuterbach	Remove Block/Move Trailers	\$ 300.00
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$ 246.25
Nasco	2 Ingento Paper Cutters/Art	\$ 503.45
Officenter	5 Teacher Desks	\$ 3,346.95
Prizers Inc.	1 Electric Start Snowblower	\$ 1,760.09
Riley Sales Inc.	Misc. Supplies/Art Room	\$ 188.34
SMJ Contracting, Inc.	Applic. #18-General Contractor	\$ 86,066.20
Stalwart, Inc.	Applic. #16- HVAC	\$ 23,243.66
Stalwart, Inc.	Applic. #17- HVAC	\$ 6,325.10

	Star Audio Visual Torrisi Electric, Inc. Torrisi Electric, Inc. Troxell Communications Waco *Mario D'Orsaneo *Flex-Y-Plan *Recreation Resource *SMJ Constracting	6 Da-Lite Screens, 1 Electrol Applic. #17-Electrical Applic. #18-Electrical 5 VCR VHS Recorder/Players Filters/New Addition Install 4" Pip/Generator Exhaust Furniture/Receptionist Area Playground Equipment Applic. #19-General Contractor TOTAL	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	2,472.10 40,095.09 2,115.55 904.60 1,661.68 1,008.00 2,124.30 10,575.00 212,431.60 418,840.13
2.	NEW HIGH SCHOOL Video Marketing	1 Pana. 25" TV/VCR Combo TOTAL	<u>\$</u> \$	316.00 316.00
3.	OAKS ELEMENTARY R	ENOVATIONS		
	Bohrer-Reagan Co. Follett Library Resource Fox Rothschild O'Brien Dave Kuterbach	Applic. #17- HVAC (275) Library Books/Data Disk Professional Services Labor/Equip. Dig out Kdg.	\$ \$ \$	51,751.88 3,584.52 60.00 1,260.00
	Martell Construction Co. Martell Construction Co. Officenter Perkiomen Valley P&H Pro Video Quaker Construction Star Audio Visual Thoma, Inc. Troxell Communications *Recreation Resource	Playground Area Applic. #18- Electrical Applic. #19- Electrical FreestandingDisplay Etagere Applic. #11- Plumbing 4 Stereo Monitor/Receivers Applic. #18- General Contractor 1 Da-lite Electrol/Key Operated 2 Oak Benches -Lobby 3 VHS Videoplayer/Recorders Playground Equipment TOTAL	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$	10,052.05 22,435.61 6,130.30 3,629.00 1,352.00 100,000.00 2,149.11 2,695.00 542.76 10,575.00 216,217.23
4.	BECHTEL PROPERTY - A. D. Moyer Lumber John DiBattista John DiBattista Dave Kuterbach Dave Kuterbach Dave Kuterbach Pottstown Burial Vault Glenwood Metal LLC J&L Building Materials Peter Lumber Company Sanatoga Blacktop Fox Rothschild O'Brien Karl & Associates	Misc. Supplies (Salt Bldg) Construction Services " " Install Boards/Interior " " Pour Footers " " Bore Holes " " Install&Level 2A Stone " " Concrete " " Misc. Bldg. Supplies " " Misc. Bldg. Supplies " " Stone & Blacktop 2 Inv. " Professional Services (7 Inv.)	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	1,524.99 1,450.00 2,425.00 180.00 375.00 700.00 147.00 1,496.24 275.24 943.22 315.90 2,170.00 180.00

^{*}REPRESENTS NEW BUSINESS

K&A Environmental	Asbestos Removal-2 Garages	\$	725.00	
Montg. Cty Sewer Auth.	Sewer Connection Applic.	\$	172,144.00	
R.M. Shoemaker Co.	Applic. #1- General Contractor	\$	834,300.00	
Upper Providence Twp.	Escrow Agreement	\$3	,405,130.85	
Upper Providence Twp.	Grading Permit	\$	25.00	
Upper Providence Twp.	Connection Fee-Public Sewers	\$	130,000.00	
	TOTAL	\$4	,554,507.44	
K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL				
Fox Pothophild O'Prion	Professional Services (5 Inv.)	Φ	6 001 90	

5.

Fox Rothschild O'Brien	Professional Services (5 Inv.)	\$ 6,901.80
R.M. Shoemaker Co.	Applic. #1- General Contractor	\$ 408,182.00
U.S. Engineering Lab.	Field Inspection/Soil Testing	\$ 1,890.00
	TOTAL	\$ 416,973.80

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items FM. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

I. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of JANUARY in connection with the CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT-**Fund 22:**

Concession	Stand/Storage	Project
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Conscion Claria, Clara,	<u> 10 : 10 00 t</u>	
Berks Products	Concrete/Winter Concrete Chg.	\$ 2,354.00
Berks Products	Roof Truss Package	\$ 3,995.28
Gary Britcher Masonry	Install Found. Block-Below Gr.	\$ 4,590.00
Gary Britcher Masonry	Install Block-Above Finish Floor	\$ 15,855.00
Builders Equipment Misc.	Bldg. Supplies	\$ 164.32
John DiBattista	Install Snowguards/Roof	\$ 360.00
Ferguson Enterprises	Misc. Plumbing Supplies 5 Inv.	\$ 1,847.95
J&L Building Materials	Misc. Building Supplies	\$ 532.40
Dave Kuterbach	Pour/Finish Concrete Slab	\$ 1,990.00
Dave Kuterbach	Grade Stone-Garage/Concess.	
	Areas	\$ 1,087.50
Martin Stone Quarries	Stone –Floor	\$ 431.87
Martin Limestone Inc.	Block & Misc. Items 4 Inv.	\$ 2,265.34
Peter Lumber Company	Misc. Bldg. Supplies	\$ 291.01
	TOTAL	\$ 35,764.67

J. The board approved of the purchase of DeepFreeze Professional from Faronics Technologies USA Inc., San Ramon, CA at a cost of \$8640. DeepFreeze is a program, which prevents unauthorized software alteration of a computer's hard drive. Rebooting a DeepFreeze protected computer returns it to its original state. It will be installed on all student computers to reduce the long-term software maintenance time costs. The purchase will come from the Technology Fund and is within budget for such purchases.

^{*}REPRESENTS NEW BUSINESS

- K. The board approved the purchase of 5 SMART Boards and 3 additional video projectors through Visual Sound in Broomall, PA at a cost of approximately \$35,200. This equipment will be used in Brooke, Royersford, Middle School, Intermediate School and the District Office. The purchase will come from the Technology Fund and is within budget for such purchases.
- L. The board approved the addition of a second T1 line to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for the purpose of Internet access. The existing T1 line frequently operates at saturation resulting very slow access or no access to student and adult users. The second T1 line will double our capacity. The cost of the T1 line will include approximately \$3,500 equipment and installation costs, \$2000 annual Internet Service Provider fee (pro-rated for the time used through June 2002), and a monthly recurring charge for the line itself of \$464 (or less). The charges will come from the Technology Fund and are within budget for such purchases.
- M. The board approved the new published IRS mileage rate of .365 for business miles driven. The old rate was .345. This new IRS rate will be effective February 1, 2002.

PROPERTY

Mrs. Block asked to separate Item E. Mr. Grispon asked to separate Item D. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-C. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The board approved a credit of unused unit costs included in base bid for a total deduction of **-\$5,982.28** for Limerick Elementary School Project (B & S Sheet Metal and P-1).
- B. The board approved a credit of unused unit costs included in base bid for a total deduction of **-\$15,192.00** for Limerick Elementary School Project (Torrisi Electric Inc. and E-1).
- C. The board approved Change Order FP-1 to add sprinkler heads and piping to both the new walk-in freezer and refrigerator and cafeteria area in Limerick Elementary School per L & I requests for a total add of \$1,271.00.

Mr. Schroeder asked if there was a cost associated with having the specifications prepared for Item D. Mr. Cooper said that there would be some costs associated with putting this item out for bid, in the neighborhood of \$4,000. Mr. Masciandaro asked whether each item in the bid would be separately priced so that the board is not faced with the prospect of either accepting or rejecting the whole thing. Mr. Weber said that he was under the impression that it would be itemized and he asked Mr. Cooper. Mr. Cooper said yes, the bid is based on a per field or combined bid, whichever way the board wanted to go. The only time there

would be a fee is when the fee is absorbed into the bid. It is broken down by either one field at a time or all the fields at once, he added. The bid can be held for two years, Mr. Cooper said. The only thing that would have to be changed is the prevailing wage and we could get that from the state, Mr. Cooper said. Mr. Grispon asked if we are bidding this item separately and together. Mr. Weber said it was bid per field and (unintelligible). Mr. Grispon said that was his understanding and Mr. Cooper confirmed that was true. Mr. Pettit said that it was just said that the breakdown would be to five fields. He asked if there would be a further breakdown within each of those fields. Mr. Cooper said such a bid would be hard to provide and if it were possible, it would be more costly. We can break it down as in the Middle School and its retaining wall, he said. Mr. Pettit said that he was not so concerned about fine tuning it as finding out how we arrived at what cost per field. Mr. Cooper said the engineer could provide how much it would cost per yard, sod costs, etc. We could get those costs ahead of time, he added. We have a rough figure now, he said. Mr. Pettit said that Mr. Cooper said that the cost of the estimate would be absorbed by the quote and asked if that would be true if we only approved one of the five fields only. No, said Mr. Cooper it would be divided up. Mr. Schroeder asked if anybody cared if there was a price associated with that. Mr. Schroeder suggested putting a cap on the costs. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Cooper if there was an estimate as to what it would cost. Approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000 said Mr. Cooper, Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item D. Mr. Schroeder seconded the motion. It was approved 5-4 with Mr. Masciandaro, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Weber, and Mr. Grispon voting against it.

D. The board approved inviting three architects (including El Associates) within the next 10 days to tour the Middle School, to complete a site assessment, and to develop options on the conceptual plans reflecting a one-grade and a two-grade school. This presentation, including an estimated cost analysis, will be made at the March work session.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion for an amendment to Item E to add a spending cap of no more than \$6,000. Mr. Masciandaro seconded the motion. Mr. Weber called for public comment. There was none. Mr. Weber called for further questions from the board. There was none. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve the item as amended. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. The board voted 8-1 to approve the item as amended with Mrs. Block voting against it.

E. The board approved having specifications prepared and go out to bid for the 5 Year Plan for Athletic Fields.

IX. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CODE:580 Account: Conference/Training, Registration, Food, and Accommodations

Mrs. Stokes asked to separate Item A. Mrs. Stokes said that she read an article in the newspaper that a school district in Bucks County was sending a board representative to the conference for \$1,200. Mr. Weber asked whether the cost included hotel registration, mileage, and flight costs. Mrs. Stokes guipped whether we could double up and save money. (Laughter) Dr. Coale said that in terms of hotel registration, flight, mileage, and cost of the conference itself that it was correct since her secretary reviewed it in depth. Mr. Grispon said the NSPA sent four copies of brochures and the costs are in the brochure. Mrs. Block asked whether the airfare discount of 10% or 5% was being taken, depending on booking date. Dr. Coale said that Mr. Schroeder and Mrs. Chrisman had been working very hard on finalizing arrangements and she wasn't sure if the final cost reflected the discount. She added that the district booked it as soon as Mr. Schroeder said he was going. Mr. Schroeder said that we passed the 10% deadline and that he thought we were within the 5% deadline. He said that he wanted to book the flights before the end of December but was awaiting board approval. Subsequent to that, the flight that he anticipated taking had gone up from \$361 to \$840 and he has backed off and would take flights with multiple stops to get a less expensive fare. Dr. Coale said that Mr. Schroeder was correct and that Mrs. Chrisman has been working very hard on this and that the price jump was the result of things that happened after September 11th. Mr. Masciandaro said that this is a significant investment and a good idea and that he would like to see board representatives bring back a report. Mr. Schroeder said that when he went a number of years ago that he brought back a report and many initiatives including Compass Learning, which is now a district-wide elementary school program. Mr. Weber said that in the past, board representatives have brought back reports. Dr. Coale said that representatives in the past have given the superintendent five inches of catalogs to review in addition to reports. Mrs. Block said that her plan was to take a portable dictation unit and bring it back for the administration secretaries to transcribe. She also offered that both she and Mr. Schroeder would pick up information that other board members request. Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Richard J. Schroeder**, Board Member, and **Martha Magee Block**, Board Member, to attend the "62nd Annual National School Board Association Conference" in New Orleans, Louisiana from April 5, 2002 through April 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$5,200.00 from the 580 account.
 - Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items B-Z. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- B. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend *"Annual Federal Programs Conference"* at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA from April 21, 2002 through April 24, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$999.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **Timothy C. Anspach**, Business Manager, to attend "Commonwealth Budget Seminar" at Penn State Great Valley in Malvern, PA on February 20, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$95.00 from the 580 account.
- D. **Timothy C. Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "Introducing the New Accounting Manual" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 18, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$160.00 from the 580 account.
- E. **Gary L. Spohn**, Director of Technology, and **Warren Gardocki**, Field Technician, to attend "Deploying Microsoft Windows XP Professional" in Exton, PA on February 22, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$209.00 from the 580 account.
- F. **Gary L. Spohn**, Director of Technology, and **Warren Gardocki**, Field Technician, to attend "Experience Microsoft XP Pro Hands-ON Lab" in Conshohocken, PA on February 27, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$169.00 from the 580 account.
- G. **Dr. Leticia M. Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to "PASBO 47th Annual Conference" in Hershey, PA on March 14, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$352.00 from the 580 account.
- H. **Dr. Leticia M. Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "PASPA Conference" at the Harrisburg Marriott in Harrisburg, PA from February 26, 2002 through March 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$736.00 from the 580 account.
- I. **Bruce W. Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend "PA Rural Water" at Penn State Conference Center in State College, PA from March 25, 2002 through March 27, 2002. The total cost of the conference is 487.00 from the 580 account.

- J. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend *"Fund Account II: Understanding Unusual Transactions"* at the Days Inn in Allentown, PA on April 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$100.00 from the 580 account.
- K. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend *"Financial Implications of Charter, Cyber and Other Educational Programs on School Entities"* at the Days Inn in Allentown, PA on May 22, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$100.00 from the 580 account.
- L. **Dr. James D. Leiderman**, Principal of Brooke Elementary, to attend the "National Association of Elementary School Principals 2002 National Convention" in San Antonio, Texas from April 5, 2002 through April 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$1,600.00 from the 580 account.
- M. William Marion, Principal of Spring-Ford Intermediate School, and Robert Brownback, Principal of Spring-Ford Middle School, to attend "Principals' Technology Leadership Academy" at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA on February 13, 2002 and at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Norristown, PA on April 8, 15, 22 and 23, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$633.00 from the 580 account.
- N. **Dr. James D. Leiderman**, Principal of Brooke Elementary, to attend "*Principals*" *Technology Leadership Academy*" at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA on February 13, 2002 and at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Norristown, PA on March 25, 26 and 28 and April 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$328.00 from the 580 account.
- O. **Mark Moyer**, Principal of Oaks Elementary, to attend "Principals' Technology Leadership Academy" at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA on February 13, 2002 and at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Norristown, PA on April 10, 17, 25 and May 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$328.00 from the 580 account.
- P. **Robert Cywinski**, Senior Field Technician, to attend "Definity ECS R9 Installation and Maintenance," in Altamonte Spring, FL on March 11-15, 2002 to maintain our PBX and to partner the district with Avaya technicians. The total cost of the conference is \$4,570 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

Q. **James Brotzman,** Science Teacher, to represent the District as a member of the "Science /Technology Assessment/Advisory Committee" in Camp Hill, PA and attend four meetings as scheduled on January 10 -12, February 7- 9, and June and July, 2002, with dates to be determined. The cost of attending these meetings will be paid by PDE.

R. **Jeanne Ferry**, School Nurse, to attend "*PA Assoc. of School Nurses Annual Education Conference*" at Penn State, State College, PA on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 15, 16, and 17, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$933.00 - \$788 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- S. Melinda Klunk, Joseph A. Miscavage, Kory Parsia, and Kristin Rouyer, Middle School Teachers, to attend "SAP Add-on Training" at the M.C.I.U. in Norristown, PA on April 30, May 1, May 8, May 9, 2002. The total cost of the training is \$1,200.00 and will be paid through the Safe Schools Initiative Grant. A substitute will be needed for each teacher for each day for a total cost of \$2,320.00.
- T. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian at the Middle School, to attend "*PA School Librarians Conference*" in Hershey, PA on April 19 and 20, 2002. Mrs. Kardick has been invited to do a presentation at the conference. The total cost of the conference is \$647.00 \$502 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- U. Megan Seip, Middle School, Brenda Haydt and Kristen Morrow, Intermediate School, Jo-Ann Messer, Brooke, Beverly Miller, Limerick, and Nina Lee, Royersford, Teachers, to attend "PASA Training." This training is mandated for teachers with special needs classes. The training will take place on Thursday, March 7, 2002 at the M.C.I.U in Norristown, PA. There is no cost for the training. Total cost including substitutes will be \$810.00 \$60.00 from the 580 account and \$750.00 from the substitute account.
- V. **Michele Poruban**, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School, to attend "*Children's Records Law in PA*"in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, January 30, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$224.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- W. **Barry Shafer**, Teacher and Coordinator of Athletics as the Middle School, to attend, "*PA State Athletic Directors Conference*" at the Hershey Lodge, in Hershey, PA on March 19 23, 2002. Total cost is \$1,155.00 \$655.00 from the Athletic Budget and \$500.00 from the substitute account.
- X. Lucille F. Candeloro, Ed.D., District Staff Development Coordinator, to attend, "PA Dept. of Education Reading Advisory Committee"" in Harrisburg, PA on Feb. 28 and March 1, 2002 and May 13 and 14, 2002. PDE will reimburse participants for all expenses. There is no cost to the District. No substitute is needed.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Y. Laura Humphry, Teacher, to attend "PA Tourette Syndrome Assn. Private Program Training", in Gettysburg, PA on Thursday, February 28, 2002. Total cost of the training is \$202.00 - \$77.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

- Z. **Patricia Moore**, Instructional Assistant at the Intermediate School to attend PA. Tourette Syndrome Association Private Program Training, Gettysburg, PA on February 28, 2002. The total cost of the conference will be \$35.
 - Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items AA-BB. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

ELEMENTARY

- AA. **Stephanie Rittenhouse**, Teacher at Oaks Elem., to attend "*Effective Framework for Maximizing Reading and Writing Achievement*", in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, February 6, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$304.00 \$179.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- BB. **Dana Day,** Teacher at Spring City Elem., to attend "Inclusion How to Make it Work" at the Valley Forge Hilton, in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$320.00 \$195 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

Mr. Grispon gave his PSBA report, which follows:

The Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee met on January 16th. Our guest was State Senator Allyson Schwartz who represents the 4th Senatorial District. In addition to her other committee assignments Senator Schwartz is the Democratic chair of the Senate Education Committee and a member of the State Board of Education.

Senator Schwartz first commented on the issue of public education funding and equity in funding. She indicated that she felt more dollars are needed to fund public education and the inequities of funding need attention. The Senator said support for public education needs to be different. Discussion and debates are needed on levels of funding, how to raise the money and how to appropriately allocate the funds. Within those discussions the state's level of funding and the issue of property taxes must be addressed.

Legislative Update

HB 206 (Stairs-Westmoreland)

Amends the Public School Code to require that school entities use standard purchasing and bidding procedures when purchasing materials and supplies for school clubs, organizations, and groups (competitive bidding for purchases of \$10,000 or more, telephonic price quotes for purchases of \$4,000 to \$9,999).

An additional provision of <u>HB 206</u> adds Sections 751, 751.1 and 1715-B of the School Code to the list of provisions that may not be waived under the mandate waiver portion of the Education Empowerment Act. (The sections deal with construction and renovation bidding requirements including the requirement for separate prime contracts.)

<u>HB 206</u> has passed the House (183-13) and been referred to the Senate Education committee.

HB 593 (Egolf-Cumberland) √ **HB 593 (Egolf-Cumberland)**

Provides that no school district will be required to pay for the education of an expelled student during the period of expulsion unless the student's parents can prove that they lack the financial resources to do so. The bill requires every school board to enact a policy governing the readmission of expelled students and establishes provisions governing the transfer of expelled students from both public and nonpublic schools.

The bill passed the House (150-46) and has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

V HB 1098 (McNaughton-Dauphin)

Amends the Section 1327.1 of the Public School Code to require school districts to permit home schoolers to participate in extracurricular activities.

HB 1098 has been referred to the House Education Committee

State Board of Education

Last week the State Board of Education held its regularly scheduled meeting. The Board received draft academic standards for World Languages and Career Education and Work. The draft standards will be published and will begin moving through the regulatory review process. The Board also approved performance level scores for the PSSA writing assessment (grades 6, 9 and 11.) Eleventh graders will take the test in February; sixth and ninth graders will not take the assessment until the fall. The performance levels are:

Grade 6:	Advanced	=	1521 and above
	Proficient	=	1280-1520
	Basic	=	1116-1279
	Below Basic	=	1115 or less
Grade 9:	Advanced	=	1582 and above
	Proficient	=	1284-1581
	Basic	=	1135-1283
	Below Basic	=	1134 or less
Grade 11:	Advanced	=	1563 and above
	Proficient	=	1236-1562
	Basic	=	1088-1235
	Below Basic	=	1087 or less

The Board also approved a statement calling for more equitable methods of funding public schools with less reliance on real estate taxes.

The State Board's Council of Basic Education agreed to look into issues related to the PSSA and the use of "seals" on graduation diplomas. The issue was raised by Senator Rhoades (R-Schuylkill) who indicated that many school districts are concerned about the seals that are to be utilized beginning with the 2002-2003 school year. (end of Mr. Grispon's report)

Mr. Schroeder said that he had a conversation with local and state representatives this past week regarding House Bill 206 and it was brought to his attention that this bill had moved through the House without going through the committee and is before the education committee of the senate without a lot of ado. Large contractors have lobbied politicians to delete these items from 751 of the school code, said Mr. Schroeder. I think it would be in our best interest as a school district to pass a resolution supporting defeat of 206 and maintaining the ability to apply for mandate waivers. We can say that it meets the criteria because it saves taxpayers dollars to provide more dollars for educational activities within the school district. Just securing the single prime through the flex school may save us \$1 million to \$2 1/2 million. The side benefit is we should have an uninterrupted project that meets all timelines. It's in our best interest and other school districts to pass a resolution and ask others to join. Mr. Grispon recommended having it as an action item on the February work session since time is of the essence. He offered to have a resolution prepared. Mr. Schroeder agreed.

Mr. Schroeder also suggested communicating with state representatives in Harrisburg regarding the retirement fund. He added that his committee said a level funding mechanism should be looked into to avoid a situation like this one where we had a 4½% increase, which was for \$600,000, which we didn't anticipate. Mr. Weber directed the administration to draw up a resolution for the February work session agenda.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schroeder asked to have Item A separated. Mr. Grispon asked to separate Item C.

Mr. Pettit asked why graduation day could not be specified for this coming year. Dr. Coale said that historically graduation day is on the last day of school. The last day of school is not known until April when the calendar has been reconciled with snow days. Dr. Coale acknowledged that the question has come up before from the community as to whether we could have an established graduation date, such as Friday evening. Mr. Pettit mentioned that families often have family members flying in from out of town and making arrangements in April presents difficulty. Mrs. Block said that she would concur and that in the last two years, the board moved the

graduation date because the district did not use two snow days. She added that student representative Nate Carter had a problem last year because when the board changed the date, his family had made flight reservations that they couldn't change without incurring huge expense. I think we should have a set policy and not change that date once it is advertised, Mrs. Block said. Mr. Pettit said our prior school district had a set date for graduation. The solicitor said it was fine with him, however the district could suffer a reimbursement issue, which could lead to criticism. I have seen many boards do this and suffer the financial penalty if students did not meet the 180 day requirement. Historically, we revise the calendar in April and the board establishes the graduation date then, said Dr. Coale. She indicated that some parents, not many, but parents have indicated that for relatives who live in other states, that it is too difficult for them and they need to know at least one month earlier. That has been an issue for many years, she added. Mr. Weber questioned whether 75 days was enough. Dr. Coale said fewer than ten parents have expressed that to her. Mr. Nugent said a handful of parents make this statement that they wish there was a set date. Mr. Masciandaro asked what was this year's graduation date. Friday, June 13th, tentatively with three snow days built in, said Dr. Coale. Mr. Pettit asked whether three snow days built in meant that there was three extra days included. Mr. Masciandaro asked about 2002-03. So the agenda item we have now would make Friday, June 13th the tentative date, said Mr. Masciandaro. Dr. Coale said that was correct, if we use all three snow days, that would be a firm date. If we use fewer, the high school administration has always desired that the last day that students are in attendance at school be the day of their graduation. Mr. Masciandaro said that he thought that it was better to be tentative with snow days built in for next year. What is the date this year? He asked. Mr. Grispon asked what the dollar amount would be if the district lost reimbursement by moving up the date and missing three days or more of school. Dr. Coale said that this year, the last day of school with three snow days built in was Thursday, June 13th. If we don't use the snow days, Mr. Fabel would move the date back to Monday. If we use one, he would move it back to Tuesday. Dr. Coale asked Mr. Anspach, if we had 181 days in the calendar and lost one day and we were to lose one day, we would not lose reimbursement, is that correct? Yes, said Mr. Anspach. If we have 180 days and met that and lost no days, there would be no reimbursement lost, is that correct, she said. If we went 179 days for the seniors, reimbursement would be for seniors only, is that correct, Dr. Coale asked. Correct, said Mr. Anspach, for transportation and basic ESBE. Mr. Masciandaro asked for the date that would make Dr. Coale most comfortable. She responded by saying it's been rare to have snow days in April. She said that it would be a good risk to move the decision back to the March board meeting, where we revise the calendar and approved the last day. This year, if we're off by one day, we still have that 181st day in there so we would not have a deduction. Instead of deciding

in April, let's try it in March, said Dr. Coale. Dr. Coale asked Mr. Nugent whether that would be enough time for parents. Mr. Nugent said that another month earlier would be better although a lot of other factors are considered. One issue is that the high school can not place the date on graduation announcements because they have already been ordered. It just says June 2002. Most people want a date on it, he added. Dr. Coale asked him if we knew the final date was on a Thursday, would you be opposed to having graduation on Friday evening? We have rehearsals, that shouldn't be a problem, Mr. Nugent replied. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 5-4 with Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Schroeder, and Mr. Weber voting against it. Mr. Grispon commented, let's get together on the school calendar. That's for kids.

A. The board approved the **Student School Calendar** for the 2002-2003 school year.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

B. The board approved the receipt of notification that materials for PlanCon F, Intermediate School, alterations. Project accounting based on final costs have been reviewed and approved by Carla Dixon Erb, Chief Division of School Facilities, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education.

Mr. Schroeder said that Item C as presented is not the best plan available. I ask the board to consider rejecting it at this time. As I said last week, there are other plans available. Somebody asked me to state one, I did with specific numbers. There are other plans out there that do not leave people out of the process. Doesn't matter who they are.

Mr. Pettit said this issue had been discussed since early May, long before I was on the board. It seemed they developed a committee process, inviting all members of the community and the board to partake in this process, a very tedious one. People from all areas of Spring-Ford were invited to attend and that committee came up, after a lot of work, analyzed aspects of the issue, without any apparent political motivation, and came with what they thought was the best plan to assure fair representation of each of the areas. That being the case, I think by a negative vote, we're rejecting that committee process. My position is that we should favor as probably the fairest plan available that has already been considered by the committee.

Mr. Masciandaro said I was sitting on the board when the board decided to create this committee. I was happy to serve on this committee. I remember people out there reading in the newspaper that this was Mrs.

Stokes's committee and somebody else's committee – not the board committee. I feel very uncomfortable having served on a committee that this board decided to put together and then had discussions that it is not a board committee. Secondly, I don't feel that we got input from the board even when it was asked for during the process. I'd like to ask the board whether this is the normal way we operate because this is the only time that I've seen us operate that way. Other committees I've served on, the committee is chosen by the board to do the work of the board and maybe everyone doesn't agree with it, but I'd like to ask the board whether my experience would be repeated on other committees. If so, that's not the kind of thing I'd like to be serving on.

Mr. Weber said, I asked Mrs. Stokes to serve as chair of this committee to research it, etc. It is our committee. By the way, I think she did a nice job getting people together and getting information that we needed. The point is, the facts are there. Nobody objected. That's how the process started and we're not at this point. No other committee that we have, except maybe the ad hoc committee, had a separate committee doing this. Does that answer your question.

Mr. Masciandaro said, it sort of does. Committees and the work of committees aren't just when there are people on it who are for that particular item. I think there was ample opportunity for everyone on this board, either who were for this plan or against it, to sit on that committee and try to work out the best plan which we could form some consensus. That didn't happen. And I hope we can get by this and start making that kind of a thing happen because the best way to come up with a consensus plan is when you have multiple opinions out there and you work it out and you come up with the best plan for the community.

Mr. Cummins said that in his opinion, Mr. Masciandaro is speaking for me when he says this board. This board in its present make-up did not vote to form this committee.

Mr. Grispon said that he wanted to clarify something. This is a non-educational issue. Most other committees deal with educational issues.

Mrs. Stokes said there have been allegations in the newspaper that this was a conspiracy. To me the word conspiracy implies an unlawful act. I brought up this issue based on numbers. The census numbers were released in April. We were talking about the composition of the board in May. It seemed like the opportune time because this issue had not been addressed since 1966. The population of Limerick doubled in the last ten years. The people of Limerick are underrepresented. I represent the people of Limerick, I would like to see them have fair and equal representation. This plan was not meant to disenfranchise a community. It

was not meant to target any board member. The allegations are false. I don't know why we can't stick to the issue instead of making this a personal attack. I am very disappointed with several board members. I think we need to vote on this and get it out of the way.

Mr. Grispon said I got to commend the committee of Mrs. Stokes and the rest of the committee. They actually followed the advice of an Italian philosopher who said sometimes you can conceal a fact with words. Do it in such as way that it does not become known. If it does become known, then you have a ready and quick defense. I look at this plan, how it affects Royersford. That will get you elected in Upper Providence Township. I oppose this plan for three reasons: it's bad public policy. 1) there's a chance there will be no representation from Royersford and Spring City. 2) there's a chance there could be six representatives from one township. 3) there's no law requiring this board to do this at this time. Morally and ethically, my recommendation is to place this plan on hold until the Spring-Ford Area School Board Directors has nine duly elected school directors.

Mr. Cummins said when this was first brought up, I questioned it that day. Why here. Why now. Ever since then, I've been saying the same thing. Questioning, questioning, questioning. There were certain revelations made last week that if there were ever enough circumstantial evidence that lead up to this is there. I remember something that Wendy Rothstein repeatedly said over and over again at a certain time. I'm going to quote her. Honest people admit their mistakes. Dishonest people cover up premeditated wrong doing.

Mrs. Block said that I am opposed to this plan for two reasons. The first to reiterate one brought up by Mr. Grispon is that it does have the potential however unlikely some people think it is that six members of a nine-person board could be represented from one township. I think that that is too lopsided. The other problem that I have with it is that the plan that has been proposed puts about 10,000 people in Region 1, which is Limerick Township, which would then have Limerick Township slightly over represented over regions 2 and 3. Moreover, it takes voting district 4 and also Mingo 1 and carves that out of those two regions, decreasing the pool of people from which potential board members can come. I would like to address Mr. Masciandaro's question, there is the perfect precedent to this committee and the fact that people who were not appointed to the committee, or who decided not to serve on the committee, is the fact that you do get input from them. Mr. Cummins, Mr. Grispon, Mr. Schroeder, and I experienced the exact same thing when we went through the possible redistricting of children at the elementary schools. At the time, I was appointed as chairperson of that committee, we looked at as many plans as we could, we certainly met for more than two meetings and that was just to redistrict children in our elementary schools and only until we

had a new elementary school on line. It was not as far reaching a decision as this one, which affects the voting rights of every single voter in this school district. At the 11th hour, suddenly this board was presented with something that was totally different that had never been discussed by the committee. And I can tell you having chaired that committee, that other than the people who participated on that committee, no other board members came to me with suggestions. So please don't think that your committee experienced anything any different than another special committee.

Mr. Schroeder said that he had said from Day 1, that this board should make sure that whatever plan it is going to put forth is the strongest, fairest possible plan out there and is defendable in a court of law and will not be susceptible to challenges that may arise. I presented a plan last week and I will go over it again. It has lots of options. The plan I presented showed Region 1 with 11,128 as the population. Region 2 with 13,534 as the population and Region 3 with 11,812 as their population. This plan is very comparable population-wise. What it can potentially avoid is one region, for instance Brooke, if moved into Region 3 their 2661 residents would not have any significant impact in the process of electing board members because they're in such a minority. On the flip side, the Upper Providence contingent from Mingo 1 with 2521 individuals, it was stated, are they sure that the current members in Region 3 would be adequately represented. You had comments from the public from both concerns stating will they be represented. Now, there's a way when you deal with this that you can break this down by election districts and only have three entities at play within a region. There are internal aspects of that particular region to assure that those people may have a representative from that region sitting on this board. My plan with the cooperation of the local political leadership in either township, could assure that a resident from those subdivisions could be a nominee for a seat on this board. It would be better to table it as Mr. Quigley suggested earlier this evening. There are a lot of plans out there that would make a lot of residents feel a lot more comfort level.

Mr. Rocchio said that having served on the committee, it's a little frustrating because I've heard several times now the assertion that we only met for two meetings. Unfortunately, in hindsight it probably wasn't good for me to serve on the committee knowing that I might run for the board. I can tell you after serving on the committee, it was difficult because Mrs. Stokes made an attempt to reach out to people who had a vested interest in the issue and she was turned down. Beyond that, we did have two public meetings, of which five or six residents showed up at the most. While I agree with Mrs. Block that I would like to have more meetings if warranted. I remember the redistricting issue, the only difference was we had 150 parents in the room screaming down our

throats. That wasn't the case in this instance, the committee made the decision after a couple of meetings because it reached a fairly good consensus as to what we should do or not do based on the information presented. Honestly, I would have loved to have heard some of the other opposing vantage points on other optional plans rather than sitting here tonight and now I'm trying to weight the merits of plans that I still haven't seen outlines on. It's a little frustrating in that regard but it's possible that we have to go through it. I certainly would have wished that you would have come out two months ago because I really would have liked to have dug into those options to see whether they're viable or not. It's unfortunate but we're not going to get that chance now because this will have to be voted on either up or down.

Mr. Masciandaro asked Mr. Schroeder, the plan that you're talking about, rather than taking Mingo 1 from Region 1 to Region 3 and Limerick 4 to Region 4 from Region 3, it would put Mingo 2 from Region 1 to Region 3, is that correct?

Mr. Schroeder said, that is a possible variation.

Mr. Masciandaro asked, would you support that plan?

Mr. Schroeder said, I would like the entire board to study any alternative to this. There are other plans out there. I think there are others that would serve the district better.

Mr. Weber asked, would you support that plan?

Mr. Schroeder said, that's one I can support. I said there was the political leadership aspect to put assurances in different scenarios to make sure everybody is represented.

Mr. Weber asked if those things were to take place, you would support that plan, is that correct?

Mr. Schroeder said if those things took place.

Mr. Masciandaro said you would support that plan if the political leadership struck deals to bring forth candidates from those three entities and if that could be done, then you would support that plan.

Mr. Schroeder said there's ways that you can share representation. There's a lot of plans out there that could be suited better to the community than this one.

Mr. Pettit said that he wanted to note, number one that there's been more than adequate time to present other plans. The second thing is the assumption that somebody elected who is not specifically living within the borough would not adequately represent them, I think is a false assumption. We treat all the kids, that's the main basis for sitting on this board to worry about our children's education, that is district-wide.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item C. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. **The board voted not to approve the motion by 5-4** with Mrs. Block, Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Grispon, and Mr. Weber voting no.

C. The board **voted down** the **Board Seat Allocation Plan**.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion that the board direct the president to activate the ad hoc committee to continue study of the board allocation plan. Mrs. Block seconded the motion. (Mr. Weber had offered to do it without a motion but gave Mr. Schroeder the option to proceed with the motion, which he did.)

Mr. Weber suggested putting a cap on the motion, including legal fees, or whatever. Mr. Schroeder said that no legal fees are to be incurred, no costs other than the cost of advertising. The solicitor said in regard to legal fees, you've spent all that you're going to spend. You got all of your questions answered. You're going to have to authorize somebody to prepare the petition. With all due respect, I think it is probably a moot point.

Mrs. Block said the only reason why I said that I don't think we need to spend any more on attorney fees at this point is because we have already obtained the information from the solicitor's office. I think that the ad hoc committee would need to consult with the solicitor's office until the board approves a particular plan. The only costs that I can imagine the ad hoc committee incurring would be the cost of advertising meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Weber invited public comment.

Mary DeAngelis, Limerick

How do residents become involved in the board allocation committee? Will Mrs. Stokes continue as the chairperson of the committee?

Mr. Weber said that ad hoc committee is already set. It is a public meeting, you may come and state your questions or statements. Mrs. Stokes is not the chair of that committee. We already have a preestablished chair for that committee.

Mark Dehnart, Limerick

There aren't that many possibilities. There's only a handful. I don't understand what further study is going to yield. The meeting a couple of weeks ago, there was discussion of all the plans and it doesn't seem like it's that complicated. It's a matter of the board talking about going forward with a petition, if they do, which plan are they going to pick. It's not rocket science.

Mr. Weber said that according to Mr. Schroeder there could be at least two or three plans that could be available.

Mr. Dehnart said, so we're up to about five plans then.

Mr. Weber said, that's right.

Mr. Dehnart said, if there are two more plans, bring them out, talk about them, and make a decision.

Mr. Weber said, that's what we plan to do. The committee will do it. They'll make a recommendation to the board and they will make a recommendation to the board.

Mr. Dehnart asked, what is the timeframe?

Mr. Weber said, we didn't set one. We could set one if the board would like. My guess would be three months maximum.

Mr. Rocchio asked who is on the ad hoc committee? (end of tape)

Robin Pascale, Upper Providence

You were talking about spending money for advertisement and I know you have to do that for people who don't have children in school. For those of us who do have children in the schools, I still think that some communication should go out with the children because we take everything out of the bookbag every night that's how we find out what's happening in the schools. Everyone in our development, Country Ridge, I'm editor of the newsletter, there's 89 homes and I've been keeping them informed about what's going on, otherwise they don't know anything about this. I spoke to people at church who live in Limerick and they don't know anything about this and they have children in school now. They don't all read *The Pottstown Mercury*, which has been giving pretty lousy coverage to this because of these personal things going on. I couldn't come last week. So I searched *The Pottstown Mercury*, *The Spring-Ford Reporter* on the internet, and it didn't say much about this issue in the papers. I

think you should communicate more with the parents who have children in school.

Mr. Weber said we will think about putting it on our website and through the PTA and our newsletter. No guarantee, we'll think about those things.

Mr. Rocchio said that he thought the board allocation plan was already on the website. Mr. Weber called for questions from the board. There were none. The motion has been moved and seconded, he said.

Mr. Grispon suggested that Mr. Weber find out who is going to serve on the ad hoc committee. Mr. Weber asked Mr. Masciandaro whether he would serve. Mr. Masciandaro said that he would have to think about it. Mrs. Block said that she wanted to withdraw her second and that Mr. Schroeder withdraw his motion so that there be a mandate stating that if Mr. Masciandaro feels that he can not serve, then the next senior person, Mr. Pettit, would serve as a representative from Upper Providence and also the committee will come back with a report and recommendation no later than the May work session. Mr. Schroeder said that Mr. Weber had the discretion to appoint another person to serve and that he would not withdraw his motion. Mrs. Block said that her second still stands. Mrs. Stokes asked that the motion be repeated. Mr. Schroeder said that the board direct the president to activate the ad hoc committee to continue to study the board seat allocation plan. The board voted on the motion and approved it 7-2 with Mr. Grispon and Mr. Cummins voting against it.

Mrs. Block made a motion that this committee complete a study and recommendation no later than the May work session. Mr. Grispon said that there was difficulty with time. There's another meeting that I have in a month. I don't do that to you. If you want to do that to me, go ahead, he said. Mrs. Block said that the members of the board who served on this committee and who were in favor of the plan, did have a point. It's not like this is a new issue, it's been out here since May, she said. Mr. Grispon said you can't put a time limit on it. Mr. Cummins said that some people didn't think that enough time was spent on it. Mr. Weber asked about how much time would be needed. First we have to decide what it is we want to do, said Mr. Grispon. I have two board members who might disagree with everything we try to do, he added. Mrs. Block agreed to withdraw her motion. I will probably bring up a motion at next month's meeting to revisit this issue of putting some kind of definite deadline on the committee's work, she added. I am willing to withdraw my motion now and I'll let it rest for a month until the ad hoc committee can meet and get a better handle on this.

Mr. Cummins asked if a cap would be put on the facilities committee. Mr. Schroeder said that he thought it would be a good idea if the ad hoc

committee gave us some kind of timeline to give us an idea of where you are going. Obviously, you're going to have to advertise meetings.

Mrs. Stokes said to keep in mind that any group from the community can come up with a plan to petition the court so I don't know if this committee wants to wait too long. Mr. Cummins said if somebody from the community can come up with 562 bona fide registered voters and have the money to take it to the court before May, God bless 'em.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Schroeder said that the board didn't discuss any of the policies last week due to the lateness of the hour and he asked if Mr. Weber would allow discussion. Mr. Weber said since they weren't up for vote, they could be discussed.

Mr. Masciandaro referred to Policy #006, page 6 of 8, section 9, minutes, when you have stuff bolded, that means a change, correct, he asked Mr. Grispon. That's correct said Mr. Grispon. Be careful, this all mirrors the Sunshine Law, he added. Mr. Masciandaro, said that he wasn't trying to change anything here and that we have a policy that looks very similar without the bolded stuff. What I want to point out is it's pretty surprising to see what policy we have in effect for our minutes and our minutes go well beyond this. In here it says, the board secretary shall supply each board member with a copy of the minutes of the last meeting prior to the next meeting and minutes shall be approved and we're taking a lot of administrative work to come up with minutes. By the way, see what happened to the last couple of minutes before wordsmithing it and saying that's not exactly what was said and people were arguing. All this is time spent that is not mandated either by law or policy. I question why are we doing it and is that the will of the board to continue to be somewhere between being verbatim minutes and what our policy says.

Mr. Cummins said that as long as he's been coming it's been a natural thing that if things were left out of the minutes that any board member could request that the verbatim part be put in. Is that a problem all of a sudden?

Mr. Weber said that as far as he knew no, the minutes should be a summary of what happened. It doesn't have to be verbatim. Mr. Cummins said it doesn't have to be, but it can be if it is requested. If that's the board's desire, said Mr. Weber. Mr. Grispon said that do we as a board want to be responsible for what we say up here. Individually, not as a board. Do you want to be responsible for what you say.

Mr. Masciandaro said these minutes should have nothing to do with being responsible for what you say. Everything you say, you should be

responsible for. The question here is what do you want to record. What does this board desire to have as a recording of our meetings.

Mr. Pettit said that he agreed with Mr. Masciandaro as far as the minutes are concerned. I think we should go beyond this. It may not be the time and place to bring this up. Is there any reason in the world why these board meetings are not videotaped? If you're talking about being responsible not only for what you say, but the way you say it, will be recorded and I think it should be.

Mr. Schroeder said, if the meetings were videotaped, I wouldn't have a concern how the minutes were presented. But I do. I remember as a member of the public, I always felt it was important when I stated something for the record before the board on an issue, a lot of times I stated a reason. If those reasons aren't associated with the minutes specific to what I said, somebody may not have the opportunity to reflect on what I said. I think that's important as a board member who gets a packet of minutes after we deliberated on the pros and cons of an issue and taking into consideration the public who speaks, if you don't have what they said very specific and a reason for why they say such, it's hard to really place any value on that comment either opposed or not opposed to a particular subject. Videotaping would take that all out of the question.

Mr. Pettit said that was going to be my comment that would be a benefit of videotaping and addressing it to the public on public television. Mr. Rocchio said sign me up, Mr. Weber. Mr. Weber said, if that is the board's desire, it's their desire. Mr. Grispon said that that was supposed to go to the technology committee. That issue is the third item on technology, Mr. Masciandaro said. We discussed that six or eight months ago and there were some issues around timing and so forth and local capabilities and we're going to revisit it. Is that for February, asked Mr. Grispon. I'll wait, he added. Mr. Masciandaro said there was a paragraph that was added and it said, notations and any tape shall not be the official public record, where did that paragraph come from? That came from the PSBA, said Mr. Grispon. The solicitor said it certainly was not in the Sunshine Law. It is inferred, the Sunshine Law says you must take minutes. If you put statements like that in our official policy, said Mr. Masciandaro, whether we have a tape or video, that is not the official record, therefore there is no obligation of that recording to survive for a particular time. Do we want to start taking verbatim minutes and make that the official record like a court of law or do we have what we have here in the policy or something in between, said Mr. Masciandaro. This is about consistency and if we don't have at least five or more who vote positive for things like this, things like this get misused. Sometimes it's okay to have more and sometimes it's not okay to have more, depending on your particular opinion on this issue. I'd rather have it be clear about where we'll be on this.

Mr. Grispon said that he didn't want to beat a dead horse but that we're back on individual responsibility. We want to be responsible for what we say. If it doesn't make the minutes when we say something, do we want it hidden, is that what you're saying? Mr. Masciandaro said that I want something that we can all agree to and then stick to. This came from PSBA, why didn't the policy committee choose to put this paragraph in. It sounds like we don't want to be forced to have verbatim minutes. Mr. Grispon said it had to do with the Sunshine Law and you can't change it. What is the intent asked Mr. Masciandaro. Mrs. Block said when we reviewed each of these policies, we looked very carefully at the PSBA recommendations. I asked for this from having served on a number of different boards. I've seen solicitors who want close to court reporter transcripts and I've seen solicitors who want absolutely bare minimum and they want tapes erased as soon as the minutes are approved and everything in between. My personal preference is do the minutes in accordance to the Sunshine Act, keep them short, and I'm in favor of videotaping and I don't know if PCTV is going to play an entire four hour meeting. I agree it is a matter of consistency, which is why I voted against the November 19th meeting because statements I made were accurately reflected verbatim but there are other places in the minutes where I recall members making statements that didn't appear at all. I've gone to committee meetings where I've gotten minutes, things that were discussed weren't on the agenda or the minutes and my attendance wasn't put in the minutes. The substance of my statements weren't recorded. Let's be consistent. My vote is for the pared down version.

Mr. Schroeder said with respect to the taping, I think it is valuable to have a recorded version of the meeting. Maybe this policy can reflect some kind of timeline that the tape should be inventoried for future review, maybe a year. Mr. Weber asked if we keep the tapes. Dr. Coale said we keep the tapes for a period of time and then re-use them. It would be my recommendation to the board to clarify 1) how the minutes are to be completed 2) define the regular meeting, is that different from work session. I know Mrs. Dillon spent 30 hours last week on the minutes. I would hope that the board members would agree about the committee minutes. We have had difficulty with the tapes and are getting better equipment. Our standard for keeping psychological evaluations has been once the psychologist has written the report and it has been approved, we then destroy all protocols. The board should discuss if you want to keep the tapes, how long you want to keep them. I have ordered Sunshine Books and I will be sending them out this Friday. I think we need clarification and agreement from all nine board members – that will help the administration and Mrs. Dillon.

Mr. Schroeder said that the board needed the solicitor's opinion regarding the timeframe to keep the tapes. Mr. Grispon said the board voted to tape the meetings and keep the tapes for six months. This new policy could supersede that action so we need further interpretation from the solicitor, said Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Weber said our previous board voted to keep the tapes six months and I believe our opinion was to keep them on a summary basis. Mr. Pettit said the most valuable aspect of videotaping would be to present it to the public and televise it so they can see what's happening with their school board. I don't have a problem with that it's being reviewed now, said Mr. Weber. Mrs. Stokes said regarding that same policy, #006, page 8, the last paragraph, there is a word missing. It says board members who are not committee members but who attend committee meetings, may not vote on committee recommendations. (A discussion ensued.) Policy #005, page 3 of 4, under committees, section 6, a) committees shall consist of no more than three members and b) committees shall not include a majority of the membership of the board. We've discussed before that that does seem to be redundant. I would suggest that we eliminate a). Mr. Weber asked how the policy committee feels about that. Mrs. Block said that we agreed to delete that. That isn't the way that we intended to present this, we agreed to no more than three. Right, said Mr. Grispon. Mrs. Stokes said that in the past, we had some committees work with four and four works. On i), the president may create and appoint members on ad hoc committees with specific duties and assigned a fixed termination date which may be extended by the president. I assume we're talking about a committee like the board seat allocation committee. Does this mean that the board president can appoint a committee like this or does the entire board vote on this? This was an issue over the summer. Mr. Weber said my understanding is that the board president appoints the committee. What if the committee is going to spend legal fees? asked Mr. Grispon. Legal fees should be approved by the board, said Mr. Weber. That was my contention all along, said Mr. Grispon. What you're saying is the board president should not have the right to spend money and that is correct, said Mr. Weber. Any committee is going to spend money, you're going to spend money to advertise, to meet somewhere, said Mrs. Stokes. When we had the facilities committee, we spent money on copying costs. I just want to know, can the board president appoint a committee without having the entire board vote on it. Clearly the policy, said the solicitor, indicates the board president will appoint committees. The difference with the other committee was it wasn't a board committee. It was a committee of board members and public. which I don't think is covered here. In terms of what the policy says, it normally is a presidential call. It doesn't have to be, said the solicitor. Maybe we should address committees that have the public on them, said Mrs. Stokes. Maybe the policy committee can review this. It is already covered, said Mr. Grispon. We have our standing committees approved by the board, we can put that in there if you like, said Mr. Grispon. We

specifically state it in the committee, so it will be in the policy so new board members will know that these are our committees, said Mr. Grispon. The policy committee will take a look at it, said Mr. Weber.

Mr. Masciandaro said our policy in force (section 6) seems to indicate that the board should be voting on committees of school directors when specifically charged by the board to conduct studies, make recommendations for the board and act in an advisory capacity but shall not take action.

Mr. Schroeder asked about Policy #005 as to who would appoint the committees and how the chair would be decided. Mrs. Block said the committee agreed let the board vote on it. The issue was limited to letting the president continue appointing members to the committee, but the question would be who would appoint the chair: the president or committee members. Mr. Schroeder said that the board should consider it this month and have an agenda item for the work session. At this point, take this off the agenda as a reading. Actually, according to Mr. Davis, you can add anything to it. The solicitor said as long as it wasn't material. I don't view that as being terribly material. That wouldn't require a first and second reading again, said the solicitor. Mrs. Block said that this issue has come up three times, why can't we discuss it now. It's not an action item tonight, said Mr. Weber. Mr. Cummins asked what happens if the president appoints a three-member committee and no one wants to be chairing. Does it go back to the president to appoint somebody? Mrs. Block said you and I did discuss this. I guess it does go back to the president, she said. Mr. Weber recommended taking it back to the policy committee. We will be discussing this forever until the board takes a vote, said Mr. Grispon. We'll put this as an information item on the work session and vote on it at the board meeting, he added. Mrs. Stokes asked about the board committee minutes. What was the thought having the committee chairperson take the minutes? Mr. Grispon said the committee chairperson is responsible, the person doesn't have to do them. The way these are designed, it's real easy to do, he added. Just follow up your agenda, said Mr. Weber. It's going to the board agenda, it's held for discussion, it might be not recommended, three or four things there, said Mr. Grispon. If somebody wants additional information, they can call the committee chairman. Mrs. Block said that the policy committee discussed that the chairperson of the committee could ask someone to take notes or call the superintendent's office and dictate them.

- A. The following policy was submitted as a first reading this evening:
 - 1. Policy #005 Local Board Procedures: Organization
 - 2. Policy #005.1 Local Board Procedures: Board Committee Agenda and Minutes
 - 3. Policy #006 Local Board Procedures Meetings
 - 4. Policy #815 Acceptable Use of Electronic Communications

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item A, Personnel. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL

A. The Board approved of **Kimberly A. Wilkins**, Limerick, PA as an **Instructional Assistant** for the new instructional assistant position in the learning support class at Limerick Elementary School. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 per hour, pro-rated plus benefits as per the assistant's plan, effective January 22, 2002.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item A, Finance. Mr. Schroeder made a motion to table the item. Mrs. Block seconded it. Mr. Schroeder said it should be referred to Finance for a quick review. I had several questions about it and they should be raised with Mr. Anspach. **The Board voted to table the item by 8-1** with Mrs. Stokes voting against it.

FINANCE

A. The Board tabled the 2000/2001 Single Audit Report from the independent auditors of Hutchinson, Gorman & Freeh. There was no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in internal control as a result of the audit of the general purpose financial statements, Federal Programs, and National School Lunch programs.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that his firm received correspondence indicating that we prevailed on Commonwealth Court having the school district dismissed as a defendant in the multi-prime suite brought by contractors indicating that the district didn't have the right to apply for a mandate waiver to use one prime contractors and multi prime contractors. It did not mention the matter pending in the lower court. As far as Spring-Ford is concerned, the case is done.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Reece, Upper Providence

Said you folks considering videotaping of the meetings, this was a major discussion at the strategic planning committee several years ago. There was major concern and opposition because it would be a grave deterrent to public comment that parents, taxpayers, and students would feel less apt to come up to the microphone if a camera was rolling. I think this format that you use is a deterrent in itself. People would feel more comfortable even if they used a microphone at their seat. I believe we

spent 90 hours on this document that there was major reservations about videotaping and having it on PCTV.

Mr. Weber asked, do you feel more comfortable sitting at your seat with a microphone rather than standing?

Mrs. Reece said, yes I would and I think a lot of people would be more apt to speak their mind if they didn't have to walk up here (to the lectern).

Mrs. Block asked what if the camera only trained at the board table where you could hear someone's public comment, but you couldn't see them?

Mrs. Reece said that she feels that there would still be some reservation to being taped.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pettit made a second. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Masciandaro Board Secretary

Pat Dillon Recording Clerk