

On February 22, 2010 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
Region II: Clara M. Gudolonis, Julie A. Mullin and Donna L. Williams
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi
Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.: Michael John

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ciresi announced that the next Superintendent's/Parents' Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th starting at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria annex. Mr. Ciresi asked Dr. Hurda to address the high school construction and the temporary movement of the media center and cafeteria.

Dr. Hurda reported that because of the internal construction that will be occurring we will have to close down the media center and cafeteria. A temporary media center consisting of books, computers and scanners has been placed in one of the computer labs and this room will become available to students on Monday, March 1st. Students will be able to access this temporary library before school from 7:20 to 7:40 a.m. daily as well as afterschool until 3:10 p.m. just as they do the regular media center. The media center will also be open in the evenings just as the current media center is and there will also be an opportunity for students to access the media center in the 9th Grade Center on Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Dr. Hurda said there have been some questions as to why we have to do this now rather than after the end of the school year and the reason for this is because it could not be completed in that short a period of time. Dr. Hurda reported that the greater challenge will be the cafeteria area and that renovation will begin on Monday, March 29th and at that point students will be able to purchase a cold lunch (hoagies, sandwiches, salads and beverages) although there will not be any hot lunches served. The cafeteria being closed will impact the ability to have Board Meetings there as well as a number of community functions. Dr. Hurda reiterated that this work must begin now so that it can be completed over the summer so the decision was made for the work to begin now and continue over the summer so that it could be completed for the start of the new school year. Dr. Hurda stated that all of the plans that are in place for the cafeteria have been approved by the Department of Health. She asked

the school community for their patience, support and flexibility with the changes that will be taking place.

Mr. Ciresi announced that the Board met in an Executive Session regarding legal matters. Mr. Ciresi commented that this past weekend there was a fundraiser for Students Need an Alternative Party (SNAP) and he thanked everyone who participated and came to Applebee's. Mr. Ciresi advised the community that there will be a dodgeball tournament taking place as a SNAP fundraiser. He reported that the School Board will be putting together a team that will take on a team from the Administration. Mrs. Williams asked if Michael John, the Student Representative, would be competing for the School Board team and Mr. Ciresi replied yes.

I. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Colyer thanked the School Board for the opportunity to recognize one of the high school seniors. Mr. Colyer announced that Spring-Ford High School is pleased to announce that Kenneth L. Pierson, one of their senior students, has been proclaimed as a Finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Colyer reported that when Kenneth was a junior he joined more than 1.3 million other juniors in taking the 2008 PSAT, the National Merit qualifying test. Mr. Colyer said this test served as an initial screening for the program entrance. Mr. Colyer stated Kenneth's achievement on the PSAT moved him to the status of semi-finalist, a group which represents less than 1% of the entrants of the highest scoring in each state. Mr. Colyer said as a semi-finalist Kenneth had to fulfill several requirements before advancing to the finalist stage. Mr. Colyer reported that Kenneth is one of more than 15,000 national finalists who have the potential of receiving one of 8,200 monetary awards. Mr. Colyer stated that Spring-Ford is very proud of Kenneth and would like to recognize him and his parents who are present this evening. Mr. Colyer pointed out that not only is Kenneth proficient in the classroom but he is also a student athlete, plays baseball, and is musically inclined. Mr. Colyer announced that Kenneth will be continuing his academic and athletic career at Johns Hopkins University next year.

Mr. Ciresi presented Kenneth with a certificate recognizing him for being named as a Finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

- A. Presentation to **Kenneth L. Pierson** for being named as a Finalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mr. Bannon presented a PowerPoint that included pictures showing the current status of the High School Project. Mr. Bannon also showed a floorplan that included shading highlighting the newly constructed areas. Mr. Bannon spoke about the 10th Avenue extension roadway and he showed an overview of this area.

Mr. Ciresi commented that there has been some confusion regarding where the border of the cemetery is and he asked Mr. Bannon to explain this. Mr. Bannon pointed out the border of the cemetery and stated that we are not encroaching into the cemetery.

Mr. Dehnert said there was a lot of concern that there would be a lot of change orders and he asked Mr. Bannon about this. Mr. Bannon replied that to date only one change order has been approved and that was for the security system. Mr. Cooper confirmed this was correct and that we knew in advance that this was going to take place since we were not sure what type of security system we were going to be using.

- B. **Gary Bannon**, E.I. Associates, to give an update on the High School Addition/Renovation Project.

Mr. Anspach commented that this is an opportunity for the district to participate in PECO's Demand Response Program. The program can save the district roughly \$100,000 - \$150,000. He introduced Diane Romero a Senior Account Manager from PECO.

Ms. Romero reported that the PECO Demand Response Program allows customers to save money and energy by controlling energy in high usage periods. Ms. Romero spoke about PJM (Pennsylvania, Jersey and Maryland) inner connection power grid that operates our PECO territory as well as thirteen other territories throughout the United States. PJM controls the flow of power that comes in and out of our territory as well as make sure that there is enough power supply for all the customers in specific territories. PJM must make sure that they procure a certain amount of power every summer in order to make sure that we never have to have rolling blackouts or brownouts thereby disrupting service to customers. Ms. Romero explained that the way the program works is that PJN pays customers to curtail energy. PJN sells the power that we would turn off on the market and the district then gets money for not using the power. Ms. Romero stated that the PECO Program has been running for ten years. The program contract obligation is for one year beginning on June 1st and runs through May 31st of the following year. Curtailments in energy normally only occur in the summer months from June 1st through September 30th. Ms. Romero said there are two types of saving programs; a voluntary one and a mandatory one. The voluntary program is where PECO will call you the day of or a day ahead of the energy curtailment and you then have the option to agree to the curtailment or say no. With the voluntary option you will only receive money when called upon to curtail your energy. Under the mandatory program you are paid just for saying yes to the contract whether or not you are ever called upon you for an energy curtailment. Ms. Romero explained that customers can participate in both programs and many customers do this. The voluntary program is run by PECO and the mandatory one is run by PJN. PECO looks at the grid, sees when the temperatures are getting high, they watch the PJN website and then decide whether or not they are going to call an event depending on the dollar value of the load in the open market. Ms. Romero reported when they sell your power then you will get 50% of the savings and PECO will get the other 50%. Ms. Romero stated that the district will decide in advance when they sign the contract whether they are going to curtail and how much they are willing to curtail. Curtailment is limited to 6 hours of interruption per event, weekdays only, between noon and 8:00 p.m. from June to September with a maximum of ten events per year. A mandatory test of the system will be done on August 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. for one hour. This test will only occur if a curtailment event has not taken place prior to that date. Ms. Romero showed a chart that depicted curtailment events from 2002 through 2009. The chart revealed that no curtailment events occurred in the years 2008 and 2009 other than a test of the system in 2009. Ms. Romero spoke about E-evaluator an online energy tracking system. The district can go onto this system to track its electrical usage and use this information to control energy costs.

Mr. Ciresi asked how many school districts participate in this program now and Ms. Romero stated that she is filling in for the normal account manager so she is not quite sure how many total schools there are.

Dr. Hurda commented that when we talk about this program the dates are June 1st – September 30th so there is a natural concern that a curtailment event could occur while we have school in session. Dr. Hurda said she did go back and look at the history from the past 10 years and found that the earliest event was the 3rd of July which is certainly after our school would be out. The latest curtailment was around August 16, 17, and 18th and that would be before our students would return. Ms. Romero said the curtailment typically follows the trend of the heat index being high but if we have a day with clouds or a storm roll through the load starts to drop and the curtailment event would get cancelled. Dr. Hurda emphasized that even if we never have a curtailment event then we will still see a credit each month which in a year's time will amount to approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000. Dr. Hurda commented that the district's energy rates are going to increase this year by 2% so this is a way for us to reach some type of breakeven point. Ms. Romero reported that this is the last year for the PECO rate caps so next year this program may not even exist because going forward there will be a lot of energy reduction programs which will be mandated by Act 29. Ms. Romero commented that if this program is offered next year the district will not see the type of payout it is seeing now.

Mr. Dressler asked what systems would be turned off, if we would be turning the lights off in the buildings if students are in them and if that presented a safety issue. Dr. Hurda replied that the district looked into all of this and in looking at the history and realizing that the earliest event was July 3rd we would not have students in the classrooms. Dr. Hurda stated that if the event would be called prior to July 3rd and we did have students in the building we would turn off the air conditioning and lights but we believe that based on the timeframe that we would be able to function. The district has done this already when we have had to deal with power lines being down. Dr. Hurda reported that the district would be looking at reducing our energy usage by 75% during curtailments so this would still allow us to maintain some emergency lighting. Mr. Cooper further explained what items would be turned off and what items would remain with power. Mr. Cooper commented that if a curtailment is occurring it would be taking place on a sunny day so the classrooms would not be dark.

C. **Diane Romero**, Senior Account Manager, to present PECO's Demand Response Program.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments or questions.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the January 19, 2010 Work Session minutes.

NEW MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

B. The Board approved the January 25, 2010 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum **Julie Mullin** **1st Tues. 7:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Curriculum Committee met on February 2, 2010 and received an update from Dr. Donahue on his findings after conducting a survey of surrounding Montgomery County School Districts as well as Phoenixville and Boyertown on the foreign languages they offer students. The Committee also received a report from Mr. Spohn on the number of SMARTBoards throughout the district, how we obtained them and how they have been distributed. The Committee agreed that not every room needs a SMARTBoard and discussed other options and how to best determine what is needed in each room. The Committee discussed the number of teachers who offer websites and what other means they offer to communicate with students. The Committee agreed that websites were not the only options for communications but there were also opportunities through Skyward and the new server software package. The Committee also discussed Skyward and the timeliness of entering grades as well as the information available to users. The Committee talked about the high, low and average grades on tests and assignments being removed from parent access on Skyward and recommended that this feature be put back as it is useful information to parents while not compromising the identity of specific students. Lastly, the Committee discussed establishing a policy on the timeliness of entering grades but this will require more discussion before making a formal recommendation to the Policy Committee. The next meeting will be held on March 2, 2010.

Personnel **Bern Pettit** **As needed**
 No report.

Policy **Donna Williams** **2nd Mon. 6:15 p.m.**

Mrs. Williams reported that the Policy Committee met on February 8, 2010 and discussed that currently policies show an adopted date and a time when any changes were made but it does not show when the policy was last reviewed with no changes being made. The Committee is recommending adding a line which shows when the policy was last reviewed. Mrs. Williams stated that the Policy Committee also discussed the proposed policy regarding attendance at meetings via electronic communications. Mrs. Williams said as directed by the full Board the Committee discussed attendance at committee meetings only via electronic communications. Dr. Hurda stated that she could arrange to have the conference phone available at all meeting. Committee Members Mr. Shafer and Mrs. Williams recommended that there really did not seem to be a need for a policy at this time. Committee Member Ms. Gudolonis made changes to the draft policy and the Policy Committee will review them at their next meeting if the full Board directs them to do so. Mrs. Williams reported that having served on the Board for awhile she remembers that in the spring of 2006 Mr. Petrowski, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, was ill and was unable to make meeting. A conference phone was set up so that he could participate. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Shafer felt that since there was a past practice of this being done then a policy was not necessary. Mrs. Williams stated that this is the recommendation of the Policy Committee and she would like the Board to direct them where to go from here. Ms. Gudolonis commented that she believes that there should be a policy in order to have something in writing because no one was aware that this was a past practice. Mrs. Williams said that two of the three Policy Committee Members recommend that there no be a policy. Ms. Gudolonis stated that the third member recommends that there be a policy. Mr. Ciresi asked the Board if they want to move forward with this or not. Ms. Gudolonis commented that if more than one person is going to call in then there is going to have to be something arranged such as a call in number or we will need multiple

phoned on the table. Mr. Ciresi stated that there is a way to call in on one line so we could have a multitude of people call in. Mr. Ciresi asked the Board if they were in agreement with the Policy Committee's recommendation of not needing a policy and eight out of the nine Board Members agreed.

V. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Gudolonis asked that Item G3 and Item H be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Resignation:

1. **Kori McDaniel**, High School; Assistant Girls' Lacrosse Coach, effective January 27, 2010.

New Resignations:

2. **Patrick Connors**, High School; Special Education Teacher, effective date to be determined.
3. **Patrick Connors**, Middle School; Event Supervisor-Spring, effective date February 18, 2010.

B. Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy:

1. **Beverly Albright**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively April 16, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Scott Burr**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 27, 2010.
3. **Jasmine Ewing**, 8th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively March 10, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
4. **William Franz**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 20, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Jessica Hauseman**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary School Counselor, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 17, 2010 through the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
6. **Kristi Holstein**, High School; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 5, 2010 through the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
7. **Heather Kronstain**, 8th Grade Center; Mathematics Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively March 27, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

8. **Kelly Kurtas**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Kindergarten Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 8, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
9. **Mary Pat Long**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Math/Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 4, 2010 for up to maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
10. **Marian Polto**, Evans Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 5, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
11. **Carole Yoder**, Limerick Elementary School; Food Service Manager, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 2, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

New Leaves of Absence:

12. **Danitza E. Lerten-Martin**, Spring City Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 16, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
13. **Faye L. Michener**, 7th Grade Center, Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 5, 2010 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Heather Potemski**, 5/6th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, compensation will be set at \$42,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive to February 1, 2010 through the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
2. **Robyn Miller**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, compensation will be set at \$42,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, effective retroactive to September 21, 2009 through January 29, 2010.

New Long Term Substitute:

3. **Joseph R. Perry**, 5/6th Grade Center; Music Teacher, compensation will be set at \$42,000. BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective February 16, 2010 through the end of the 2009/2010 school year.

D. Supplemental Contract - High School

1. **Kori McDaniel**, Lacrosse Head Coach, Girls, \$5,142

New Supplemental Contract – High School

2. **Chadwin Brubaker**, Football Head Coach, \$9,047

E. Professional Substitutes:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Laura Ng | Mathematics |
| 2. Michael Tavani | Elementary Education |

New Professional Substitutes:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3. Lauren Harding | Elementary Education/Early childhood |
| 4. Elizabeth Kozemchak | Elementary Education |
| 5. Jessica Munoz | Spanish |

F. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. Samantha Carfagno | Support |
| 2. Alicia DeMedio | Support |
| 3. Kimberly Uba | Support |
| 4. Darlene Melody | Support |
| 5. Myra Segal | Support |

New Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| 6. Arlen B. Reyes | Support |
| 7. June Mitchell-Anigbogu | Support |

G. New Support Staff Employees:

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items G1-G2 and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

1. **Micah W. Kummerer**, District; Maintenance II employee, compensation will be set at \$22.52 per hour with benefits as per the Maintenance Plan, effective March 1, 2010.
2. **Joseph S. Nugent**, District; Maintenance-HVACR Specialist, compensation will be set at \$34.00 per hour with benefits as per the Maintenance Plan, effective date to be determined.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item G3 and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Ms. Gudolonis stated that given the economic situation we are in at the moment, is it really a good idea to bring in replacement people or can we get by with what we have and not fill these positions? Dr. Hurda said we did look at that but this is a position that is driven by an IEP. Someone retired and we filled that position because of that need clearly with the understanding that we have the opportunity to relook at all of those positions within the next couple of months.

The motion passed 9-0.

3. **Rachel Weller**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant (replacement position), compensation will be set at \$15.80 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective February 1, 2010.

H. **New Temporary Professional Employee:**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item H1 and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Ms. Gudolonis stated that this is also a replacement position and the Board was not given any numbers in terms of students involved and she said going back to the enrollment figures they received in the beginning of February it showed that Royersford has small classes, under 20 students, and she saw at least one class that was 15 students. Ms. Gudolonis said she believes we could redistribute the students from this class over at Royersford to the existing classes and we still would not have any classes larger than the low 20's. Mrs. Williams questioned doing this in the middle of the year. Ms. Gudolonis stated that she is looking at saving as much money as possible because we are not just looking at saving the \$43,000 per year but also what would be paid in benefits and retirement so if we do not have to hire a teacher then she would rather go with not hiring a teacher.

Mr. Ciresi asked Dr. Hurda if under the collective bargaining unit we are required to hire a teacher. Dr. Hurda replied that she did discuss this with Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis replied that he is not sure how you would teach the classroom, you do not have to hire a teacher but you cannot put a substitute in that room because it is a permanent position. Mr. Davis stated that someone must teach this class.

Ms. Gudolonis recommended redistributing the students over the existing classes.

Dr. Hurda clarified that there was a classroom with a teacher in it. The students started the school year and had a substitute since the beginning of the year. The teacher had every intention of returning. Last month or the month prior to that the Board accepted the retirement of that teacher. This is no longer a long term sub position as it is now a contracted position. Dr. Hurda said she believes school code says you must fill this position in 90 days. Mr. Davis commented that the law is very clear since there is no one at present in the position then there is no substitute here. Dr. Hurda replied that from a legal standpoint we certainly had to follow the law but from an educational standpoint school started, you have a class of students who have had a teacher and deserve to have a teacher through the remainder of the year and she could not support in any way, shape or form that you would take children at the second grade level and redistribute them at this point in the year. Dr. Hurda stated that the district can redistribute contracts however we see fit for the start of the next school year as we did last year when we did shifting of enrollment. Dr. Hurda said you cannot take children out in February and put them in different classrooms because it is educationally not sound nor legally can we not fill the position.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the teacher that retired was at a higher step than the teacher being brought in and Dr. Hurda replied yes, that there was about a \$35,000 dollar savings there.

Ms. Gudolonis commented that it was not explained that it was a second grade teacher and she can understand Dr. Hurda's position regarding the kids. Ms. Gudolonis said it is a temporary position and according to the law temporary positions can be furloughed for economic reasons. Clara indicated that this is something the Board is going to get into in the future and this is something she learned at the Intermediate Unit training. Ms. Gudolonis stated if we continue with

this teacher for the rest of the year she would like to see the Board certainly consider furloughing this person at the end of the year.

Mr. Ciresi replied before we get into that discussion, as we look at the budget that is coming up he knows Dr. Hurda and the Board have discussed looking at every avenue to cut the budget without compromising education. Mr. Ciresi referenced how the district last year at the end of the year shifted teachers around to buildings where the load was heavier.

Mr. Dehnert stated if he understands what Dr. Hurda and Mr. Davis have said it is that we have two choices either eliminate the position and redistribute the kids or we hire a person. Mr. Dehnert said he does not support redistributing the kids in the middle of the school year no matter what grade they are in.

Mr. Dressler questioned the salary and if that was for $\frac{1}{2}$ a year and Dr. Hurda replied that the salary was prorated. She clarified that this particular person has been in the position since the beginning of the school year when the regular teacher went out sick so \$43,000 is the salary this teacher will receive over the course of the whole year.

Mr. Shafer commented that to the individual that is on the agenda to be hopefully approved this is a very exciting time for that person and he wanted to make sure that everyone is aware that from his perspective he would never, ever consider not replacing a classroom teacher or in this case just continuing the existing teacher. Mr. Shafer said he recognizes that we have tough, tough financial responsibilities at the Board table, educating children is why they are all here. Mr. Shafer commented that the Board should be looking at more things like the PECO Program as a way to save money.

Mr. DiBello clarified that Ms. Gudolonis commented that the Board should potentially furlough the teacher and he wanted to make it clear that this is not what the Board is talking about at this point as this is a full time hired position and that individual will follow the normal process of a new teacher being brought into the district. Dr. Hurda confirmed this was correct. Mr. DiBello stated that he cannot support hiring a teacher and then have it out there that we are going to furlough this person within a couple months. Mr. DiBello said he understands we have some very tough economic times and budget constraints ahead of them and the Board will have to make some very hard decisions but he does not want to make it seem that the budget right now falls on this one individual coming into the district.

Ms. Gudolonis stated that we need to look at all temporary teachers and this individual just happens to be the one that has come up at this time.

Mr. DiBello stated that is your opinion and that is fair but at this point and time he is not supporting that opinion.

Mr. Ciresi replied that from an educational standpoint he stands with his two colleagues on this that we need to look for every other possible cut in the budget before we look to cut anything that affects the classroom directly with the teacher and class size. Mr. Ciresi stated that having been on the previous Board they

fought to build another elementary school in order to bring down class size, the commitment still sits here to keep class size low. Mr. Ciresi commented that it has been proven to us that a lower class size supports education and the children do much better. Mr. Ciresi stated one example of this in our district is Spring City Elementary where students scored some of the highest test scores in the district because of lower class size. Mr. Ciresi said furloughing and that type of conversation is the opinion of each Board Member but he does not support looking at that at this time in this district.

Dr. Hurda thanked Mr. DiBello for his comment saying she does not feel comfortable about the fact that we have a teacher in the classroom doing a super job since the beginning of the school year and there is a discussion that this person may be furloughed at the end of the year. Dr. Hurda stated that this was certainly never the discussion nor thankfully one that she believes the Board wants to entertain. Dr. Hurda said she has spoken very passionately to the Board Members about the need for evaluating every aspect of the educational program. She commented that we are in the process of doing that and the presentation from PECO tonight is an indication that we are looking for ways to offset some of our expenses. Dr. Hurda noted that we will be one of the few districts that will have made this commitment with PECO because we feel that it is essential. Dr. Hurda said we cannot lose sight of what our Strategic Plan clearly states about class size, curriculum, instruction, the mission and the vision of this district. Dr. Hurda stated that no one is more cognizant of the fact that we are in a tough budget year than she is and she has spent every day since we identified what the budget number is looking for ways to cut the budget without hurting student instruction. Dr. Hurda assured everyone that she will continue to do this and whatever the Board's wishes are she will do what she needs to do but she cannot sit there and not advocate for quality education, doing what is right for kids and maintaining what the community identified as their goals through the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Williams commented that she thinks it is extremely important to remember that the Board's job by the time a motion gets to the table is to truly understand what the role and responsibility of the Board is. Mrs. Williams stated at no point in any time she has sat at the table has it been her job to decide whether or not we needed a teacher in the classroom as this decision belongs to the administration, it's their bailiwick and not ours. Mrs. Williams said has complete confidence that if Dr. Hurda and her staff put this on the agenda then it belongs here. Mrs. Williams commented that Dr. Hurda is looking to find every dollar she can and she reminded everyone that Dr. Hurda took her increase last year post tax and donated it all back to the Education Foundation and several charities of her own choosing. Mrs. Williams reiterated that there are boundaries in the Board's roles and responsibilities. Mrs. Williams concluded by saying she knows there are seven other Board Members along with her that would never consider anything that would harm children as too many years of their lives have been devoted to doing this. Mrs. Williams thanked Dr. Hurda for always advocating for the kids.

The motion passed 9-0.

1. **Molly Woods**, Royersford Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, (replacement position) compensation will be set at \$43,000, BS, Step 2 with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective February 22, 2010.

VI. FINANCE

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

Ms. Gudolonis asked that Item B1 be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. SENIOR HIGH- ALTERATION & ADDITIONS

Earth Engineering Inc.	Professional Services	\$	8,956.85
EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	360.84
Goshen Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #9- HVAC Contractor	\$	204,999.30
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	176.72
Limerick Township M.A.	Professional Services	\$	236.88
Peter Lumber Co.	Misc. Supplies/Cafeteria Area	\$	517.13
U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies (3 Inv.)	\$	38.70
*E R Stuebner	Applic. #8- General Contractor	\$	213,020.84
*MBR Construction	Applic. #9- Electric Contractor	\$	80,091.00
*Sherwin-Williams	Paint/Supplies – Cafeteria Area	\$	263.89
	TOTAL	\$	508,662.15

2. 9th GRADE CENTER PARKING LOT

U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies	\$	7.20
	TOTAL	\$	7.20

3. 10TH AVENUE BY-PASS

Fox Rothschild LLC	Professional Services	\$	468.00
Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse Capital Reserve	\$	46,243.35
	TOTAL	\$	46,711.35

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B1 and Mrs. Williams seconded it.

Ms. Gudolonis asked what exactly is being dismantled and delivered to the 5/6/7 building for storage. Dr. Hurda said when we opened the new district office you may recall that we received \$200,000 of free office furniture and we needed to have some of that dismantled and removed. Dr. Hurda reported that we took everything that we could from the old district office and saved every piece of equipment, every filing cabinet, every desk and every partition. Dr. Hurda commented that what we took from the company who donated the \$200,000 worth of furniture had to be dismantled, we used what we could in the new district office and what remained is now stored in the 5/6/7 building as well as the old district office. Ms. Gudolonis questioned if this work had already been done and Dr. Hurda replied yes. Ms. Gudolonis asked why these items went into the 5/6/7 building for storage as she thought it was going into the high school. Dr. Hurda responded that the high school is not complete yet. Ms. Gudolonis asked why we did not just leave everything where it was because now we will have to

pay to move it from the 5/6/7 building to the high school. Dr. Hurda answered that we could not leave it in the new district office, we took everything that the company would give us, and we set up what we needed to at the district office but could not leave it all there as there would be no room to work. We had to take what was left and store it somewhere so that it could be set up at the high school. Dr. Hurda stated that it was a matter of taking what was given to us for free and putting it into storage for the high school so that we can use it and not have to spend any additional money at the high school.

The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. **NEW DISTRICT OFFICE**

Office.NET, Inc.	Dismantle/Remove Furniture- Deliver to 5/6/7 Bldg storage Knockdown/transport/reinstall Furniture from Old Admin. To New	\$ 3,080.00
	TOTAL	\$ 3,080.00

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items B2 – M and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. Mr. Ciresi pointed out that the PECO motion with regards to the presentation this evening is Letter M. The motion passed 9-0.

2. **OAKS WALK IN REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER**

EI Associates	Professional Services	\$ 179.58
	TOTAL	\$ 179.58

C. The Board approved next month’s payroll, taxes, all benefits, transportation contracts, IU contracts, Vo-Tech payments, debt service payments, utility bills, maintenance agreements, copier leases, equipment maintenance, Federal grants, insurance, and discounted invoices.

D. Checks:

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

<u>January</u>		
Check No. 134797 – 134882		\$ 713,097.28
<u>February</u>		
Check No. 134883 – 135025		\$ 768,172.39

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

Check No. 135156 – 135193		\$ 215,509.15
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3. **Board Checks held for approval**

Check No. 135026 – 135155		\$ 109,213.63
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4. **Athletic Fund**

<u>January</u>		
Check No. 302153 – 302300		\$ 29,223.34

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

1. **Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year Services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Programming services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a rate of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00). In addition, Variety Club will also provide six (6) sessions of occupational therapy and twelve (12) sessions of speech therapy at a rate of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per session for a total of one thousand six hundred twenty dollars (\$1,620.00). Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA funds and shall not exceed five thousand three hundred seventy dollars (\$5,370.00).
2. **Blue Sky Puppet Theater – University Park, MD.** Provide two (2) assemblies encouraging healthy eating, physical activity and regular medical visits. Funding shall be paid by the 2009-2010 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed eight hundred dollars (\$800.00).
3. **Michelle S. Switala, Cranberry Township, PA.** Provide travel reimbursement for a secondary math department presentation to teachers. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Stimulus Funds and shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

New Independent Contracts

4. **Magic Touch Entertainment, Canadensis, PA.** Provide three (3) sixty minute presentations entitled “Learning Can Be Cool and Fun” at Royersford Elementary School on March 12, 2010. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed two thousand three hundred dollars (\$2,300.00).
 5. **Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a presentation entitled “Dinosaur Dig” at Oaks Elementary School on May 4, 2010. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Oaks Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
 6. **The Hill School – Pottstown, PA.** Provide two (2) presentations entitled “Rumplestilskin” at Upper Providence Elementary School on March 3, 2010. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Upper Providence Home and School Grant and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).
- F. The Board approved the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Special Education Cost Plan** for the 2010-2011 school year for the Spring-Ford Area School District in the amount of \$1,195,173.85. This represents an increase of \$60,572.87 over last year’s plan, and an increase of services for 3 additional students.
- G. The Board approved the establishment of the SNAP Student Organization Club in the High School Activity Account. This club will provide an opportunity for students to partner with community volunteers, parents and school administration in the planning of SNAP events.

New Finance:

H. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved by the Board:

General Fund

- Money Market – January 2010
- PSDLAF – January 2010
- PSDMAX – January 2010
- Checking Account – January 2010
- PLGIT Account – January 2010
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – January 2010
- Payroll Account – January 2010
- Tax Account – January 2010

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – January 2010
- 7th Grade Activity – January 2010
- 8th Grade Activity – January 2010
- High School Activity – January 2010
- Athletic Account – January 2010

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – January 2010

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – January 2010
- Debt Service Fund – January 2010
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – January 2010

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – January 2010
- Cafeteria Checking Account – January 2010
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – January 2010
- Investment Account – January 2010

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

November

Check No. 9193 – 9229 \$ 268,822.69

January

Check No. 9286 - 9316 \$ 275,092.74

J. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2009-2010 school year:

Royersford Borough Additions	No. 1 – 61
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 131 – 294

K. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2009-2010 school year:

Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 092 - 097
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- L. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2009-2010 school year:

Permits No. 2990 – 3030

- M. The Board approved entering into an agreement with PECO to participate in the Demand Response Program. Spring-Ford has an opportunity to realize a significant financial incentive by reducing electricity usage at times of peak demand. The possible curtailment timeframe is June 1 – September 30, weekdays only, available 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. for up to 6 consecutive hours and up to 10 days per year. Savings could be in excess of \$100,000. The school district will receive financial benefit even if no electrical outages occur.

VII. **PROPERTY**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved contracting with Bursich Engineering to conduct Phase II of a survey and provide design drawings for the reconfiguration of the front drive of the 9th Grade Center parking lot. This is being recommended in order to create new traffic patterns and improve the safety of drivers, busses and pedestrians utilizing the high school campus. Funding will come from the High School Project Construction Fund and shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

New Property

- B. The Board approved Thomas J. Bellairs, GRI,GAA, RAA, Wyomissing, PA to provide real estate appraisal services for the 10th Avenue Extension easement at a cost of \$4,000.00 for the preparation of a narrative appraisal report. Any appraisal work after the issuance of the report would be billed at a rate of \$175.00 per hour.

VIII. **PSBA REPORT/MCIU REPORTS** **Tom DiBello**

Mr. DiBello reported that the MCIU Legislative Board held their meeting on January 27, 2010. Mr. DiBello informed the Board that he asked that Mrs. Fern forward the four pages of minutes from that meeting home to the Board in their Friday packets. Mr. DiBello highlighted a few important points from the meeting, one being that the MCIU needs to receive a nomination form for a Spring-Ford candidate to fulfill the remaining two years on the term vacated by a previous Board Member. These forms are due by April 19, 2010. Mr. DiBello reported that the Human Resource Department at the IU gave an update which said they are continually trying to maintain their current staff and professional staff, moving staff members around and bringing in additional staff where necessary to fill open positions. Mr. DiBello stated that the real highlight of the meeting was a project that started at some point last year where there were consultants from Management Partnership Services who did a study to determine if there were ways to reduce the transportation costs of taking students from a district to the IU. Mr. DiBello commented that preliminary conclusions of that study indicate that they are looking at the potential of a 32% reduction in costs. Mr. DiBello reported that districts would partner together to utilize routes and share busses. Mr. DiBello said they want to move forward with the next phase of the project,, pilot this concept and then continue to provide updates throughout the year. Mr. DiBello advised the Board

that the MCIU Board received a report from the IU Technology Committee and it was interesting to see that there was a grant of \$418,000 that was awarded to Lower Moreland Township School District in order to enhance the distance learning capabilities through video conferencing, bridging and streaming of technology. Mr. DiBello said he is sure that Spring-Ford has looked at these grants in the past but possibly there are some new grants coming up that we may want to look at in the future. Mr. DiBello reported that Dr. Gales and Dr. Shiveley travelled down to Washington to meet with senior staffers from the House and Senate Education Committees as well as the Department of Education where the discussions were about the President's Four Pillars of Education which include great teachers/leaders, standards/assessments, turnaround of school districts and data system support. The discussions also revealed that there is potentially going to be some educational funding that will come from the federal government but that will be tied to "Race to the Top". Dr. Gales and Dr. Shively also met with representatives from Congressman Sestak's office to discuss ways to increase educational services for districts.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-H and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Bruce Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend "*PASBO Annual Conference – Usage and Cost Seminar*" in Hershey, PA on March 9, 2010. The total cost for this seminar is \$75.00 for registration from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Julie Deutermann**, Home and School Visitor, to attend "*Keeping Our Children Safe*" in Harrisburg, PA from May 3 through May 5, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$115.00 for mileage from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Barbara Paige**, Speech Therapist, to attend "*Meeting the Communication Challenges of Learners with Autism*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on April 30, 2010. There is no cost to the district for this conference and no substitute is needed.
- D. **Maren Trout**, College Career Coordinator, to attend "*Maryland Private Colleges Counselor's Tour*" in Maryland from Sunday, April 18 through Thursday, April 22, 2010. Ms. Trout will tour eleven private colleges throughout Maryland and have the opportunity to meet with admissions counselors. There is no cost to the district for this as all expenses are paid by the sponsoring colleges. No substitute is needed.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- E. **Patricia Stroop**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend "*Bucks County Autism Support Coalition's 3rd Annual Autism Conference*" at Central Bucks High School in Warrington, PA on March 20, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$106.50 for registration and mileage from the Ice for Autism Funds Account. No substitute is needed since this takes place on a Saturday.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- F. **Jenifer Smith** and **Joan Staples**, Speech Pathologists, to attend "*Assessment and Intervention Strategies for Children with Speech Social Disorders*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on March 8, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$43.00 for mileage from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

New Conference/Workshops

- G. **Daniel Currie**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend "*PDE Conference 2010: Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work!*" in Hershey, PA from April 7 through April 9, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$301.92 from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget. No substitute is needed.
- H. **Caren Yucha**, Speech Therapist, to attend "*Competent Learner Model Training*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on February 25, 2010. The total cost for this training is \$150.00 from the substitute account.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ciresi commented that this is something the Board should be adopting and it is adopted every couple of years throughout the State of Pennsylvania and is something that keeps the Board in line. We ask parents to sign the code of conduct when the kids participate in sports and this is almost the same type of idea. Mr. Ciresi stated that he just wants to make it clear that the administration is not saying to them that the Board should do this because they are out of line somewhere.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board reaffirmed the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Standards for Effective School Governance and Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards.

XI. DISCUSSION ITEM

Mr. Ciresi said at the meeting last week the Board all gave their input on potential goals for this year; there were two Board Members who were absent so it was brought back to the table for their input. Mr. Ciresi read the nine potential goals that the Board discussed last week.

Mrs. Williams stated that in the past they have done Board/Superintendent Goals and she asked if these District Goals are replacing them. Mr. Ciresi responded that these will be the District Goals for the Board and Superintendent. Mrs. Williams questioned

expanding the extracurricular activities beginning at 5th grade and increasing the recognition on the academic level by expanding the curriculum offerings at the high school, while they are both laudable goals, she wondered if we have the money to even put them out there this year to see if they are attainable or measurable. Mrs. Williams said her goal would be to propose 2-3 Board in-services per year because leadership begins at the top. Mrs. Williams stated that the Board needs to monitor their leadership skills with the help of PSBA as this would provide a check and balances to them of their roles and responsibility and would be in compliance with the the PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance which were just unanimously voted on. Mrs. Williams said as far as the funding for this would go she had Mr. Anspach check into it and found there were funds available this year to accomplish this between now and June. Mrs. Williams concluded by saying we could then begin to do the work that we need to do as the leaders at the top along with Dr. Hurda, our team of 10.

Mr. Pettit commented on the first goal which was to improve indoor environmental quality and wondered where this was going, where is the problem now, what type of improvement are we talking about and what is the cost factor for this. Mr. Dressler stated that his idea was to review the cleaning materials used, the paints and all materials used in the classroom that may give off gasses that the students are sitting in for 7 ½ hours per day. Mr. Dressler said it has been proven that environmental issues are important with regards to asthma attacks that happen in school and he feels we need to take a close look at this. Mr. Dressler commented that in April the Delaware County Intermediate Unit is having a conference to discuss these issues. Mr. Dressler said his experience with other school districts that have looked at these things find that they can improve the air quality issues without spending any more money and he feels that it does not hurt to take a look at good close review of our standards and practices in this area. Dr. Hurda reported that we do indoor air quality reports on a regular basis in all of our schools on a regular basis which she then shares the complete report with the Board so she would not want there to be a sense that we are not doing them already. Dr. Hurda said any suggestions that are made through those reports are addressed by our maintenance staff so many of these things have been addressed already. Mr. Dressler said he is not implying that the district is not looking at these issues but he personally would like to take a close look to see if there are any areas where we need to improve. Mr. Dressler stated that with the new construction taking place he would like to make sure that we are addressing the types of materials being used to see if they meet all of the green standards that are so popular in new construction. Mr. Pettit said he understands where Mr. Dressler is at and where he is going especially with the new materials that are being used so he totally agrees with the goal to monitor this type of thing. Mr. Pettit said he would also like to see us put more specificity on the types of grants we are receiving and how we are approaching them. He would like to see a report to the Board on just what we are doing to achieve increases in grant money. Mr. Pettit said he understands and agrees with Mrs. Williams's comments regarding the extracurricular activities but keeps in mind that this is a goal and if we cannot afford them then we are not going to do them obviously at the expense of the scholastic area.

Mrs. Mullin commented that part of goal #5 pertaining to expanding extracurricular activities is to find out how to add them without adding any additional dollars to the budget by being creative.

Mr. Ciresi stated that part of goal #6 which pertains to increasing the high school academic offerings is to look at some of the offerings to determine which ones are extremely popular and which ones are not. Then see what grants or partnerships may be out there that would afford us to add to the high school offerings without increasing the budget.

Mr. DiBello commented that last week we did a round table of identifying these high level goals and one thing not discussed is the duration of the goals because obviously you are not going to be able to achieve 10 goals in 12 months. Mr. DiBello said he assumes the second phase of this would be to go through the goals again and start to whittle down the goals to see where the Board wants to have concentrated efforts. Mr. DiBello agreed with Mr. Pettit that there may be grants and programs out there and the intention of the goals is to look at these things and say what can we achieve while keeping the budget in consideration. Mr. DiBello said he assumed that the next step would be to pare these down to 4 or 5 goals.

Mr. Ciresi stated if you look at the ideas for goals that the Board has discussed you can combine several of them into one goal because they all deal with the same concept. Mr. Ciresi read the goals and grouped those that could be combined together. Mr. Ciresi asked the administration to come back to the Board with a model of the goals and financial recommendations on what we would be looking at.

Mrs. Williams asked if Dr. Hurda was asked last week what her goals were. Dr. Hurda said she has three goals that were identified at the start of the school year, the first which was to increase the academic performance of the school district by monitoring, implementing and continuing with new programs. The second was to manage the growth in the school district as it relates to that bubble of students that will be entering the 8th grade in the next several years and come up with a plan to support how we will address that without putting the burden on the community. The third goal was to oversee the renovation project at the high school to make sure that our students will continue to receive high quality instruction while we are doing the renovations internally and to make sure we are using the new facilities in the most advantageous ways. Dr. Hurda said these were the goals that were identified by the Superintendent Evaluation Committee when she had her evaluation in June.

Mr. Ciresi asked if Dr. Hurda had any goals she would like to see the Board take under consideration from the administrative side. Dr. Hurda responded that we are all on the same page and she would like to indicate that it is very hard to be reducing a budget and looking at new programs. Dr. Hurda asked for the Board to give her direction because she thinks that clearly we are looking at ways to reduce the budget which may mean doing away with some programs and services that we are offering already. Dr. Hurda stated that if you set a goal for yourself then you want to make sure that this time next year you can say, we set a goal, it was a reasonable goal, a doable goal and we have accomplished it. Dr. Hurda said she believes that right now the financial component is huge and although she is 100% on board with all of the goals she wants to make sure they are realistic and can be accomplished.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he believes any goal that has a cost should be in the budget otherwise it should not be a goal. We cannot expect anything to be achieved if we are not willing to spend the money and fund it.

Dr. Hurda said she believes the next step should be to whittle the goals down into two or three major broad categories and then send them out in the Board packet this Friday to determine if they are doable. Mr. Ciresi said that would be fine and then these can be taken up at the Committee level.

A. District Goals

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Ed Cummins, Spring City, urged the Board to be careful limiting anything in the extracurricular budget and taking away any of the activities available to kids from 5th grade on. Mr. Cummins said his son although not the best student and best athlete is one of the hardest workers and he got that from his parents and coaches. Mr. Cummins stated we are happy to have coaches who care enough to instill the right type of discipline to make the kids want to succeed. Mr. Cummins said you do not necessarily get this type of discipline in the classroom because you can't. Mr. Cummins implored Dr. Hurda to not even consider cutting any more extracurriculars because if the Board wants to pull the school district up academically then you cannot have one without the other. Mr. Cummins said he does not mind paying extra taxes if it is going to help kids achieve. He paid the taxes for the parents and children in the district before his kids and this is just the way it is; it is a cycle. Mr. Cummins stated if it costs him more money he will pay it and he feels if you explain it that way to other taxpayers then he is sure that most of them will agree. Mr. DiBello clarified that the Board was not talking about cutting extracurricular activities but ways to expand them. Mr. Ciresi commented that with regards to Dr. Hurda's comment he understands that we are looking to expand on a budget that we are looking to cut which you have to say does not make any sense. Mr. Ciresi said one thing the Board can look into is if there are grants or partnerships that might support extracurriculars without increasing the budget. Dr. Hurda reported that the district is looking at every aspect of the budget and she agrees with Mr. Cummins and just as she would advocate on behalf of academics she will advocate on behalf of athletics.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence, commented that she has older children who have graduated from this district and it certainly is in her personal best interest to keep the taxes low but she appreciates the comments of Mr. Cummins and Dr. Hurda. Ms. Bryant stated that she has heard Dr. Hurda say many times over the years both as an assistant superintendent and as the superintendent that we want to do what is in the best interest of kids. Ms. Bryant said she honestly believes that is not a PR statement but it is a true feeling Dr. Hurda has in her career and in her life as a mother and grandmother. Ms. Bryant strongly stated that as a mother if she had a child in Royersford Elementary School and she ever heard a School Board Member suggest that children in the middle part of the year be taken from their integral unit and moved to other classrooms she would be livid to put it mildly. Ms. Bryant told the Board to increase her taxes and do not separate 7 year olds on February 22nd. Ms. Bryant suggested that in the event that something like this would ever come up and the equally odd suggestion that a teacher be furloughed at the end of this year she would urge the Board, legally for their own protection, to have that discussion in executive session behind closed doors with the district attorney present. Ms. Bryant asked what is going on here. Ms. Bryant stated that the first suggestion from a new School Board

Member was to make it possible to not attend meetings and phone in, the second suggestion was to separate second graders and the third suggestion is to furlough a teacher at the end of the year. Ms. Bryant said this is not a good first, second or third plan of attack. Ms. Bryant urged the Board to use some filters on what is said in public and any suggestions of furloughs or reductions in staff should be done in a closed room with the solicitor. Ms. Bryant concluded by saying let's do what's best for kids.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Ms. Bryant and stated that the Board's commitment is first to the education of every child in the district. Mr. Ciresi assured her that the Board is looking at every other avenue to advance education. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mrs. Bryant for her comments and said he agrees with her on some of her comments.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiBello made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary