

On January 28, 2008 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: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
- Region II:
- Region III: Mark P. Dehnert, John S. Grispon, and Robert A. Weber
- Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams
- Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
- Business Manager: Tim Anspach
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Rep.: Michael J. Masciandaro

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

I. PRESENTATION

Dr. Hurda presented the Keystone Achievement Awards to the Principals of the 8 buildings that achieved adequate yearly progress for two consecutive years, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Dr. Hurda stated that the Keystone Achievement Award is given to those Pennsylvania public schools who have demonstrated sustained academic progress as measured in part by a school's performance on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment.

A. Presentation of Keystone Achievement Awards to the following schools:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Brooke Elementary | Spring City Elementary |
| Limerick Elementary | Upper Providence Elementary |
| Oaks Elementary | Spring-Ford 9 th Grade Center |
| Royersford Elementary | Spring-Ford 10-12 Grade Center |

Dr. Hurda presented the Board Members with a certificate honoring them for their service on the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of School Directors. Dr. Hurda said school board members are ordinary people who have shown extraordinary dedication to our public schools. Dr. Hurda announced that January has been designated as School Board Recognition Month and this is a perfect opportunity for us to thank them for their untiring efforts.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 for a brief time for everyone to enjoy some cake in honor of our School Board. The meeting reconvened at 7:47.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Joseph Ciresi, Limerick Township, commented Item IV Personnel Letter B saying he would like to thank those who are retiring for their years of service and everything they have done for the district. Mr. Ciresi said there are some wonderful teachers and administrators will be retiring and have given a lot of their time so it will be difficult to fill some of these positions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-D and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved the November 26, 2007 board meeting minutes.
- B. The Board approved the December 3, 2007 board reorganization meeting minutes.
- C. The Board approved the December 3, 2007 board meeting minutes.
- D. The Board approved the December 11, 2007 special board meeting minutes.

IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A-L and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Anspach asked Dr. Hurda to announce the number of years of service for the retiring staff members. Dr. Hurda stated that we have some of the finest teachers and wonderful administrators in the district who have announced their resignations. She stated when we counted up the years of experience it is over six hundred years of experience that we will lose with the retirement of these individuals. Dr. Hurda said from her perspective you cannot replace people who have put in thirty years or more in the district as their knowledge and insight is far beyond that of any new employee we would hire. Dr. Hurda announced it is with great sadness that we accept their resignation and with great excitement for the next part of their life.

The motion passed 7-0.

Julie Mullin arrived at 7:50

A. Resignations:

1. **Janice M. Antal**, High School; Chemistry Teacher, effective February 8, 2008.

2. **Willard Cromley**, Spring City Elementary School; Principal, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last day of employment, June 30, 2008.
 3. **C. David Keyser**, District, Maintenance; for the purpose of retirement, effective January 2, 2008.
 4. **William Marion**, 5/6th Grade Center; Principal, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last day of employment, June 30, 2008.
 5. **Richard Harrison**, 9th Grade Baseball Coach, effective January 3, 2008.
 6. **Michael S. Siuchta**, High School; Instructional Assistant, effective January 10, 2008.
- B. Resignations, for the purpose of Retirement**, effective with the last teacher day, tentatively June 17, 2008:
1. **Lellus Blazic**, Limerick Elementary School; Speech & Language Therapist
 2. **Janet Brownback**, 7th Grade Center; Family & Consumer Science Teacher
 3. **Annette Burns**, 7th Grade Center; Art Teacher
 4. **Melinda Gebert**, 5/6th Grade Center; Math/Science Teacher
 5. **Jeanne Haring**, Oaks Elementary School; Librarian
 6. **Caroline Hitchcock**, Royersford Elementary School; Elementary Teacher
 7. **Margaret Hoinowski**, 9th Grade Center; English Teacher
 8. **Sherry Holler**, Limerick Elementary School; Librarian
 9. **Nancy Kodish**, Brooke Elementary School; Physical Education Teacher
 10. **Karen Kreider**, High School; Social Studies Teacher
 11. **Martin Moore Jr.**, 9th Grade Center; Social Studies Teacher
 12. **Mary Morgan**, 8th Grade Center; Family & Consumer Science Teacher
 13. **David Nicol**, High School; Music Teacher
 14. **Bruce Roberts**, 5/6th Grade Center; Music Teacher
 15. **Judith Wambold**, High School; French Teacher
 16. **Barbara Wenzel**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary Teacher
 17. **Stanley Wysochanski**, 9th Grade Center; English Teacher
 18. **James Young**, 9th Grade Center; Secondary Guidance Counselor
- C. Leaves of Absence:**
1. **Erik B. Ammon**, Brooke Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 9, 2008.
 2. **Kimberly Green**, 9th Grade Center; English Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective December 7, 2007.

3. **Victoria L. Karalius**, High School; Spanish Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 2, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
4. **Heather M. Kiser**, Oaks Elementary School; Music Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively March 25, 2008.
5. **Michele L. Konnick**, High School; English Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively March 25, 2008.
6. **Kathryn Kruemmling**, 7th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively April 1, 2008.
7. **Kristin Landis**, Upper Providence Elementary School; 3rd Grade Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively March 16, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
8. **Linda Lawhorne**, Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective December 5, 2007.
9. **Debra Liney**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective December 3, 2007.
10. **Alane Rey**, 5/6th Grade Center; Math/Science Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively April 21, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
11. **Bevin A. Seislove**, 5/6th Grade Center; Music Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively April 11, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
12. **Stacy Shiffer**, 8th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective tentatively February 22, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
13. **Meghan Fallon Timmes**, 8th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective tentatively February 22, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

New Leaves of Absence:

14. **Diane E. Campbell**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 2, 2008.

15. **Sharon Tobin**, District Office; Secretary, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 15, 2008.

D. Long Term Substitute Employees:

1. **JoAnna D'Orazio**, 7th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective tentatively January 22, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
2. **Patricia Flynn**, 9th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, compensation will be set at \$40,500, MS, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective December 13, 2007 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
3. **Janell M. Hoffecker**, 9th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective January 2, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
4. **Michael S. Siuchta**, High School; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,500, BS + 18, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective January 11, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

New Long Term Substitute Employees:

5. **Sharon Campbell-Drozd**, Spring City Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective January 29, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
6. **Kristin Schlichter**, Evans Elementary School; 4th Grade Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective tentatively January 29, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
7. **Joseph J. Schroeder**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective tentatively February 2, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

E. Support Staff:

1. **Arlette Donoghue**, High School; 3-hour Food Service Employee, compensation will be set at \$13.05 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 29, 2008.
2. **Annette Freed**, 5/6th Grade Center; 3-hour Food Service Employee, compensation will be set at \$13.05 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective January 29, 2008.

3. **Kathleen Lampmann**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Library Assistant, compensation will be set at \$13.56 per hour with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective January 29, 2008.

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Aimee Cantello**, Asst. Musicale Director, \$362
2. **Kevin Czpor**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Winter, \$612
3. **Joshua DeLano**, Asst. Lacrosse Coach-Boys, \$3600
4. **Joanne DeMeno**, Academic Decathlon Team Co-Head Advisor, \$927
5. **Kevin Donnelly**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Winter, \$612
6. **Leah Leneweaver**, Asst. Swimming Coach, ½ position, \$2340
7. **Lauren Palcko**, Asst. Cheerleading Coach, Fall, \$2250
8. **Lauren Palcko**, Asst. Cheerleading Coach, Winter, \$2250
9. **Chadwick Strickler**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Spring, \$612

New Extra-Curricular Contract: High School

10. **Krisnoel Jennings**, Theater Orchestra Director, \$996

G. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

1. **Gerald Hollingworth**, Scoreboard Operator-Girls' Basketball, \$30/hr.
2. **Gerald Hollingworth**, Scoreboard Operator-Boys' Basketball, \$30/hr.
3. **Maria Kardick**, Computer Lab-2nd semester (1/4 contract), \$331.75
4. **Christopher Okonski**, Computer Lab- 2nd semester (1/4 contract), \$331.75
5. **Darryl Perecko**, Athletic Event Supervisor- Winter, MS, \$1,065
6. **Chadwick Strickler**, 8/9th Grade Asst. Wrestling Coach, \$3900

H. Extra-Curricular Contract: 7th Grade Center

1. **Marilyn Erb**, Computer Lab- 2nd semester (1/2 contract), \$641

I. Extra-Curricular Contract: Elementary Schools

1. **Monica Johner**, Oaks, Science Coordinator, \$996

J. Playground Assistants: Supplemental Contracts

1. **Kim DelRomano**, Oaks Elementary School, \$10.60 per hour
2. **Nancy Allen**, 5/6th Grade Center, \$10.60 per hour
3. **Patricia Costello-Falcone**, 5/6th Grade Center, \$10.60 per hour
4. **Denise Perri**, 5/6th Grade Center, \$10.60 per hour
5. **Patricia Shanaman**, 5/6th Grade Center, \$10.60 per hour
6. **Maggie Walsh**, 5/6th Grade Center, \$10.60 per hour

K. Professional Staff Substitutes:

1. **Deena M. Alexander** Special Education
2. **Molly Beaver** Elementary Education

- 3. **Tabitha Benoit** Elementary Education
- 4. **Mary Lou Faitoute** Art
- 5. **Abby Frain** Elementary Education
- 6. **Danielle Guie** Elementary Education
- 7. **Neal Kenzakowski** Elementary Education
Mid-Level Mathematics
- 8. **Melinda Leffel** Elementary Education
Mid-Level Mathematics
- 9. **Andrea Sandberg** Elementary Education

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- 10. **Robert Cushman** Biology
- 11. **Alisha Dotinger** Elementary Education
- 12. **Claudia Eckel** Art
- 13. **Kathy Fehr** Elementary Education
- 14. **Laurie Fennimore** English
- 15. **Susan Holder** Social Studies
- 16. **Marta O'Brien** Elementary Education
- 17. **Karen Shafer** Elementary Education

L. Support Staff Substitutes:

- 1. **Rita Brownholtz** Support
- 2. **Arlette Donoghue** Support
- 3. **Amanda Elliott** Support
- 4. **Annette Freed** Support
- 5. **Amy Futchko** Support
- 6. **Deborah Gardocki** School Nurse
- 7. **Kathleen Marte** Support

V. FINANCE

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

Mr. Grispon asked that Item D1 be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

1. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December

Cannon Sports	Physical Education Equip/Supp	\$	330.30
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	368.48
Scholastic Library	Library Books	\$	598.00

January

BSN/Passon's	Physical Education Equipment	\$	3,480.20
Zeswitz Music	Music Instruments (2 Inv.)	\$	<u>4,486.78</u>
	TOTAL	\$	9,263.76

2. **BROOKE ELEMENTARY**

January

Worth & Company	Applic. #13- HVAC Contractor	\$ 27,776.50
	TOTAL	\$ 27,776.50

3. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

WATERPROOFING PROJECT -8th GRADE CENTER

December

Arthur Altemose, AIA	Professional Services	\$ 1,080.00
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January

Arthur Altemose, AIA	Professional Services	\$ 1,080.00
SMJ Contracting Co.	Applic. #2- General Contractor	\$ 115,544.25
	TOTAL	\$ 117,704.25

GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELDS - HS

December

John DiBattista	Fascia, Soffit, Siding on Girls Dugouts	\$ 1,685.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,685.00

PATHWAYS-HS

December

U.P.S. Store	Drawings	\$ 28.80
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January

KMS Design Group	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 3,139.85
	TOTAL	\$ 3,168.65

RESTROOMS-HS

December

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 544.00
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January

Barber's Septic Serv	Maintenance/Waterless Restrm	\$ 400.00
Romtec, Inc.	Complete Waterless Vault Restrooms (2 Inv.)	\$ 108,632.96
*Barber's Septic Serv	Maintenance/Waterless Restrm	\$ 600.00
	TOTAL	\$ 110,176.96

HS-FIELDS HOCKEY/LACROSSE

December

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 153.00
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January

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 425.00
	TOTAL	\$ 578.00

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – BROOKE & SPRING CITY

January

Lehigh Valley Eng.	Consulting Engineering Service (2 Inv.)	\$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 40,000.00

4. <u>OTHER</u>			
<u>January</u>			
United States Treas.	Yield Reduction Pmt. of 2003	\$	<u>1,868.33</u>
	TOTAL	\$	1,868.33

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

1. <u>Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation</u>			
<u>December</u>			
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,496.00
<u>January</u>			
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	<u>2,720.60</u>
	TOTAL	\$	4,216.60

2. <u>Pole Barn Project – Maintenance & Operations Bldg.</u>			
<u>December</u>			
Peter Lumber Co.	(2) Doors	\$	545.00
<u>January</u>			
John DiBattista	Remove/Install Doors	\$	<u>1,400.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	1,945.00

3. <u>Oaks Elementary Boiler Project</u>			
<u>December</u>			
Crest Environmental	Professional Services	\$	565.00
<u>January</u>			
O.R. Denton	Professional Services	\$	<u>3,375.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	3,940.00

4. <u>New District Office</u>			
<u>December</u>			
Foreman Architects	Professional Services	\$	14,700.34
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,293.12
Print-O-Stat, Inc.	Prints for Bidding	\$	33.81
U. Providence Twp.	Professional Services	\$	2,205.00
<u>January</u>			
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	94.00
J&L Building Supply	Misc Supplies/Roof Repair	\$	86.01
*UPS Store	Drawings (Re-bid)	\$	<u>357.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	18,769.28

C. The Board approved 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.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item D1 and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Grispon abstaining under Section 1111 of the School Code in conjunction with 3J of the Ethics Code.

D. Checks:

1.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
	<u>November</u>	
	Check No. 120313 – 120458	\$ 673,269.33
	<u>December</u>	
	Check No. 120459 – 120956	\$1,732,206.96
	<u>January</u>	
	Check No. 120957 – 121220	\$1,737,651.31

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items D2 –O and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
	Check No. 121221	\$ 145.00
	Check No. 121429 – 121498	\$ 668,522.95
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
	Check No. 121222 - 121427	\$ 501,497.72
4.	<u>Scott Foresman Checks</u>	
	Check No. 121428	\$ 806.81
5.	<u>Athletic Fund</u>	
	<u>November</u>	
	Check No. 299937 – 300033	\$ 31,821.80
	<u>December</u>	
	Check No. 300034 – 300152	\$ 13,774.65

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

1. **Buxmont Community Services Foundation – Pipersville, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for the remainder of the 2007-08 school year at a rate of ninety-seven dollars and four cents (\$97.04) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Alternative Education Fund and shall not exceed nine thousand seven hundred four dollars (\$9,704.00).
2. **Molly Russell – West Chester, PA.** Provide training for the Math Lead Teachers in grades K-6 in the upgraded Everyday Math Program. The training will be held on February 4, 7, 12 and March 3, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed a total of two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00).

3. **Hilde McGeehan – Warminster, PA.** Provide a presentation and follow-up with small group discussions on curriculum review and revision based on “Understanding By Design” model. The presentation will take place on Monday, March 17, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).
4. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide six presentations for kindergarten classes at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled “Winter Secrets – Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Assembly Account and shall not exceed five hundred seventy dollars (\$570.00).
5. **Philadelphia 76ers – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide an evening dunk show by the 76ers Mascot after the annual 7th and 8th grade student vs. faculty basketball game which will be held at the 7th Grade Center on April 18, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 7th and 8th Grade Activities Account and shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
6. **Robin Moore – Doylestown, PA.** Provide a presentation entitled “Stories From Our Roots” at Limerick Elementary School on May 19, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Limerick Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed six hundred seventy-five dollars (\$675.00).
7. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four presentations for kindergarten classes at Royersford Elementary School entitled “Winter Secrets – Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed three hundred eighty dollars (\$380.00).
8. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide two presentations for kindergarten classes at Spring City Elementary School entitled “Winter Secrets – Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Spring City Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00).
9. **Dr. Rich Davis – Summersville, NC.** Provide a presentation entitled “Magic of Reading with Ben Franklin” at Upper Providence Elementary School on April 30, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
10. **Jedline Circus Productions – Readville, MA.** Provide a “Bully-Free” assembly in conjunction with the safe school environment at Oaks Elementary School on January 28, 2008. Funding will be paid

by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

11. **Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists – Lawrence, Kansas.**
Provide a musical assembly at Oaks Elementary School on April 9, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).
12. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.**
Provide five presentations for kindergarten classes at Oaks Elementary School entitled “Winter Secrets – Animals in Winter”. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher and shall not exceed four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$475.00).
13. **Benmore Enterprise – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a “Dinosaur Dig” assembly at Oaks Elementary on March 5, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
14. **Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists – Lawrence, Kansas.**
Provide an acrobatic assembly in conjunction with teamwork at Oaks Elementary School on March 9, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed six hundred dollars (\$600.00).
15. **Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists – Lawrence, Kansas.**
Provide an assembly in conjunction with leading a drug-free life at Oaks Elementary School on April 29, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
16. **Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists – Lawrence, Kansas.**
Provide an assembly on AESOP’s Fables at Oaks Elementary School on February 19, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
17. **Magic Touch Entertainment – Canadensis, PA.** Provide two assemblies and an evening performance for Brooke Elementary students and families on March 23, 2008. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00).
18. **Family Stages, Inc./Duet Productions – Oreland, PA.** Provide a Science assembly at Spring City Elementary on February 29, 2008. Funding will be paid from the Spring City Assembly Budget and shall not exceed five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00).

19. **Dr. Ellis Edelman** and the parents of a special needs student to provide related vision services as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-two (22) one hour sessions at a rate of eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$87.50) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand nine hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,925.00).
- F. The Board approved payment for an independent psych-educational evaluation including auditory processing and visual processing testing for a special education student. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed two thousand fifty-five dollars (\$2,055.00).
- G. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-03** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Administrative Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
- H. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-04** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
- I. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-05** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Technology and Information Services Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
- J. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-06** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Legislative Services and Grant Development Budget** for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
- K. The Board approved the transfer of \$1,960,237, savings from the refinancing of GOB 2006 and GOB 2007, from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Account. In addition the Finance Committee recommends future savings (2008/09 \$119,969, 2009/10 \$119,106, 2010/11 \$118,219, 2011/12 \$82,306, total \$439,600) be designated in the General Fund to offset future taxes. (Revised Bond Refinancing Savings Plan Attached)
- L. The Board approved the Independent Audit Report as submitted by Maillie, Falconiero & Company LLP for the fiscal year 2006/2007. Each board member has received their copy and a display copy is available at the district office. The audit examined the financial statements, tested evidence supporting the amounts, examined internal control, insured evidence of proper documentation, compliance with laws, regulations, and in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. This audit was without findings or material weaknesses.
- M. The Board approved contracting through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit for actuarial services with Conrad Siegel Actuaries in order to comply with GASB 45 requirements. This contract is not to exceed \$7,550. To be in

compliance with GASB 45, districts must account for actuarial studies and report the costs (liabilities) of post-employment benefits over the working lifetime of employees. At a later date the district will need to make a determination whether to begin pre-funding the liability. Spring-Ford School District must have this report completed for 2008-2009 school year.

- N. The Board approved the Western Center for Technical Studies 2008-2009 Budget in the amount of \$5,371,461. Spring-Ford's share of the cost is \$1,450,154 or a 5.19% increase over last year's budget.
- O. The Board approved engaging the services of Pamela Price, Director of Board Development Services, of the Pennsylvania School Board Association, for a Board In-Service on Saturday, February 2, 2008. The total cost of the Board In-Service is eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) plus expenses, not to exceed one thousand one hundred fifty dollars (\$1,150.00) and shall be paid from the Board Professional Services Account.

NEW FINANCE

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items P-V and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- P. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
 - General Fund
 - Money Market – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - PSDLAF – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - PSDMAX – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Checking Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - PLGIT Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Payroll Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Tax Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Activity Accounts
 - Elementary Activity – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - 7th Grade Activity – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - 8th Grade Activity – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - High School Activity – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Athletic Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Bond Funds
 - Note of 2003 – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Note of 2004 – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Other Funds
 - Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Debt Service Fund – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Cafeteria Fund
 - Cafeteria Money Market – Nov./Dec. 2007
 - Cafeteria Checking Account – Nov./Dec. 2007

- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – Nov./Dec. 2007
- Investment Account – Nov./Dec. 2007

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

NOVEMBER

Checks No. 7793 - 7830 \$ 263,428.16

DECEMBER

Checks No. 7855 - 7896 \$ 249,607.69

R. The Board approved the following **additions** and **deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2007-2008 school year:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 1 - 38
Limerick Township Deletions	No. 1 - 710
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 1 - 194
Spring City Borough Additions	No. 1 - 35
Upper Providence Township Deletions	No. 1 - 316

S. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2007 – 2008 school year:

Limerick Township	No. 21 - 24
Royersford Borough	No. 75 – 83
Spring City Borough	No. 20 - 22
Upper Providence Township	No. 57 – 60

T. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2007- 2008 school year:

Permit No. 2083 - 2154

U. The Board approved a confidential settlement and release agreement with the parents of a special education student and the authorization of payment #2008-001 in full satisfaction of claims, attorneys' fees and costs.

V. The Board approved the acceptance of \$7,500.00 as settlement for attorney's fees related to the R.M. Shoemaker Co. interpleader action.

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item B be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. The Board approved going out to bid the contract for Turf Maintenance, Mowing and Trimming for 2008 with the option, pending Board approval, of continuing this contract for 2009 and 2010.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro thanked Administration for sending the drawings of what the 10th Avenue Project looks like. Mr. Masciandaro said he looked at the drawings and how 10th Avenue will connect with the back parking lot; he wondered if anyone

thought about how the back parking lot will look once the addition and renovation project is completed at the high school. Mr. Masciandaro stated he did not believe this was a great spot for traffic flow and he wondered if the drawing was just a depiction of where the entrance will be or is this the actual proposed spot. Mr. Cooper said the drawing that was given out is just shows point "A" to point "B" and does not define the exact location as once we get an engineer they will talk to all municipalities as well as PennDot in order to determine where it needs to be located. Mr. Masciandaro asked to make an amendment to the original motion to change the word "complete" to "design". Mr. Grispon withdrew his original motion and Mr. Pettit withdrew his second.

- B. Administration is recommending permission to go out and receive "Request for Proposals" to complete the 10th Avenue bypass connection.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve the newly worded Item B and Mr. Grispon seconded it. Mr. Dehnert asked about the drawing and the property that appears on 9th Avenue between Spring Street and Washington Avenue wondering who owns it. Mrs. Williams responded she believes the Borough of Royersford. Mr. Cooper said this is wetland and you cannot go through there. Mr. Masciandaro asked if there were any restrictions in terms of this road and whether it was going to be one way, Mr. Cooper said originally the thought was to make it one way but the road is going to have to be made wide enough for two way traffic for emergency purposes. Mr. Cooper said we really do not know yet as it is still in the design stages. Mr. Masciandaro said his concern is that we had a vision for this access road and he does not want to see it as some little thing going through in the back of the building that is closed off most of the time so if we are going to do this we need to make sure we get utilization out of it. The motion passed 8-0.

- B. The Board approved going out and receiving "Request for Proposals" to design the 10th Avenue bypass connection.

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

- C. The Board approved ratifying the application to PDE for approval of the emergency replacement of boiler 1 and boiler 2 at Oaks Elementary School as filed in PDE form 3074 (b). This item shall not exceed the original costs of \$40,000/each for which prior approval was given at the Board meeting on November 26, 2007 and will be completed as per the plans and specifications of the engineer.

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Weber asked that Items C, D, and E be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the state mandated Technology Plan Amendment for the Spring-Ford Area School District. The original 2003-2005 plan must be amended annually due to the requirements of District eligibility for future state and federal technology funding. The existing plan was

amended for the current school year and must be extended through amendment again this year. This will be the final amendment since the new Strategic Plan (currently in progress) will cover future years. The amendment is due to be submitted to Harrisburg this month. Approval of the plan as amended does not imply approval of individual initiatives. (Attached)

- B. The Board approved payment of \$350 to the Keystone State Steering Committee as seed money to support the first Pennsylvania Skyward Statewide Users' Conference to be held in April (17th or 18th TBD) in Mechanicsburg, PA. Steering committees in most states in which Skyward operates conduct these conferences as a method to share ideas about using Skyward software and as a chance for users to interact directly with Skyward staff. Up to five district employees may attend the conference included in this payment. Further Board action will be requested for specific attendees once the conference details are completed. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Technology Budget.

Mr. Shafer made a motion to approve Item C and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. Mr. Weber said he is disappointed that we do not know where we are going with this financially and he believes we are spending money without knowing all the answers. Mr. Weber said he is not objecting to a television station but would like to know how much we are going to spend on this station and what it will cost to put a television station on each week. Dr. Hurda clarified that the items that are on the agenda are items that are required for us to be ready to connect with the Comcast channel they are providing for us in the beginning of June. Dr. Hurda stated that these components are necessary in order to move that program forward. Dr. Hurda said the District having its own television station is something that has been many years in the works and we finally reached an agreement with Comcast, we have programs already in place and have begun to build a library of programs so that we can use these once we are switched over to our own cable channel. Dr. Hurda explained that these items are the hardware pieces that are required to make the 24 hour a day Spring-Ford television station a reality. Mr. Weber said with all due respect it was stated that we have been working on this for a number of years but we still do not know where we are going with regards to costs for this project.

Mr. Dehnert asked if we started a plan with what we plan on doing with the channel and Dr. Hurda said we have begun our discussions and just received the final confirmation within the last two weeks for the actual start date so the process is ongoing.

Mr. Masciandaro said we are very limited today in terms of what we can broadcast locally as we only have a couple hours on Thursday nights and a couple other slots. Mr. Masciandaro stated that there is an awful lot of other programming that we have that is available to us such as sporting events which the public would be interested in viewing.

Mr. Shafer reiterated that he is very excited to be a part of this and he asked if it would be fair to ask if sometime in the future the Administration could come back to the Board with an outline of a game plan for how this will benefit the

community, students and taxpayers. Dr. Hurda responded that this is something that would absolutely be necessary and would be the next step of this process but our initial concern was to have these pieces in place so that we have the station. Dr. Hurda said there has to be a long term plan that the Board will have to approve it but we are not there yet. Dr. Hurda stated her understanding is that this was an initiative that the Board has pursued for a number of years and we are fortunate right now that all of the stars have aligned at the same time and all of our townships have agreed to this so that it can become a reality.

Mr. Masciandaro pointed out that at the bottom of each of these motions it states that they tied in with the Technology Plan, Curriculum and Learning Goals which is a part of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Pettit said in view of the fact that it is part of the Strategic Plan we should be planning where we are going with this, what we are going to see, and what is the future going to look like. Mr. Pettit stated he believes we need feedback from the public as well as the Board and Administration and the Strategic Planning are is where we can find this and see where we need to go with this.

The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

- C. The Board approved the purchase of distribution point equipment for Spring-Ford's new television channel from Applied Video Technology in Malvern. The package includes system controller, software, server, storage, DVCPPro VTR, audio switcher, and installation/setup. The total cost is approximately \$16,536 purchased under PA State Contract 5850-05 with funding from the 2007-2008 Technology Budget. Spring-Ford's TV channel will begin broadcasting June 3, 2008. This item implements the Spring-Ford Area School District Technology Plan, Curriculum and Learning Goal 3.

Mrs. William asked Mr. Weber if we could put items D & E together as well as F and Mr. Weber said yes. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items D-F and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Pettit commented that he is enthused for the students who are going to be partaking in the Future Business Leaders of America. Mr. Pettit said this is something fantastic and the students as well as the Administration should be congratulated. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

Mr. Weber stated that he requested Items C, D, and E be separated and did not realize Item F was being bundled with Item D and E when the vote took place. Mrs. Williams said she bundled them in order to move the process along. Mr. Weber clarified that even though his no vote stands for all three items he wants to make it clear he is not opposed to Item F and sending the students to the competition.

- D. The Board approved the purchase of a digital messaging system for Spring-Ford's new television channel from Applied Video Technology in Malvern. The package includes player/designer/server and installation/setup. This unit will be used to provide 24/7 messaging and

announcement video to the new Spring-Ford television channel at times other than scheduled programming. The total cost is approximately \$10,834 purchased under PA State Contract 5850-05 with funding from the 2007-2008 Technology Budget. This item implements the Spring-Ford Area School District Technology Plan, Curriculum and Learning Goal 3.

- E. The Board approved the purchase of a portable production system for Spring-Ford's new television channel from Applied Video Technology in Malvern. The package includes audio/video switching, graphics, recording, playback, monitors, cases, and installation/setup. The system is designed to incorporate some existing equipment. The system will be used to record Board meetings, sporting events, and other on-site programming as an air-ready product to maximize efficiency and minimize staff time in post-recording production. The total cost is approximately \$27,344 purchased under PA State Contract 5850-05 with funding from the 2007-2008 Technology Budget. This item implements the Spring-Ford Area School District Technology Plan, Curriculum and Learning Goal 3.
- F. The Board approved sending eight students; Michael Mathis, Jason Sampat, Jessica Shidu, Kaitlyn Heywood, Quan-Bao Tran, John Helmuth, Drew Heringslake and Shelly Criswell and their advisor, Mrs. Margaret Stackhouse, to compete at the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference and Competition in Hershey, PA from March 31 through April 2, 2008. These students qualified to participate in the state FBLA competition as a result of their performance on event tests administered at the FBLA regional competition. The total cost for attending this state competition shall not exceed two thousand four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00). Participation in this competition will be supported through the General Fund.

VIII. PSBA REPORT/MCIU REPORTS John S. Grispon

Mr. Grispon read the following PSBA/MCIU report:

At our MCIU meeting on January 23rd, Dr. Sharon Richardson discussed the Costing Out Study of that was initiated by the General Assembly and released in November. The study found 471 **schools out of 501 to be under-funded. The cost of appropriately funding the state's schools** would be well over \$4 billion. More than 20 state education associations are involved in a Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign which will craft a proposal encouraging the Governor to address the gap over the next five budget cycles, beginning this year. The first draft of the Governor's budget will be released February 5th. Dr. Peter Grande discussed the State Board of Education's approval of new requirements for high schools to offer 10 end-of-course exams, called Graduate Competency Assessments, in order to graduate. Sharon Richardson noted that this is just the beginning of the process and that the proposal still has to be approved by the Independent Regulatory Commission and the State Legislature. There is considerable debate among legislators and the fate of the proposal will be argued out over the next year or two.

The MCS DLC met on January 16th, our guest was Tim Allwein. There was extensive discussion on the Costing Out Study and the Graduate Competency Assessments.

Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign unveiled

This week, PSBA, as part of a newly formed coalition of broad-based education and advocacy organizations, announced its proposed comprehensive school funding formula and called on Gov. Edward Rendell and the General Assembly to provide \$1 billion in next year's state budget for education.

Members of the Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign stressed that if all students are to meet Pennsylvania's academic standards, the state must not only do its share to provide the necessary resources, as determined by the 2007 costing-out study, but also revise the way funds are distributed.

The campaign urged, as part of the upcoming 2008-09 state budget, the enactment of a comprehensive school funding formula and for a significant down payment - at least \$1 billion - toward full implementation over five years of the monies needed for all students to reach the state's academic standards.

The costing-out study found that an average of \$11,926 per pupil is needed to ensure that students are provided with the resources needed to meet state standards of achievement. However, the study found that Pennsylvania actually spends only \$9,512 per pupil. Those findings translate to 471 of 501 school districts being underfunded by a total of more than \$4 billion.

Because the state provides only 36% of the cost of public education (compared to a national average close to 50%), Pennsylvania's public education funding system is excessively dependent upon local wealth, primarily property taxes, and is therefore very unequal in terms of resources and opportunities for students across 501 school districts. In order to maximize efficiency and accountability for the success of Pennsylvania's children, the coalition believes it is essential that both the state and the local community share in the fundamental responsibility to fund an effective public education for every child.

"Change is necessary because state law expects every student to be held accountable to demonstrate proficiency in key academic subjects, yet opportunities for students to learn depend on the wealth of the community in which they live," said **Tim Allwein**, PSBA assistant executive director for governmental and member relations.

In order to accomplish change, the campaign has developed a funding proposal to address these inequities - the Adequacy in School Spending and Equity in Taxation proposal.

The ASSET proposal accomplishes five key principles of school funding reform - adequacy, equity, efficiency, accountability and predictability. ASSET starts with the adequacy spending amount for each district as determined in the costing-out study and establishes the state share by using the school district's Market Value/Personal Income Aid Ratio (the state's measure of the relative wealth of a district based on its market value per student and its personal income per student

compared to the state average). In order to reduce the current over-reliance on local taxes, predominantly property taxes, ASSET caps the local share on the basis of the personal income of the residents. The proposal also enables more than 300 school districts to reduce property taxes over the five years by more than \$1 billion statewide.

For more information about the campaign and the numerous organizations and associations involved, visit www.paschoolfunding.org

Mr. Masciandaro asked Dr. Hurda to speak about the District's educational response on graduation requirements. Dr. Hurda said one of the concerns collectively we have is that graduation has always been under local control through the School Board and the School District but the state is now saying that students will either have to be proficient on the PSSA or pass each one of the ten competency exams. Dr. Hurda further commented that the state has not identified who will develop the tests, how long it will take to develop them and what the process will be for students that go through these tests and do not meet the requirements. Dr. Hurda stated that her greatest concern is that we have special education students who will be at a great disadvantage. The state has taken what the Administrators throughout the state have said are their concerns and decided to take a year of public comment. Dr. Hurda said our goal has always been to have students graduate who can read, write and do high level math but she is not sure this is the way to insure that and we as educators in our own districts have the opportunity to obtain local control. Dr. Hurda said there is more to come on this and we can just imagine what the costs will be for this unfunded mandate to make sure all of our students who are not passing the test get some sort of remediation that will then allow them to pass the test. Dr. Hurda stated that across the board we would like to see graduation requirements remain more of a local issue rather than a state one.

Mr. Masciandaro said we have heard for a long time that our property taxes are too high but low and behold Pennsylvania does not fund local schools the way other states do. Mr. Masciandaro said Spring-Ford Area School District gets about 18% funding from the state so we are doing the best we can through our resolutions and would appreciate any help we can get from the public.

Mr. Grispon said we will have a resolution on the agenda next month pertaining to the ASSET Program.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Shafer asked that Item L be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-K and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **David R. Shafer**, Board Member, to attend *PSBA Seminar – “I’m a New Board Member, Now What?”* at the Chester County Intermediate Unit in Downingtown, PA on Thursday, January 31, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$120.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **David R. Shafer**, Board Member, to attend *PSBA Seminar – “Budget Basics for School Boards”* at the Chester County Intermediate Unit in Downingtown, PA on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$120.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Dr. Leticia Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend *“PASPA”* in Harrisburg, PA from Wednesday, February 27 through Friday, February 29, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$819.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- D. **Dr. Leslie Morrill**, Supervisor of Staff Development, to attend *“How Do You Know You Are Making a Difference? Defining & Measuring Impact”* at the Montgomery County Community College in Pottstown, PA on Friday, February 29, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$72.82 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- E. **Johnna L. Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend *“Leading for Results: Transforming Teaching, Learning & Relationships in Schools”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 12, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$195.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- F. **Daniel Currie, Carol Frankel, and Sherry Sterling-Holt**, Special Education Supervisors, to attend *“PDE: Indicators for Success: Improvement, Performance and Results”* at the Hershey Conference Center in Hershey, PA from Monday, February 25 through Wednesday, February 27, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$1,566.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- G. **Bruce Cooper**, Director of Planning and Operations, to attend *“Allsafe Environmental – Re-certification course”* in New Cumberland, PA on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$185.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- H. **Joanne DeMeno**, Gifted Support Teacher, to attend *“AP Language and Composition Workshop”* at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit on Wednesday, April 2, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$325.00 – \$200.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

- I. **Deborah H. Mancini, Colleen Antal, Shelley Glossner and Patricia Voorstad**, Teachers, to attend *"Inquiry By Design"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, February 25, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$920.35 - \$420.35 from the 580 account and \$500.00 from the substitute account.
- J. **Maren Trout**, College Career Coordinator, to attend *"Lehigh Valley Association of Independent Colleges Counselor Visitation Program"* at various colleges from Monday, April 7 through Thursday, April 10, 2008. There is no cost to the district for this visitation program.

9TH GRADE CENTER

- K. **Margaret Stackhouse**, Business Teacher, to attend *"Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA from Monday, March 31 through Wednesday, April 2, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$716.00 - \$341.00 from the 580 account and \$375.00 from the substitute account.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item L and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Shafer abstaining under Section 1111 of the School Code.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- L. **Barry L. Shafer**, Middle School Coordinator of Athletics, to attend *"PA State Athletic Directors Conference"* in Hershey, PA from Wednesday, March 26 through Saturday, March 29, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$710.00 from the 2007-2008 Athletic Budget.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items M-X and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- M. **Alisa Fleisher**, Counselor, to attend *"2008 PASAP Conference"* at the Penn Stater Hotel in State College, PA from Sunday, March 9 through Tuesday, March 11, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$542.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- N. **Kris Jennings**, Music Department Chairperson, to attend *"Music: At Upper Merion Middle School Symposium"* on Friday, February 15, 2008. The total cost of this symposium is \$80.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

BROOKE

- O. **Christi Redeyoff**, Teacher, to attend *"Everyday Mathematics – Reaching Students with Special Needs"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Friday, March 7, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$210.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

LIMERICK

- P. **Janette Pymer**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*Administering the PASA*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, February 19, 2008. The total cost of this ½ day conference is \$71.05 - \$8.55 from the Special Education Budget and \$62.50 from the substitute account.
- Q. **Janette Pymer**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*Sign Language for Non Verbal Learners Session I and II*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA in the evening from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 19 and Wednesday, April 9, 2008. The total cost for these two training sessions is \$12.60 from the Special Education Budget. No substitute is needed.
- R. **Janette Pymer**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*BoardMaker v.6 and More*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, March 6, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$2.25 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

OAKS

- S. **Lucinda Iezzi**, Teacher, to attend “*Health and Physical Education Symposium*” at Wissahickon High School on Friday, February 15, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$190.00 - \$65.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- T. **Debora Zelle**, Certified School Nurse, to attend “*Open Airways for Schools – Facilitator Training*” at the American Lung Association Office in Plymouth Meeting, PA on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. The total cost of this training is \$324.24 - \$199.24 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- U. **Debora Zelle**, Certified School Nurse, to attend “*PA Association of School Nurses Annual Education Conference*” at the Radisson Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA from Friday, March 28 through Sunday, March 30, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$450.00 - \$325.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- V. **Johnna L. Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, **Kelly Kester**, **Marylu Onorato**, and **Carol Vogt**, Reading Specialists, to attend “*Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling*” in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, March 14, Monday, April 14, and Wednesday, May 14, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$1,150.00 - \$25.00 from the 580 account and \$1,125.00 from the substitute account.

- W. **Jessica Hobbs** and **Nancy Quain**, Psychologists, to attend *“Legal Issues regarding Psychoeducational Assessments, Evaluations, Reports and Due Process Hearings”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$211.80 from the Psychologist’s Budget.
- X. **Deanne Snelling** and **Connie Willauer**, Gifted Support Teachers, to attend *“PAGE-The Fabric of Gifted”* at the Harrisburg Hilton in Harrisburg, PA from Thursday, April 17 through Saturday, April 19, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$1020.60 - \$895.60 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The following policies were approved:
 - 1. Policy #237 – PUPILS: Electronic Devices
 - 2. Policy #303 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Nepotism
 - 3. Policy #404.1 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Nepotism
 - 4. Policy #504.1 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Nepotism
 - 5. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers
- B. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-01** which supports the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Pride & Promise Public Outreach Campaign.
- C. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-02** which adopts the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards.
- D. The Board approved that student number 10708 be expelled from the Spring-Ford Area School District in accordance with the conditions outlined by the Superintendent.
- E. The Board approved the following athletic trip for the purpose of participation in an indoor track meet:
 - 1. **Boys and Girls Distance Medley Relay Teams: The Pepsi-Cola National Hall of Fame High School Classic**
Armory Track & Field Center in New York City, NY
Saturday, February 16, 2008
Meals and lodging will be provided by the Booster Club Account
Team will use district transportation

New Athletic Trip:

The Board approved the following athletic trip for the purpose of participation in a wrestling meet:

2. **8/9th Grade Wrestling Teams: The Southeastern Wrestling Classic**
Quakertown High School in Quakertown, PA
Friday, February 15 and Saturday, February 16, 2008
Meals and lodging will be provided by the Booster Club Account
Teams will use district transportation

F. The following policies were submitted as a first reading:

1. Policy #021 – LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES: Political Activities
2. Policy #121.1 – PROGRAMS: Overnight/Foreign Travel

XI. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. District Goals

Mrs. Williams said she would like the Board to continue the dialogue on the “Team of 10” Goals and hopefully move to a vote to approve them. She asked Dr. Hurda to give her opinion on the goals.

Dr. Hurda said her evaluation committee asked her to identify goals for the 2007-2008 school year. Dr. Hurda stated in contemplating what the goals should be she kept looking at the big issues facing the district and used these as a basis for the goals she identified for herself and Dr. Donahue. Dr. Hurda read the following list of goals:

1. Continue to move forward with the development of the educational specifications for the High School Renovation/Addition Project.
2. Continue to address the growing enrollment at the 5,6,7,8 level by moving forward with Phase II Feasibility Study.
3. Continue to monitor and adjust (when practical) District-Wide Curriculum & Instruction including such areas as: Academic Programming, High School Scheduling, Graduation Requirements, New Course Offerings, Co-Teaching, and the Western Center for Technical Studies change in programming.
4. Provide leadership in the development of the 2008-2013 Spring-Ford School District Strategic Plan.
5. Increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency by assessing “Where we are and where we need to be in terms of each major department within the District.”

Mr. Pettit commented that he believes these goals are worthy but is concerned with goal number five and wondered if there is any way we can measure this possibly by having a chart that shows this information. Dr. Hurda said this can be done in a number of ways as some are efficiency issues and some are cost issues, she is happy to do this for the Board. Mr. Pettit said as long as we can

set up some type of tool for measuring this is fine with him. Dr. Hurda replied she believes there are some significant cost saving issues that can be put into place.

Mr. Shafer reported that what was very enlightening for him was the report that was given at the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee that basically updated everyone on the data pertaining to growth and the academic excellence that we have been able to sustain while the district has gone through some unprecedented growth.

Mr. Masciandaro spoke about old goal number five which was to track and monitor key measures. He said he has a difficult time giving up this goal as the district should always look to increase key measures such as graduation rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates as they are important for us to keep our eye on. Mrs. Williams said that it is a very good point but we are already doing this as part of our reporting to the state. Mr. Masciandaro said we are tracking these numbers but we have not explicitly said our goal is to increase graduation rates, so forth and so on, so each year when we track them we can measure how we did against our goal. Mrs. Williams stated that the Administration does do this and are looking at changing those rates by setting the bar higher.

Dr. Hurda suggested rolling this into the new goal number three as these key measures fall more under curriculum and instruction. Graduation rates and dropout rates are all a part of our reporting under "No Child Left Behind". Dr. Hurda said with regards to college acceptance rates we have been very diligent with giving information about the number of students going to a two year and four year college. Dr. Hurda reported that each year we give out a list of scholarships that we know are administered. Mrs. Williams said she believes that Mr. Masciandaro's point was to encourage the rates to make honest progress so if it was there in a goal it would be a commitment.

Mrs. Williams asked how we can fold this information into the list of goals so that we can get these approved tonight. Dr. Hurda suggested the following wording for goal number three. Continue to monitor and adjust District-Wide Curriculum & Instruction including such areas as: Academic Programming, High School Scheduling, Graduation Requirements, Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, etc.

Mr. Dehnert said he would go a bit further than that by saying "key measures to meet or exceed certain goals" as it is one thing to track and know where you are but the reason you are tracking is to meet or exceed them.

Mr. Grispon said certain goals are tough to increase and we have to be aware of that for example if you move up one tenth of a percent in graduation rates then that is a big movement. Mr. Dehnert said a goal could be to maintain a certain rate.

Dr. Hurda read goal number three including the amendment: Continue to monitor and adjust (when practical) District-Wide Curriculum & Instruction including such areas as: Academic Programming, High School Scheduling, Graduation Requirements, New Course Offerings, Co-Teaching, Changes in programming at the Western Center for Technical Studies, and to continue to Track and Monitor

key measures to meet or exceed student success in Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, Scholarships, College Acceptance Rates and the Feedback from past graduates.

Mr. Dehnert asked if PSSA scores should be added in since that is a mandated goal and Mrs. Williams said she is not comfortable with this. Dr. Hurda said we certainly are required to report PSSA scores every year so this is already part of our systemic process in the district.

Mr. Shafer commented that this may be the longest goal he has ever seen and he questioned whether Dr. Hurda is okay with the changes that were just proposed. Mr. Shafer asked what the use is in having a goal if you do not believe you can attain it. Mr. Shafer said he is concerned that this goal is so lengthy and all encompassing. Dr. Hurda responded that Mr. Shafer makes a good point but she is not the least bit uncomfortable with adding the key measure into this goal since we are already doing this. Dr. Hurda suggested that it might be possible to wordsmith the goal to make it less lengthy.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve the goals as a "Team of 10" goals which means the Board must provide the resources to Dr. Hurda if we expect her to accomplish these goals. Mrs. Mullin seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis said last week the Board raised the issue about advertising marketing and what is allowed on the television station with regards to it being a public access channel; this information will be forthcoming to the Board.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Janet Stokes, Limerick Township, said she was disappointed that public comment was not taken prior to the vote on the goals. Mrs. Stokes wondered if these goals replace the approved district goals that appear on the agenda and Mrs. Williams said yes they are. Mrs. Stokes asked what happens to the old goals and Mrs. Williams responded we have met the majority of them and some will be ongoing as in the old number five goal. Mrs. Stokes commented that it would have been helpful if the public would have had a list of the goals so they could have followed along. Mrs. Stokes asked about the Western Center's budget and wondered what our anticipated enrollment will be for next year as compared to this year's enrollment. Dr. Hurda responded that this year the enrollment increased by about 15 or 16 students and the anticipation is that it will remain the same but until the students complete their course selection it is tough to give a number. Mrs. Stokes asked when we anticipate the tenth grade component at the Western Center and Dr. Hurda said that is expected to occur in the 2009-2010 school year when we go with a half day about program and all of the academics will return to the high school. Dr. Hurda reported that students will have the option of going to the Western Center for either an AM or PM session for their technical studies and then return to the high school for their academics vice versa.

Julie Mullin thanked Mr. McDaniel and the coaches for the Youth Night with the high school girls' basketball team. Mrs. Mullin said these girls are fantastic

basketball players and are incredible role models. Mrs. Mullin stated that this experience was a huge boost to the girls in the Youth League.

Ed Cummins, Spring City, questioned why Mr. Shafer needed to abstain from the conference workshop vote as if he abstains here then he needs to abstain from the budget as well. Mrs. Williams said he abstained because the conference was for his dad. Mr. Davis said whether Mr. Shafer is required to abstain or not one always has the right to do this. Mr. Shafer said it was his understanding that he has the right to abstain and he felt it was best to do this. Mr. Cummins asked Mr. Shafer if he plans on abstaining when the budget rolls around and Mr. Shafer said no. Mr. Cummins said the television channel is a great idea but it needs to be balanced. Mr. Cummins stated when we are taking taxpayers dollars and building this kind of program we must balance it with student needs. Mr. Cummins commented that he feels we are behind on a lot of curriculum needs since we do not have a top notch engineering component which is something he has been fighting for over the years. Mr. Cummins stated that we do not only have deplorable athletic fields but rather totally unsafe athletic fields so as we are putting money towards this type of thing we need to contemplate the needs of the kids because that is where the balance is. Dr. Hurda responded that, with regards to the engineering issue, we are in the process of approving a dual enrollment program through the Montgomery County Community College for an engineering program so that our high school students can go through our program and receive college credit that is then transferrable to any other college in the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Cummins said this is great but he was just asked to judge an engineering competition at a Lehigh Valley high school where this school offered a robotics and many other amazing things. Mr. Cummins said what he specifically is looking for is an in-house program.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, questioned the official announcement today of the construction of a new parochial high school in our district and wondered if Dr. Hurda had any projections or educated guesses on what the potential impacts would be on Spring-Ford in terms of enrollment and loss of tax revenue. Dr. Hurda said this discussion took place previously and in surveying other school districts that had a new Catholic high school built in their area it was found that the enrollment impact was marginal. The tax implications cannot be answered yet as it has not been looked into yet. Dr. Hurda said the enrollment impact was marginal because most students who were committed to a Catholic high school would continue along that line. Ms. Bryant asked if there would be a discernable way to come up with what the financial implications would be to the Spring-Ford Area School District. Mr. Anspach said the only effect it would have would be that the property was considered clean and green so it was a reduced tax that now will be a tax exempt property. Ms. Bryant spoke about the property slope and asked if we knew if the Archdiocese may come to Spring-Ford for the possible use of athletic fields; Dr. Hurda responded that we simply do not have field space to lend out and her guess would be if we are making an investment in our fields, as is in our plan, then we would be hesitant to opening them up. Mr. Davis said in his experience the Archdiocese normally does not come to public schools to rent field space. Mr. Dehnert pointed out that there may be the possibility of the district collecting an earned income tax from the staff who will work in the school particularly if they live in a place that does not have an earned income tax. Mr. Anspach said the district would also benefit since we

will not have to bus Spring-Ford students who currently attend Catholic high school as far as we presently have to. Mr. Grispon said he read the article regarding the construction of the high school online and it does state that they plan on putting in six athletic fields.

Erin Yohe, Spring-Ford High School Junior, wondered about the graduation exams and when they would be starting. Dr. Hurda responded that the anticipated initiation of this would be at least two years down the road but her guess would be that it will be longer than that as the state will have to develop the ten graduation exams. Mr. Grispon said the information he has is that it will be the 2014 school year. Ms. Yohe asked at what point in the year the exams would be taken, the beginning or the end. Dr. Hurda said the exams would be taken at the end of the course so for example when Algebra I is complete the students would then take that corresponding test. Erin asked what would happen to those students who did not pass and Dr. Hurda answered if they did not pass then those students would have to be remediated and have some type of extra program and then retake the exam until they pass. Dr. Hurda said the concern is that there are students who graduate from Pennsylvania high schools who are not able to read, write or do high level math so this is a way to evaluate that. Dr. Hurda further stated that the other piece to this is that if students are proficient on the PSSA that is taken in eleventh grade then they would not have to take any of those ten final exams, so it is either one or the other.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grispon made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:53.

APPROVED DISTRICT GOALS

1. Formulate a plan to provide a quality in-house alternative education program for students within the Spring-Ford School District.
2. Provide a quality career and technical education for students in grades 10-12 focusing on what is both educationally and economically feasible.
3. Develop a long range comprehensive secondary school facilities plan.
4. Develop and implement a transition plan for students and parents as children move through grades 4-8.
5. Track and monitor key measures for student success: graduation rates, drop out rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates and the feedback from past graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary