

On February 20, 2007, the regular board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:45 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:	Joseph M. Petrowski
Region III:	John S. Grispon and Robert A. Weber
Presiding Officer:	Donna L. Williams
Superintendent:	Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager:	Tim Anspach
Solicitor:	Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.:	Danny Suraci

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that the Spring-Ford Middle School Jazz Festival will take place this week culminating in two performances that will be open to the public. The first performance will be on Friday, February 23 at 7 p.m. in the 9th Grade Center. Students from Spring-Ford and surrounding school districts will perform and be judged by professional guitarist David Cullen, who will also perform that evening. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students and senior citizens. The second performance will take place on Saturday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the 9th Grade Center where David Cullen and his quartet will perform for the public. Tickets for that event are \$10.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students and senior citizens, or \$20.00 for a family ticket. Tickets will be available at the door. Mrs. Williams reported that in sports the Spring-Ford Junior High Wrestling Team 7-9 Grade are undefeated in the PAC 10; they placed second in the Quakertown Invitational, second in the Schuylkill Valley Invitational and were champions in the Perkiomen Valley Invitational. The Wrestling Team is District 1 Champions out of 35 District 1 schools. The Girls' Basketball Team are PAC 10 Champions and we will be passing a resolution honoring them next month at the March 19 Work Session meeting, we will then present this to the team at the March 26 Board Meeting. Mrs. Williams said as part of the continuing tour of the elementary schools Dr. Hurda visited Upper Providence Elementary and we are going to see that video tonight. The video was then presented for the public to view.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ed Cummins, Spring City, congratulated the Girls' Basketball Program and the Junior High Wrestling Team. Mr. Cummins said that we have something to look forward to next year as most of the wrestlers are eighth graders. Mr. Cummins asked if we were going to have a resolution for the wrestling team. He said wrestling is an underappreciated

sport. Mr. Cummins commented that the kids are up at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings and on a bus as well as being at the wrestling matches for 10-12 hours sometimes two days in a row. Mr. Cummins said there is unbelievable dedication put into the sport and he would like to see it recognized with all the other sports. Mrs. Williams thanked him for pointing that out to the Board and said yes they would be recognized as well.

Lisa Tobin, Linfield, said most of the Board has received an email from her regarding rebalancing and her kids and she did talk to Dr. Hurda this morning. She said she lives in Linfield, most of which is a pretty small community, but basically from Limerick Center Road down to where the rebalancing goes around Church there are approximately 12-15 children that will be moved from Brooke Elementary to Limerick Elementary. Mrs. Tobin said if you know where Keen Road is which is off of Limerick Center there are no other small children where she lives. Mrs. Tobin said the bonds that her children have made in school are very important and while she knows that her children cannot be with every friend but she did expect that they would be with the children in her community that are close at hand such as those on Ferndale Lane and even those across Limerick Center. Mrs. Tobin said the basic feeling she is getting after having a long conversation with Dr. Donahue today is that this is where the border is set and that is just the way it is. She said she is not getting the feeling that they can take Limerick Center from Ferndale down and keep it as part of the Linfield community and have those students remain at Brooke. Mrs. Tobin said she has a kindergartener who cried his eyes out to her and is already in remedial reading and struggling within school. She said to take this kid and move him from preschool to a school for kindergarten and then another school for first grade is not good for him as she wants him to excel in school and love school. Mrs. Tobin said Dr. Donahue was extremely nice and explained all the figures and all the procedures and while she understands it there are not many children around and her children have become very close to those kids that are in Linfield Farms. Mrs. Tobin said she wants her children to feel good about school and even though she has explained this to her children her kindergartener is having a very hard time and has even said he will just do bad in school so they send him back to Brooke. Mrs. Tobin commented that everything she has been told, all the figures that have been stated, the way things have been said, no one has said to her why they cannot change that division line. Mrs. Tobin said she went through Brooke's directory and looked up every road she could find on the map and she found about twenty-three children that are there, some of which are fourth graders who will be replaced by kindergartner, but Dr. Donahue keeps telling her that there are forty children in the area. Mrs. Tobin said she is asking for her children and for the children who are right there off of Limerick Center Road in Linfield, she asked if she is just talking for air or is there a possibility that something could be changed. Mrs. Tobin said she could write out a list of the 12-15 children that are there. Mrs. Williams clarified that Mrs. Tobin's children are in kindergarten and first grade and Mrs. Tobin said she has a kindergartener and a second grader. Mrs. Williams asked Dr. Donahue to review his rationale as it is her understanding that there are 43-45 children. Dr. Donahue said when they reviewed the area they did about twenty test cells and the results they showed en they reviewed the area they drew about 20 test cells in approximately fifty different combinations and the numbers show that there are about 42 students, of which there are 8 kindergarteners, 7 first graders, 7 second graders, eleven third graders, and 9 fourth graders at this particular time as per the transportation department. Dr. Donahue said they tried to take all of the test cells and rebalance the schools as best they could which gave them Oaks, Royersford and Brooke with 420-430 students, Limerick just shy of 400 students but there is a commitment there for 6 autistic classes, Evans and Upper Providence since these are bigger buildings in the 540-500

student range. Dr. Donahue said they did the very best they could looking geographically as far as distances and they tried not to break up developments. Mrs. Tobin asked what states that Limerick Center Road has to be all of Limerick Center Road and down Church what is the difference if it becomes Longview or if you stop at Limerick Center and Ferndale so the children stay with the other children who will be going to Brooke. Mrs. Williams said throughout the process the Administration has tried to employ large boundaries that just made sense and it gets very difficult when you go beyond that, she emphasized that Dr. Donahue has worked on this for almost five months and has considered everything. Mrs. Williams encouraged Mrs. Tobin to remember how resilient the children really are. Mrs. Williams commented that although they are sympathetic they are doing the best they can with an elementary population nearing 2500 students and Dr. Donahue said it will actually be closer to 3000 next year. Mrs. Tobin said she feels she is being penalized for not being in a development and the original opinion she was under was that they were taking Linfield, Linfield Farms, Ferndale and down Linfield Trappe Road would be taken as a whole said she feels she is being penalized for not being in a development. Mr. Petrowski said there is a fairly large development off of Sanatoga Road and on Keen Road there is a cul-de-sac that has about 8 or 9 homes, and then at the end of your lane is the Curtis Farm which is agricultural at the moment but in planning for the rebalancing certainly the administration was looking at future development so that we do not have to go through this every couple of years impacting parents like yourself. Mr. Petrowski commented that he found it strange that Mrs. Tobin is saying there are only twelve children amongst all of those developments. Mrs. Tobin gave an explanation of the students from Limerick Center Road starting at Ferndale and then on down and said that she believes in another 8-10 years there will be another new elementary school and in talking to Dr. Donahue today that if in some of the projections do not go as expected there may be rebalancing again. Mrs. Williams said that is correct and she gave an example of the children in Mingo who attended three different elementary schools in their K-5 elementary period and these children went to college and are thriving. Mrs. Williams said change is a natural thing when you live in a growing community and while we understand what she is saying we are asking her to understand what the district is up against. Dr. Hurda said she thinks when the parents see the plan that the elementary principals will be rolling out and how they are going to provide buddies and partners and write letters back and forth to the transitioning students, there will be so many opportunities for the kids to get connected before they make the change. Dr. Hurda commented that it is always a difficult decision and if it were not Mrs. Tobin standing here tonight it would have been somebody else and she believes that the children will be just as happy at Limerick as they were at Brooke. Dr. Hurda said there is a new principal coming into Limerick Elementary as next Monday will be his first day. Dr. Hurda said Limerick has every opportunity that every other school has; there will more than likely be virtually a whole new Home and School Association since there will be so many kids coming into Limerick and so many leaving that being new will be the state of being. Dr. Hurda encouraged the parents to go on the website to view the principal's plan which talks about all the activities starting next month all the way through the start of the year. Dr. Hurda said the district will do everything they can to support her two children as they move into Limerick and she is willing to bet that this time next year Mrs. Tobin will come back and say the transition was very smooth but a lot of it has to do with mom and dad. Mrs. Tobin said they have told their children that this will be a good thing. Dr. Hurda commented that the district will have the Director of Child Psychiatry from Abington Hospital do a presentation on building resilient children and the focus of this presentation will be how do we prepare kids for the world we live in which is filled with change. Mrs. Tobin said she may be more vocal as

time goes on simply because at the way this area is growing you will be lucky if you are K-3 in a few years. Mrs. Tobin said with the way the district is set up now it seems like the students are constantly in transition. Mr. Petrowski spoke about his grandson who was faced with several transitions and said he has adapted very well. He has made new friends but also kept his old friends as his parents have done a good job at maintaining those relationships so it certainly is not the end of the world.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Hurda commented that a question was raised last week regarding the minutes from the January 16 meeting regarding the composition of the students who attend the Western Center and the PSSA scores. Dr. Hurda said all of the students who attend the Western Center go there because they all have a genuine interest in vocational and technical education. Dr. Hurda said they looked at the scores of the students at the Western Center in eleventh grade and there was a question about the proficiency levels so she just wanted to get the information out there. Dr. Hurda reported that 35 Spring-Ford eleventh grade students took the PSSA last year, 21 or 60% of these students have IEPs. Dr. Hurda continued saying of the 23 students who were not proficient in reading 16 or 70% were students with IEPs, and of the 29 who were not proficient in math 18 or 62% were students with IEPs so well over the 50% mark are students who have learning disabilities. Dr. Hurda said when we talk about the proficiency levels at the Western Center we need to look at all the students that are there and we are looking at some of the accommodations that we have had to make for those students in the past. Dr. Hurda said it is not as simple as it might seem to look at the fact that 23 students are not proficient in reading and 29 are not proficient in math.

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

- A. The Board approved the January 9, 2007 special meeting minutes.
- B. The Board approved the January 16, 2007 work session minutes.
- C. The Board approved the January 22, 2007 public hearing meeting minutes.
- D. The Board approved the January 22, 2007 board meeting minutes.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel	Donna Williams	As needed
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Mrs. Williams said the Personnel Committee did not meet due to inclement weather and she will give the report when they meet.

Extracurricular	Robert Weber	2nd Tues. 2 p.m.
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Mr. Weber said the Extracurricular Committee did not meet.

IV. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last teacher day, tentatively June 18, 2007:

1. **Barbara A. Bartman**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary School Counselor
2. **Marie Dreibelbis**, 5/6th Grade Center; LA/Social Studies Teacher
3. **Sandra F. Eagles**, Limerick Elementary School; Health & Physical Education Teacher
4. **Kathy M. Geiger**, Brooke Elementary School; 2nd Grade Teacher
5. **Ellen M. Gillette**, Brooke Elementary School; 3rd Grade Teacher
6. **Terrie Grove**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary School Counselor
7. **Sandra Hutchinson**, High School, 9th Grade Center; Secondary School Counselor
8. **Raymond S. Kodish**, High School; Social Studies Teacher
9. **Jane V. Levan**, Royersford Elementary School; Art Teacher
10. **Barbara J. Urner**, District; Gifted Support Programs
11. **Stephen R. White**, 7th Grade Center; Health & Physical Education
12. **James D. Zawislak**, 8th Grade Center; Industrial Arts Teacher

B. Resignations:

1. **James Collins**, Assistant High School Spring Track & Field Coach, effective January 25, 2007.
2. **Elena Kollar**, Assistant High School Lacrosse Coach, effective January 25, 2007.

C. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Tanya L. Chambers**, High School; Secondary School Counselor, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 14, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.
2. **Elizabeth H. Croll**, 7th Grade Center; Science Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 16, 2007.
3. **Jessica Hauseman**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary School Counselor, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the

Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 25, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

4. **Paige Jacobson**, High School; English Teacher, for an Uncompensated Leave of Absence, effective January 19, 2007.
5. **Kelly Ann Keller**, Royersford Elementary School; 3rd Grade Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective May 18, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.
6. **Bruce Roberts**, 5/6th Grade Center; Music Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 19, 2007.
7. **Karen L. Schodle**, Brooke Elementary School; Music Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 23, 2007.
8. **Davelba Sanchez-Duska**, 8th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective tentatively April 17, 2007 until the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

New Leave of Absence:

9. **Carol Lippy**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Math Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective February 13, 2007 for the remainder of the 2006/2007 school year.

D. Long Term Substitute:

1. **Nicole Cuddeback**, High School; Special Education Teacher, for a Long Term Substitute Position, compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective January 23, 2007.

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Kevin Czapor**, Assistant Boys' Lacrosse Coach, \$2,786, Code F
2. **Jennifer Farischon**, Key Club Advisor, \$962, Code K
3. **Kevin Czapor**, Health Club Advisor, \$350, Code M
4. **Shawn P. Colden**, Winter Track Club Advisor, \$1,282, Code J

New Extra-Curricular Contract: High School

5. **Michelle D. Adcock**, Winter Indoor Color Guard, \$2,786, Code F

F. Extra-Curricular Contract: Playground Assistant

1. **Kathleen Lampman**, \$10.60/ Hour – 5/6th Grade Center

G. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Barbara Giebler | Music |
| 2. Christy Kirsch | Elementary Education |
| 3. Joanna Mack | English |
| 4. Steven Palladino | Elementary Education |
| 5. Meghan Steckel | Music |

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6. JoAnna D’Orazio | Elementary Ed. /Special Ed. |
| 7. Kara Johnson | Elementary Ed. /Special Ed. |
| 8. Jordan Troyan | Health & Physical Education |

H. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. Vicki Keil | Support |
| 2. Kevin Shanaman | Support |

New Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 3. Kathleen Anderson | Support |
| 4. Rochena Fatale | Support |
| 5. Sheryl Gorey | Support |
| 6. Christina Nichols | Support |

NEW PERSONNEL

- I. The Board approved the transfer of employee #4339 to a supplemental contract position, at the rate of \$12.43/hr., retroactive to February 5, 2007.

V. FINANCE

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Items A-H and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

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

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

1. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ABJ Sprinkler Co	Applic. #3- Fire Protection	\$	56,700.00
Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$	1,430.96
DLR Group	Professional Services	\$	4,239.56
Limerick Township	Escrow	\$	6,000.00
MBR Construction	Applic. #13-Electrical Contractor	\$	94,954.00
PECO	Electricity (2 Inv.)	\$	2,329.48
Jay R. Reynolds Inc.	Applic. #13-Plumbing Contractor	\$	13,414.76
UPS Store	(5) Drawing Copies	\$	26.25
*Colonial Electric Sup	Miniature Circuit Breaker	\$	815.00

*DLR Group	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	8,479.12
*Limerick Twp M.A.	Professional Services	\$	387.84
*PA American Water	Water Service	\$	<u>1,416.77</u>
	TOTAL	\$	190,193.74

2. **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT**

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$	<u>2,658.71</u>
	TOTAL	\$	2,658.71

3. **BROOKE ELEMENTARY**

Arthur Altemose, AIA	Professional Services	\$	2,420.00
Silas Bolef Company	Applic. #6- Electrical Contractor	\$	7,530.00
Worth & Company	Applic. #6- HVAC Contractor	\$	61,263.12
Worth & Company	Applic. #7- HVAC Contractor	\$	1,235.00
*Worth & Company	Applic. #8- HVAC Contractor	\$	<u>36,952.63</u>
	TOTAL	\$	109,400.75

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

1. **Greenstein Property Repairs**

Peter Lumber Co.	Misc. Supplies	\$	750.31
*Peter Lumber Co.	Misc. Supplies	\$	<u>222.04</u>
	TOTAL	\$	972.35

2. **New District Office**

McMahon & Assoc.	Traffic Impact Study	\$	3,728.95
*Foreman Architects	Professional Services Inv.#13	\$	<u>17,410.74</u>
	TOTAL	\$	21,139.69

C. The Board approved payment 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.

D. Checks:

1. **Weekly Checks prior to Work Session**

January

Check No. 114665 - 114901 \$1,933,117.21

February

Check No. 114902 – 114971 \$ 357,151.89

2. **Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting**

Check No. 114972 - 115029 \$ 312,248.67

3. **Board Checks held for approval**

Check No. 115030 - 115181 \$ 158,602.68

4. Athletic Fund
January
Check No. 298951 – 299078 \$ 31,160.07

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

1. **Theatreworks – New York, NY.** Provide an assembly on Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at Brooke Elementary School entitled “If You Give a Mouse a Cookie”. Funding will be paid by the 2006-2007 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand three hundred dollars (\$1,300.00).
2. **Jack Golden – Greenfield, MA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Garbage is My Bag” in conjunction with Earth Day activities. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Limerick Elementary Professional Educational Services Account and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).
3. **Betsy Dru Tecco – Collegeville, PA.** Provide four (4) assemblies entitled “Get Up and Go” on Thursday, March 29, 2007 at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Pro-Social Skills Program and shall not exceed nine hundred dollars (\$900.00).
4. **Perkiomen Valley Academy – Frederick, PA.** Provide educational services for a special education student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at the cost of ninety-eight dollars and fifty-five cents (\$98.55) per day for ninety-five (95) days. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Alternative Education Fund and shall not exceed nine thousand three hundred sixty-two dollars and twenty-five cents (\$9,362.25).
5. **Puppets Pizzazz – Richboro, PA.** Provide a one and one-half hour puppet presentation on student wellness for the community at Brooke Elementary. Funding will be paid from the 2006-2007 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00).

F. The Board approved amending the current contract with Sunesys, Inc. to include a fiber optic connection to Evans Elementary School from the Senior High School at a monthly rate of \$2,500.00 for 60 months. The fiber optic connection will be used to provide both data and telephone service at the same level as other District schools to Evans. Sunesys currently provides fiber optic for the same purpose to other District schools and the District Office. Funding will come from the General Fund and has been budgeted in the 2007-2008 Budget.

G. The Board approved accepting the option for the extension of the Trash and Recycle bid with Allied Waste Services for 2007-2008. The bid was awarded effective July 1, 2006 for one year, with an option to extend for

an additional two years. Administration recommends extending the bid for the 2007-2008 school year.

- H. The board approved accepting the option for the Turf Maintenance bid with Land-Tech Enterprises, Inc. for 2007-2008. The bid was awarded effective March 2005, with the option to extend for two additional years.

NEW FINANCE

Mr. Masciandaro asked to separate Item N and Mr. Weber asked that Item Q be separated.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items I-M and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- I. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – Jan. 2007
- PSDLAF – Jan. 2007
- PSDMAX – Jan. 2007
- Checking Account – Jan. 2007
- PLGIT Account – Jan. 2007
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – Jan. 2007
- Payroll Account – Jan. 2007
- Tax Account – Jan. 2007

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – Jan. 2007
- 7th Grade Activity – Jan. 2007
- 8th Grade Activity – Jan. 2007
- High School Activity – Jan. 2007
- Athletic Account – Jan. 2007

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – Jan. 2007
- Note Of 2004 – Jan. 2007

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – Jan. 2007
- Debt Service Fund – Jan. 2007
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – Jan. 2007

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – Jan. 2007
- Cafeteria Checking Account – Jan. 2007
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – Jan. 2007
- Investment Account – Jan. 2007

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

JANUARY

Checks No. 7251 - 7282

\$ 185,222.39

- K. The Board approved the following **exoneration** from the per capita tax for the 2006 – 2007 school year:

Limerick Township No. 21

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

Limerick Township Additions No. 1 – 201
Limerick Township Deletions No. 1 – 1818
Spring City Borough Deletions No. 130 - 299

- M. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2006-2007 school year:

Permit No. 1787– 1826

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Item N and Mr. Masciandro seconded it. Mr. Masciandro asked about Spring-Ford's ADM percentage and Mr. Anspach said the ADM was a 2.43% increase. Mr. Masciandro asked how it broke down amongst the three sending districts and Mr. Anspach said he did not have this information only Spring-Ford's figure. Mr. Petrowski commented that he believes the reason we are seeing the increase we are is because Upper Perkiomen had a substantial reduction in the number of students they send and while our numbers fell in proportion to their numbers we still carry a bigger percentage of the operating budget. Mr. Weber said according to the figures here we are paying 1.3 million out of the 5.1 million and just doing fast math it comes to approximately 27% so he is curious as to how we came up with 24%; Mr. Anspach answered saying there is other income that is there such as state reimbursement which is included in the budget number. The motion passed 7-0.

- N. The Board approved the Western Center for Technical Studies 2007-2008 Budget in the amount of \$5,135,631.00. Spring-Ford's share of the cost is \$1,378,631.00 or 6.15% increase over last year's budget.

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Items O-P and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- O. The Board approved submission of PLANCON K for the Advance Refunding of GOB, Series of 1999 to the G.O.B. Series of 2007. By Advance Refunding the older bonds the district will realize a savings of \$1,101,577.00. The savings is reflective of improved market bond interest rates relative to the older bond payment schedule. The report will be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

- P. The Board approved submission of PLANCON K for the Refunding of G.O.B. Series of 1997 to the G.O.B. Series of 2006. By Refunding the older bonds the district will realize a savings of \$1,904,166.00. The savings is reflective of improved market bond interest rates relative to the older bond payment schedule. The report will be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item Q and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. Mr. Weber asked don't we have a regular scheduled maintenance testing program and Mrs. Williams said yes. Mr. Weber questioned if this item is on that regular schedule to be tested and Mrs. Williams said no. Mr. Weber said his only point is that we should think about another policy for this and adopt it at this time because he does not feel that any parent or taxpayer should tell us when to test a building. Mr. Weber said he thinks we should do the testing upon their request only if they are willing to put up the money to pay for the testing plus ten percent for administrative costs and if the results are positive we will take care of the problem and refund the money but if it is negative we will keep the money, he does not think the public should dictate to us when we should test our buildings. Mrs. Williams said she did not see it as the public dictating to us when we should test the buildings, she thinks there was some controversy and some concern and it is somewhat justifiable that the same testing company that was in use in the prior administration was still being used. Mrs. Williams said because that conception was out in the public it is her recommendation and the Superintendents that we look at four other testing companies. Mrs. Williams reported that Dr. Hurda solely looked at four other testing companies and talked to various school districts to find someone she is comfortable with and that is how this recommendation came about. Mr. Weber said his concern is that with past administration every time a parent would complain we were out there testing and he does not have a problem with testing and correcting the problem but then we are spending "thousands of dollars" just because "some parent says we have to test". Mr. Weber said he does not have a problem with correcting the problem if there is mold but when they tell us when to do it he has a problem with that. Mr. Weber suggested if they do not like our testing company why don't pick three and give them a choice of giving them one of the three or any number you so pick and Mrs. Williams asked so you would give the parent the opportunity to choose? Mr. Weber said he does not care what we come up with but he feels the present policy and the way we are presently doing it is outdated. Mrs. Williams said we do not have a policy and this is part of our continuing maintenance and as she said last week she believes that Spring-Ford tests more than any other school district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, so we are trying to be proactive and she will consider his comments.

Dr. Hurda clarified that one of the issues is that there is some question about the connection between the testing company and the district as if there is some improper relationship which clearly there is not as she has never met the tester or had any conversation with the testing company. Dr. Hurda said one of the ways we can clarify and confirm that the results of the tester we used in the past are valid is to use a third party, an independent person, have them test and then triangulate the data and see if it all lines up. Dr. Hurda commented that she thinks people need to hear that so there will not be this continual questioning about the veracity of the results. Dr. Hurda said she could say it a hundred times that there is no connection between herself, the tester and the testing company but what do we have to be afraid of let's bring this independent party in and make the test results known and if there is a problem we will remediate it. Mr. Weber said he does not agree with our process.

Mr. Pettit commented that this seems like a rehash of what we went through a few years ago and every time a neighbor or parent would complain we would knee jerk a reaction to it and send out the testers and remediate if it was needed. Mr. Pettit said the schools in this district have probably the best air quality of any of the schools in the entire area and he agrees with Mr. Weber's suggestion that the people who do complain should be asked to reimburse the district for the costs they are pushing us through if the results turn out to be negative. Mr. Pettit said he will be voting yes for this only for the reason that we do want to be certain and he does not want anyone to be able to come back and say you don't want to test but he agrees with Mr. Weber's concerns.

Mr. Petrowski asked Mr. Davis what is adequate testing and when do we accomplish that and if in fact we are doing a program that is equal to or better than other districts and we do not find any issues, then a parent comes along and the extra testing is done and maybe find out we had selected the wrong firm and that there is an issue there, have we opened ourselves up to any liabilities in that area? Mrs. Williams asked that this question be reserved for later discussion.

Mr. Petrowski said he also supports Mr. Weber with the fact that we have a class A testing program, we should establish a policy and we should adhere to it as Mr. Cooper has said time and time again that this is done on a planned schedule and depending on the results the following test is either done at a shorter or longer duration and it is all based on objective results. Mrs. Williams said we will certainly look at this but she does not believe we have a policy presently and Mr. Grispon asked what section of the policy book you would put it in. Mrs. Williams asked the Board members to think about this and communicate with Mr. Grispon on where you would like to see to place this in the policy book.

Mr. Rocchio commented that while we have changed testing companies the person doing the testing has gone from one testing company to another so it has led to the possibility that some parents may have perceived that the person is not testing properly and we are trying to put this to rest. Mr. Rocchio said beyond this he feels Mr. Weber is correct and he feels that this is enough but he is not turning over his responsibility to a parent to select a firm or pay for any testing, if we need testing we will do it, if it needs to be repaired we will fix it, and if its not we are done and we walk away. Mr. Rocchio stated after this person does the testing on the 8th Grade Center only as this is the only building in his mind that there could be any potential issue with, he is done. Mr. Masciandaro said this is the kind of thing where you are always trying to do the right thing and play it the right way, he feels we hold pretty high standards in the district and we have shown this time and time again, but as soon as you start going over the line on one side he feels that any member of the public can come up to us and say you are spending too much money here. Mr. Masciandaro commented that if this item is here on the agenda and this is the recommendation of the Administration and Mrs. Williams is supportive of it as the chairman then he will back it at this time but feels we should have some caution on this, he asked Mrs. Williams if she was behind this as well and Mrs. Williams said yes. Mrs. Williams said this is the one time they will be doing this and it is just to compare the results. Mr. Weber said he just wants the Board to know that he is not against this item he is in favor of changing our process the way we do it. He is in favor of correcting the

problem if we have one but he is not in favor of jumping every time somebody says jump. The motion passed 7-0.

- Q. The Board approved Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates of Horsham, PA to conduct an air quality evaluation for the 8th Grade Center. Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates has over fifteen years of experience performing air quality evaluations. The funding for this evaluation will be paid from the 2006-2007 Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00).

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved of the materials for PlanCon Part J, Project Accounting Based on Final Costs, for Upper Providence Elementary School which have been reviewed and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. (See Attached)

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Petrowski seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved moving forward with seeking grant funding for the construction of a pond and habitat to be located inside the courtyard at Royersford Elementary School. This pond would provide a school yard habitat (garden, pond, and nesting sites) for the purpose of teaching hands-on lessons in environment and ecology. This habitat would be a resource for all elementary schools to visit and use the site for studying opportunities. It also has the potential for serving as a prototype for school yard habitats at other Spring-Ford schools.

PSBA REPORT

John S. Grispon

The Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee will meet on February 21, 2007. Our guests will be Representative Karen Beyer and Representative Tom Quigley. Representative Beyer will speak on Cyber Charter School Legislation (HB 446). Representative Quigley will discuss the Governor's Budget and Tax Reform.

Governors Budget

PSBA has concerns with two areas of the governor's proposed budget, both of which serve to diminish community decision-making. First, the governor proposed \$100 million in new funding to expand his successful Accountability Block Grant program but limits the use of the grants to new or expanded pre-kindergarten or full-day kindergarten programs. This would mark the first time in the short history of the program that new funds have been earmarked for specific purposes.

Until now, districts were able to use the grant funds on a menu of different programs that are proven to raise student achievement. By earmarking new

dollars for a specific purpose, increased funding is unavailable for districts to grow successful programs, such as reduced class size, expanded tutoring or professional development programs.

PSBA also is concerned with the recommendation to create statewide graduation requirements for all public school students. This requirement goes far beyond simply establishing what students need to know and do before graduating. Such a requirement would have repercussions on testing and curriculum, two areas where communities, through their school boards, have always had the latitude to make their own decisions within state-established guidelines.

Pennsylvania already has a set of statewide academic standards and a statewide test, but allows districts to choose how they will ensure that students meet the standards. The state also gives districts some leeway on which test to use as a graduation requirement, so long as it is proven to test the academic standards. PSBA will work with the Rendell Administration and the General Assembly to ensure that graduation requirements balance the need for state standards with community priorities.

The governor's budget proposals are the first step in the state budget process. PSBA will be proactive and vigilant in addressing the needs of public education during this period.

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"PSBA Seminar – Unlocking the Solutions to Ethical Dilemmas"* at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$137.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Doug Carson**, Maintenance Supervisor, to attend *"PA Rural Water Conference"* at The Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, PA from Tuesday, March 27 through Friday, March 30, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$623.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Carol Frankel**, Supervisor of Special Education, to attend *"PDE Annual Conference – Effective Interventions: Meeting the Needs of All Students"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA on Wednesday, March 28 and Thursday, March 29, 2007. The total cost of

this conference is \$417.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

- D. **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend "*Leading by Design*" at the Westover Country Club in West Norriton, PA on Tuesday, March 27, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$160.90 from the 580 account.
- E. **Kathie Kotch**, Coordinator of Public Outreach, to attend "*Grant Writing USA Workshop*" in West Chester, PA on Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9, 2007. The total cost of this conference is **\$574.44** from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- F. **Dan Flore**, Special Education Teacher, to attend "*Make and Take for the PASA*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$139.24 - \$14.24 from the 2006–2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- G. **Deborah Mancini and Patricia Voorstad**, Teachers, to attend "*NanoTechnology in the Classroom*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, March 22, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$424.66 - \$174.66 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- H. **Mickey McDaniel**, Athletic Director, to attend "*Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association Conference*" at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, March 26 through Saturday, March 24, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$725.00 from the 2006-2007 Athletic Budget.

9TH GRADE CENTER

- I. **Kimberly Green**, Teacher, to attend "*Secondary SAP Training*" at the Bucks County Council on Alcoholism & Drug Dependence in Doylestown, PA from Tuesday, March 13 through Thursday, March 15, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$805.00 - \$430.00 from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant and \$375.00 from the substitute account.
- J. **Denise Johnston**, Teacher, to attend "*PASAP Conference 2007*" at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA from Sunday, March 4 through Tuesday, March 6, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$970.00 - \$720.00 from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- K. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend "*Chester County Knowledge Bowl*" where she will serve as a moderator at West Chester University on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. There is no cost for this conference.
- L. **Jane Piersol, Stacy Shiffer, Cheryl West, Kathryn Shortall, Beth Croll, and Arlene Major**, Teachers, to attend "*Tips & Strategies to Begin & Ensure a Successful Collaborative Teaching Model*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, March 22, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$810.00 - \$60.00 from the 580 account and \$750.00 from the substitute account.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- M. **Christina Berkheiser**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Monitoring Student Progress in Writing*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, April 11, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$145.00 - \$20.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- N. **Laura Camp**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Reading Instruction for Struggling Learners*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$135.00 - \$10.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- O. **Kate Schneider**, Teacher, to attend "*Classroom Strategies to Support Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$135.00 - \$10.00 from the 2006-2007 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- P. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Pathologist, to attend "*A Phonemic Approach to /r/ and Frontal-Lateral Lisp Strategies*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, March 9, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$20.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- Q. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Pathologist, to attend "*Assistance Technology Core Team Training Update*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$25.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- R. **Dacia Williams**, Globe Teacher, to attend "*Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment*" at Clarion University in Clarion, PA from Monday, June 25 through Wednesday, June 27, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$153.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

BROOKE

- S. **Sandra Hoff**, Teacher, to attend “*Conference for PA Kindergarten Teachers*” in Harrisburg, PA on Tuesday, March 6, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$370.84 – \$245.84 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

OAKS/SPRING CITY

- T. **Andrea Rees**, Gifted Support Teacher, to attend “*Challenging the Gifted*” at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit on Thursday, March 15, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$241.00 - \$116.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

ROYERSFORD

- U. **Mary DeAngelis**, Environmental Education Teacher, to attend “*PAEE 2007 – No Child Left Inside*” in Wilkes-Barre, PA from Friday, April 13 through Sunday, April 15, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$519.00 - \$394.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- V. **Kathryn Pogwist, Marylu Onorato, Wendy Parkhouse, and Mary Pat Long**, Title I Teachers, to attend “*PAFPC Conference*” in Pittsburgh, PA from Sunday, April 15 through Wednesday, April 18, 2007. The total cost of the conference is **\$4730.76 – \$3230.76** from the 2006-2007 Title I Federal Programs Grant and **\$1500.00** from the substitute account.
- W. **Cathy Wright**, Teacher, to attend “*Successful Intervention with the Chronically Disruptive Student*” at the Radisson Hotel in Valley Forge, PA on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$324.00 - \$199.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- X. **Wendy Pflugler**, Librarian, to attend “*Advanced Techniques and Procedures for Auditory Verbal Therapy*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, April 12, 2007. There is no cost for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- Y. **Wendy Pflugler**, Librarian, to attend “*Reading Instruction for Struggling Learners in Kindergarten*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, May 15, 2007. There is no cost for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- Z. **Debora Zelle and Jacquelyn Raco**, Certified School Nurses, to attend “*PA School Nurses and Practitioners – At the Point for Student Success*” at the Sheraton in Pittsburgh, PA on Friday, April 13, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$1437.00 - \$1187.00 from the 2006-2007 Pottstown Health and Wellness Grant and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATION

- AA. **Gladys Thonus**, Teacher, to attend "*Autism and Asperger's Syndrome*" in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, March 23, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$315.00 – \$190.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Hurda commented that on Option 1 April 22, 2008 is indicated as the date for the primary election but currently in the House and Senate there is legislative action being taken that move that date to sometime in March. Dr. Hurda said by passing the calendar tonight we will have to come back and change the date of the primary in the spring.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved the 2007- 2008 school calendar. (Option 1).

Mr. Petrowski made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District's Rebalancing Plan effective July 1, 2007.

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item C and Mr. Petrowski seconded it.

Mr. Masciandaro commented that this resolution is about authorizing the referendum question and he has been asked by some constituents about something he said about Act 1 hurting us as a district in terms of the uncertainty it puts into the budgetary process. Mr. Masciandaro reiterated his position, which has not changed, he is very proud of efforts of the Administration and the School Board to reduce our tax increase every year for the last five years. Mr. Masciandaro said Act 1 while well intended to be able to provide relief for property tax by shifting it over to income tax has hurt us because of the uncertainty, the rules, exceptions and caps which has forced us to be more conservative in how we budget. Mr. Masciandaro said it is very unlikely that we will be able to continue the trend and he is certain that we will see a tax increase more in the 4's than in the 3's which is a shame from his perspective. The motion passed 7-0.

- C. The Board approved **Resolution 2007-08** authorizing the referendum question adopted by the Spring-Ford Area Board of School Directors on January 22, 2007.

X. INFORMATION ITEM

- A. Effective January 1, 2007, the IRS mileage rate increased to 48.5 cents per mile. Currently the rate is 44.5 cents per mile.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no questions or comments

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Weber made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:38.

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