

On February 22, 2011 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:35 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.: Taylor Daily

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Ciresi informed the public that SNAP's "Dancing with the Stars" fundraising event will take place Saturday, Feb. 26, starting at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the 10-12 Center. Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available at the door. Visit the SNAP website for information at [www.sfsnap.org](http://www.sfsnap.org). Mr. Ciresi announced that the Spring-Ford Area School Board will host a Town Hall meeting on Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center to discuss the 2011-12 budget. Residents are invited to attend to learn more about the district's budget crisis and what is being done to overcome a \$10.4 million shortfall. Mr. Ciresi reported that the Spring-Ford Area School District will host its annual March of Dimes children's consignment sale on March 12. Those who are interested in selling gently used children's items must submit a \$30 seller's fee to the district by Feb. 28. For more information, please visit the district web site at [www.spring-ford.net](http://www.spring-ford.net). Mr. Ciresi announced that the Board met in an executive session regarding continued litigation on reassessments.

#### **I. PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Doug Kent, House Principal for the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Class, said it is his pleasure tonight to recognize three seniors for their outstanding performance. Mr. Kent stated that Spring-Ford High School is pleased to announce that Amber Muhammed has been named as a finalist in the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Mr. Kent commented that when Amber was a junior she joined more than 1.3 million other juniors in taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. Amber's achievement on the PSAT moved her to the status of semi-finalist. As a semi-finalist Amber had to fulfill several requirements before advancing to the finalist stage. Amber has now advanced to the rank of National Finalist and has the potential of receiving a monetary award. Mr. Kent stated that Spring-Ford is very proud of Amber and the Board of School Directors would like to recognize her and her parents for this achievement tonight. Mr. Ciresi presented Amber with a certificate from the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

- A. Presentation to **Amber K. Muhammad** for being named as a Finalist in the 2011 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Mr. Kent stated that Spring-Ford High School is also very proud to announce that two seniors, Kevin Chang and Nina Kennedy have been named as Finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Kent commented that when Kevin and Nina were juniors they also joined the more than 1.3 million other juniors in taking the 2009 Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. Kevin and Nina's achievement on the PSAT moved them to the status of semi-finalist, a group which represents less than 1% of the entrants. They have now advanced to the rank of National Finalist and each have the potential of receiving a monetary award. Mr. Kent stated that Spring-Ford is very proud of Kevin and Nina and the Board of School Directors would like to recognize them and their parents for their achievements tonight. Mr. Ciresi presented Kevin and Nina each with a certificate from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

- B. Presentation to **Kevin R. Chang** and **Nina M. Kennedy** for being named as Finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Dr. Hurda complimented Amber, Kevin and Nina for their outstanding performance not just academically but for their performance overall as great students at Spring-Ford.

## II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. The Board approved the January 18, 2011 Work Session minutes.

- B. The Board approved the January 24, 2011 Board Meeting minutes.

## IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Student Rep. Report            Taylor Daily**

Taylor reported that Dancing With the Stars will take place this Saturday and there is a group of students who have been working on this and everyone is very excited to come out and see this event. The Winter Ball was a success this year as there was a good turnout and everyone had a good time. A blood drive is being held tomorrow at the high school and a lot of students have signed up to donate.

### **Extracurricular                    David Shafer                    2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Shafer reported that the Extracurricular Committee met and discussed additional clubs which was an ongoing topic from the previous month's meeting. Mr. Shafer stated that Dr. Hurda presented to the Committee that it was found that a former club was inactive and had been for several years. The Committee determined that without any financial impact to the district it would be possible to add three new clubs using the money previously budgeted for the inactive club. Mr. Shafer reported that the Committee is continuing to go through the requests from the Spring-Ford Ice Hockey Organization with Mr. McDaniel. Mr. Shafer stated that at the request of Mr. Dehnert the Committee began the discussion again on looking into participation fees, an idea that was looked into less than a year ago. Mr. Shafer reported that Mr. McDaniel has assembled quite a bit of information and will continue to do so especially as

he attends the Athletic Directors Conference in March. Mr. McDaniel's findings will be presented at future Extracurricular Committee meetings. Mr. Shafer stated that this is a hot topic for all school districts in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Shafer reminded everyone that the reason that the Committee recommended holding off on instituting a pay to participate was because this is uncharted territory and the savings itself did not appear to be too substantial. Mr. Shafer reported that Mr. McDaniel provided the Committee with a detailed winter sports review of the very successful season and the spring sports season will get under way as early as March 7<sup>th</sup>.

## V. PERSONNEL

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

### A. Resignations:

1. **Diane C. Ewing**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Part-Time Food Service Worker, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day, March 25, 2011. (*previously Board approved November 22, 2010 with an effective date of June 15, 2011*)
2. **Robert George**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Custodian, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day, April 28, 2011.

### B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Debra A. Augustine**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 4, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Ralph N. Finkbiner, Jr.**, High School; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 11, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
3. **Robert George**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 3, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
4. **Arnold M. Koehler, III**, Spring City Elementary School; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 11, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Michele L. Konnick**, High School; English Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 5, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
6. **Gloria Moyer**, District Office; Coordinator of Transportation, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 6, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

7. **Alynn L. Purdy**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively May 18, 2011 until the end of the 2010/2011 school year.

**C. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School**

1. **Allan Gauger**, Assistant Wrestling Coach, 8/9<sup>th</sup> Grade, \$4,234
2. **John Holsinger**, Boys' Lacrosse Coach, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, \$1,593 (1/2 contract)
3. **Larry R. Trimble, Jr.** Winter Indoor Color Guard Instructor, High School, \$3,197
4. **Michael Siuchta**, Boys' Lacrosse Coach, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, \$1,593 (1/2 contract)

**New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School**

5. **My Dung Thuy Tran**, Assistant Indoor Color Guard Instructor, \$2,215
6. **Bruce Brobst**, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Club Advisor, \$402  
(Replaces Radio Club Advisor \$1,471)
7. **Lisa Pupo**, Gay-Straight Alliance Club Advisor, \$201 (1/2 contract)  
(Replaces Radio Club Advisor \$1,471)
8. **Cheryl Murgia**, Gay-Straight Alliance Club Advisor, \$201 (1/2 contract)  
(Replaces Radio Club Advisor \$1,471)
9. **Rodger Horne**, Ultimate Frisbee Club Advisor, \$402  
(Replaces Radio Club Advisor \$1,471)

**D. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**

1. **Krista Calvin**, Variety Show, \$201 (1/2 contract)
2. **Joan Staples**, Dodgeball Tournament Advisor, Fundraising, \$402  
(Replaces Magazine Club Advisor \$402)
3. **Rachel Thomas**, Variety Show, \$201 (1/2 contract)

**E. Professional Substitute:**

1. **Kerriann Bussiner** Elementary Education/Special Education

**New Professional Substitute:**

2. **Sherri Molishus** Elementary Education

**F. Support Staff Substitutes:**

1. **Billie Amerine** Food Service
2. **Deanna Dunn** Food Service

**New Support Staff Substitutes:**

3. **Gretchen Bailey** Food Service
4. **Lynn Moritz** Food Service

**New Personnel Items**

- G. The Board approved **Paula H. Germinario** for the position of Coordinator of Food Services replacing Kathleen Parker who retired. Ms. Germinario received her Bachelor's Degree from Widener University in Hotel/Restaurant Management. Compensation will be set at \$68,000 per year, prorated with benefits. The effective date is to be determined pending updated clearances.
- H. The Board approved **Lora L. Sanderson** for the position of Coordinator of Transportation replacing Gloria Moyer upon her retirement. Ms. Sanderson has 21 years of experience in transportation. Compensation will be set at \$55,000 per year, prorated with benefits. The effective date is to be determined pending updated clearances.

**VI. FINANCE**

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

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

- 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**

A.G. Mauro Company	Hardware RE Keyway	\$	263.89
Boyce Associates	6 Benches/4 Trash Receptacles	\$	5,061.10
EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	389.27
Hutt's Glass Co., Inc.	Remove/Replace Mirrors in Fitness Room	\$	1,400.00
Independent Cont. Floor	Carpet Installation/Auditorium	\$	27,225.00
Johnson Controls	Professional Services	\$	503.00
Office Depot	12 Cork Bulletin Bars	\$	585.63
Star Audio Visual	40 Dalite Wall Brackets	\$	323.20
*E.R. Stuebner Inc.	Applic. #18- General Contractor	\$	301,145.20
*Secure-a-home Inc.	Custom Window Guards	\$	1,273.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>338,169.29</b>

**2. 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER PARKING LOT**

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$	1,696.00
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	775.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>2,471.50</b>

**3. ROYERSFORD ELEMENTARY- CHILLER PROJECT**

Colm Engineering, P.A.	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	7,500.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>7,500.00</b>

**4. LIMERICK ELEMENTARY – STEAMER PROJECT**

Grainger	Fan Speed Control	\$	55.98
	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	<b>55.98</b>

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

1. **SUKONIK/GREENSTEIN CONDEMNATION**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	55.50
	TOTAL	\$	55.50

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. 140291 – 140382	\$	456,367.17
<u>February</u>		
Check No. 140383 – 140504	\$	1,032,470.75

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

Check No. 140571 – 140659	\$	256,130.43
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3. Board Checks held for approval

Check No. 140505 – 140570	\$	43,129.12
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4. Athletic Fund

<u>January</u>		
Check No. 303139 – 303284	\$	31,971.56

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

1. **Bucks County Zoo & Conservation Society – Warminster, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Animal Junction, Expedition Program” for students in grades K - 4 at Upper Providence Elementary School on May 16 and 20, 2011. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred forty- four dollars (\$1,244.00).
2. **Sprout Recordings – Langhorne, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “More American Heroes” for students at Brooke Elementary School on March 10, 2011. Funding will be paid from the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$725.00).
3. **The Franklin Institute – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide two (2) traveling science shows entitled “Electricity” for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Upper Providence Elementary School on April 15, 2011. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed nine hundred ten dollars (\$910.00).
4. **Teaching Learning Succeeding, Inc. – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide consultation, planning and training in Assessment Principles and Differentiated Instruction. This work supports and extends the efforts begun two years ago on data teams and common

assessments. Services shall be provided on April 6 and April 7, 2011 at a rate of eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00) per day and will include professional development planning meetings, training to assist the application, analysis and refinement of the Assessment Principles and Differentiated Instruction, training on turning effective strategies to Differentiated Instruction strategies and coaching for all PLC/Data Team Facilitators. Funding will be paid from 2010-2011 IDEA, Part B, ARRA Stimulus and shall not exceed one thousand six hundred fifty dollars (\$1,650.00).

**NEW FINANCE**

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Items F-J and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

F. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – January 2011
- PSDLAF – January 2011
- PSDMAX – January 2011
- Checking Account – January 2011
- PLGIT Account – January 2011
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - January 2011
- Payroll Account – January 2011
- Tax Account – January 2011

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – January 2011
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – January 2011
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – January 2011
- High School Activity – January 2011
- Athletic Account – January 2011

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – January 2011

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – January 2011
- Debt Service Fund – January 2011
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – January 2011

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – January 2011
- Cafeteria Checking Account – January 2011
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – January 2011
- Investment Account – January 2011

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

January

Check No. 9946 - 9986

\$ 323,210.33

- H. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2010-2011 school year:

Limerick Township	No. 41
Royersford Borough	No. 112 - 126

- I. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2010-2011 school year:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 01 - 29
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 182 – 229
Spring City Borough Additions	No. 01 – 36
Spring City Borough Deletions	No. 158 - 174

- J. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 3451 - 3480

**VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve items A-B and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the 2011 Extended School Year (ESY) Program and positions identified below to be held at Upper Providence Elementary School and the 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. The program will run from June 27, 2011 to July 29, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (no classes Monday, July 4, 2011). There will be one additional work day for teachers, June 23, 2011. Funding for these positions will be provided through the 2011-2012 Special Education IDEA Funds. It is estimated that the following positions will be required to support the ESY Program based upon projected enrollment:

1. Twenty (20) Special Education Teachers at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
2. Ten (10) Teachers to work as tutors at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
3. Three (3) certified Speech Therapists at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
4. Forty (40) Instructional Assistants. The rates will vary between \$15.04 - \$17.04 per hour depending on experience and educational degree.
5. One (1) Certified School Nurse or Registered Nurse at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.

- B. The Board approved sending four (4) students: Megha Keshav, Ryan Maher, Jake Mellon and Drew Reimund and their advisor, Ms. Kelly German, to compete at the Pennsylvania Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference and Competition in Hershey, PA on April 5, 2011. These students qualified to participate in the state FBLA competition as a result of their performance on event tests administered at the FBLA regional competition. The total student cost for attending this state competition shall not exceed four hundred seventy-six dollars (\$476.00)



**VIII. PROPERTY**

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

- A. The Board approved awarding a contract for two (2) eighty (80) ton chillers at Royersford Elementary School to the lowest qualified bidder, Tozour Trane, rejecting all other bids. Funding will come from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed one hundred thirty thousand three hundred thirty-five dollars (\$130,335.00).

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

Mr. DiBello reported that the MCIU Board meeting scheduled for Jan was postponed due to snow and there is another one scheduled for this week. The MCIU Legislative Committee did meet and most of the discussion centered around the voucher program which was under debate on the Senate floor. Mr. DiBello reported that two newly elected House Members, Warren Kemp and Todd Stevens, were present at the meeting to talk about some of the issues going on in Harrisburg. Mr. DiBello reported that the Legislative Committee took the opportunity and vented their frustrations on what is happening both at the local level and at the state level related to the allocations and mandates coming down to the public schools. Mr. DiBello stated that there are a couple things that we need to keep our eye on and that is the talk in Harrisburg that potentially a school district's allocations may be based on the amount of money that they have sitting in their unallocated fund balance. Mr. DiBello said he knows that in the past we have talked about wanting to have a certain amount in our unallocated fund balance which helps with our bond rating but now the state is looking at possibly saying if you have "x" number in your unallocated fund balance then your allocation will be reduced by "y". Mr. DiBello stated that he is not sure if this is going to gain any traction but it is something that is being looked at. Mr. DiBello reported that there is also talk that there may be some mandate relief and possibly may be discussed later this year. Mr. DiBello commented that there is also talk in Harrisburg regarding the exceptions districts filed with regards to their budgets and that is that there may be a new exception added based on economic conditions within your district.

**X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-I and Mr. Pettit 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**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- A. **Kelly German**, Business Education Teacher, to attend "*Freedom Foundation Annual Leavey Summit*" in Valley Forge, PA on Friday, March 18, 2011. There is no cost to the district for this summit other than \$150.00 from the substitute account.
- B. **Kelly German**, Business Education Teacher/FBLA Advisor, to attend "*Future Business Leaders of America: State Leadership Conference*" at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. Ms. German will be accompanying the 4

Future Business Leaders of America students who advanced to the state level competition. The total cost of this conference/competition is \$269.00 – \$119.00 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account.

- C. **Mary Ann Group**, Teacher, to attend “*Adolescent Literacy: Key Comprehension Routines for Summarization and Notetaking*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on May 12, 2011. There is no cost to the district for this conference other than \$150.00 from the substitute account.

#### 5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER

- D. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Clinician, to attend “*Meeting the Literacy Challenge: Strategies for the SLP*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on March 21, 2011. There is no cost to the district for this conference and no substitute is needed.

#### EVANS

- E. **Kathleen Mandracchia**, Teacher, to attend “*Office of Child Development – Kindergarten Outcomes Reporting Tool*” at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on March 1 and March 2, 2011. The total cost of this conference is \$475.00 - \$175.00 from the 580 account and \$300.00 from the substitute account.

#### FACILITIES

- F. **Denise Whitmore**, Lead/Head Custodian, to attend “*Singer Trade Show*” on March 28, 2011 in Elverson, PA. There is no cost to the district for this trade show and no substitute is needed.

#### DISTRICT-WIDE

- G. **Cathy Bradfield**, **Laura McNeil** and **Bridget Mullins**, Certified School Nurses, to attend “*PA Association of School Nurses & Practitioners Annual Conference*” in King of Prussia, PA on April 1, 2011. The total cost for this conference is \$782.50 which includes substitutes and will be paid from the 2010-2011 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant.

#### New Conference/Workshops:

- H. **Deanne Snelling**, Gifted Support Teacher, to attend “*Current Issues in Gifted Education*” at the Lancaster County Intermediate Unit on February 22, 2011. The total cost for this conference is \$101.50 to be paid from 2010-2011 Stimulus Funds. No substitute is required.
- I. **Dr. Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, and **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend “*Secondary Literacy: Data Analysis & Instructional Matching Across Tiers*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, Pa on February 28, 2011. There is no cost for this conference and no substitutes are required.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

A. The Board approved the acceptance of the donation of approximately twenty-eight (28) CD Players to Oaks Elementary School. The CD Players are used by teachers to supplement students' reading curriculum. The total amount of this donation shall not exceed \$1,000.00 and will be funded by the Oaks Parent Teacher Association.

B. The following policy was approved:

1. Policy #103 – PROGRAMS: Nondiscrimination in Participation/Employment/Contract Practices

**XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis reported that today in the mail he received an order from the court indicating that in the assessment appeal brought by SmithKline, there will be another pretrial conference on February 28, 2011. Mr. Davis reminded the Board that this matter will probably be tried sometime this year unless it can be resolved. Mr. Davis reported that the district continues to try to resolve the matter but to date not much progress has been made. Mr. Davis stated that at issue right now are 2008, 2009, 2010 and shortly 2011 will also be included. Mr. Davis reported that for the first three years alone, if the taxpayer were to prevail at the number they are suggesting, the district would owe SmithKline \$5.5 million plus going forward future years could potentially be in excess of \$1 million per year less than what the district collects now. Mr. Davis said the Board is aware of this but he just wanted the public to know that we have this matter of significant impact to the district hanging over our heads like an albatross.

Mr. Pettit asked if we could have a report, hopefully in time for the Town Hall Meeting, which would discuss the affect and impact the assessments have the district, the taxpayers and on the potential programs offered by the school district. Dr. Hurda clarified that the report Mr. Pettit was looking for should include the amount of money that we would stand to lose both in back taxes and in future taxes as a result of the assessment appeal and put that in terms of what that impact would be on the taxpayer in terms of taxes and what the impact would be on curriculum, instruction and programming in terms of our students here in the district. Mr. Pettit confirmed this was exactly what he was looking for.

Mr. Shafer added that this is not the only case we have currently underway so whatever information we can share legally it would behoove the Administration and the Board to let that out in the public. Mr. Shafer stated that these figures are horrific and we talk about these things at a meeting and he does not believe that it gets digested by the community. Mr. Davis stated that he has a list of the other ones under appeal and they are public record as anyone can go to the courthouse to find this information out so it can certainly be revealed. Mr. Davis indicated that with the other assessment appeals the numbers are not refined since we do not have appraisals for both sides but he can tell us the taxpayers of significance that have appeals going and for what years.

Dr. Hurda said it is also important to note that when we talk about these big assessment appeals that our Business Manager receives weekly a report on assessment appeals that are going on in the district. Dr. Hurda said it is important to look at the big picture and what assessment appeals have cost the district over the last year or two years. Dr. Hurda stated that it is a significant amount of money and you can certainly point at SmithKline or S.E.I. but

you must look at the sum total of assessment appeals across the district both commercially and residentially. Dr. Hurda said she believes it is important for our community to see that amount as well.

**XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Dawn Heine, stated that she knows there has been a lot of talk about the excess money left from the high school renovations and she wondered if there was any consideration given to utilizing some of that money for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and how to manage the upcoming bubble class. Dr. Hurda replied that the largest class right now is at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and we are in the process of looking at reconfiguring or restructuring the way programs are offered in 8<sup>th</sup> grade that would not necessitate any kind of addition to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. Dr. Hurda stated that what we are sensitive about right now is if you are going to spend money you want to make sure that it is absolutely necessary and that you have looked at every option. Dr. Hurda reported that right now we do teaming at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level and we are looking at if it would be possible to utilize classroom instruction areas to more effectively if we do not do teaming but this study has not been completed. Dr. Hurda stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade group is followed by a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade group that is also very large but we want to make sure that we do something that is not going to cost the taxpayers in the district money and then find out that it was not really necessary. Dr. Hurda said she believes that we will hear more in the months to come. Ms. Heine said she knows that the spending is a huge concern of everyone at this point and while she is not here proposing spending funds for this she just wanted to see what the Board was doing and where this issue stands. Dr. Hurda stated that what we are really doing right now is analyzing to find out if there is a way to make use of the building and get everyone in and not compromise the quality of instruction. Dr. Hurda said she believes there are some options that can be explored that may be beneficial.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern  
Board Secretary.