

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

On February 23, 2009 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: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit
and David R. Shafer

Region II:

Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and John S. Grispon

Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams

Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda

Business Manager: Tim Anspach

Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.

Student Rep.: Samantha Wanner

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that the Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce and the Spring-Ford School District will be hosting an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper and silent auction this Friday, February 27, 2009, at the Senior High School Cafeteria from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for senior citizens (62 & up) and students. Children under the age of five are free. Tickets will be available at the door and take-out is available. Proceeds from the event benefit the Spring-Ford Scholarship Fund. The Spring-Ford High School Drama Club will present the musical adaptation of “Peter Pan” at 7:30 p.m. on this Friday, Feb. 27th and Saturday, Feb. 28th in the high school auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students, and will be sold at the door. Royersford Elementary School is holding a raffle to raise money to replace a roof on a school in Honduras.

Mrs. Mullin arrived at 7:32

The prize is a mint-condition Cincinnati Reds program from the team’s 1976 World Series season that was signed by Johnny Bench. Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at the school between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The drawing will be held this Friday, Feb. 27th. For more information, call (610) 705-6005. Mrs. Williams reported that internet safety presentations for parents will be held next month on March 4 at Limerick Elementary School, March 9 at Brooke Elementary School and March 23 at Royersford Elementary School. All presentations will begin at 7 p.m. and will be given by Internet safety specialist Chuck Favata.

Mr. Shafer announced that on February 2, 2009 Richard A. Hoover, a well known retired math teacher and wrestling coach at Spring-Ford, passed away leaving behind his wife

Linda of 47 years of marriage, his daughters Sherri and Rebecca, and 2 grandchildren Emily and Andrew. Mr. Hoover taught mathematics on a junior high school level for 35 years at Spring-Ford before retiring in 1997. During his tenure as a math teacher, he coached wrestling for 16 years both as a head coach at the junior high school and as an assistant coach at the high school. While coaching wrestling at the junior high school level his teams had many successful and undefeated seasons. In 1973 as an assistant wrestling coach with head coach Michael Fabel, the Spring-Ford Wrestling Team won their first Chesmont Championship. Mr. Hoover ended his coaching career on the junior high school level in 1983. The Board of Directors, the Administration, and the Faculty would like to offer their condolences to the Hoover Family and recognize that the Spring-Ford Community has lost one of the finest educators, coaches and friends this community has ever known.

I. PRESENTATION

Mrs. Williams announced that the Board is always looking for ways to do things easier, faster, better and save trees. Mrs. Williams said one of the things being considered is BoardDocs and this evening we are pleased to have Dr. Barbara Hasson here to give us a presentation on the features and benefits of this paperless agenda system.

Dr. Hasson said she is here as a representative of BoardDocs, a paperless board governance solution. Dr. Hasson stated that BoardDocs is a way to save money and eliminate paper from all the Board and Committee meetings. All information from the meetings can be transferred to this web based system. Dr. Hasson said BoardDocs is a time and paper saver, especially for School Board Members who need to keep track of every meeting they attend for the number of years they serve on the Board. Dr. Hasson reported that the system stores up to ten years of history. The ability exists to search your own files, your own minutes, as well as any other school district that is currently using BoardDocs. Dr. Hasson showed an example of how BoardDocs looks on the web and she invited everyone to check out the website at www.BoardDocs.com. Dr. Hasson said the initial set-up includes 40 hours of customization in order to set up the district's School Board agenda exactly the way you are accustomed to having it. Dr. Hasson stated that the system can be used as a communication tool by posting a daily, monthly or quarterly newsletter or as an instant update for the community that the public will have access to. Dr. Hasson spoke of the I-Mark Up feature which is a separate system that is supported by BoardDocs and consists of a sticky note/post-it note that School Board Members can use to type in questions or comments they may have while reading through the agenda. Dr. Hasson said there are three voting options for Board Members, the first option is online voting but most of the PA school districts that have contracted with BoardDocs have not gone with this feature., the second option would be public score voting where the Board would push a button by their name and then their vote would be cast and could be seen by the public, the third option would be for the School Board Secretary to record the vote online on their computer as they work to put together the minutes. Dr. Hasson said once the secretary would record the votes the minutes would be generated automatically so the staff who prepare the Board agenda and the follow up minutes are going to see a time savings. Dr. Hasson spoke about onsite training which has an additional one-time fee of \$1,000 where the team will come in for three days to train the administrative staff who put the agendas together; the team will also train the Board and Administration in preparation for an upcoming meeting. Included with BoardDocs is the 40 hours of customization and 2 document publisher licenses so that you have a back-up. Dr. Hasson demonstrated how the Meta-search feature of BoardDocs works which has a Board Member section and a public section.

She pointed out that the public will only have access to those items not considered confidential so any material shared between the Administration and the Board and deemed to be confidential by law will not be able to be accessed by the public. Meta-search can be used to search up to ten years of history for your district and other districts using BoardDocs to find information on any subject discussed or voted on at the Board meetings.

Mr. Dehnert asked if the post it notes feature was tied to the user ID and kept on the server or are they on the computer the Board Member uses to access website. Dr. Hasson said the laptop the Board Member is issued would be their user ID so it would not travel from computer to computer.

Mrs. Williams asked about the total cost for BoardDocs, Dr. Hasson said there is a one-time start up fee of \$1,000 and that includes the training for three days, the BoardDocs version presented tonight costs about \$9,000 per year which is about \$750 per meeting if meeting twice a month. Dr. Hasson stated that you need to look at what it costs you to put together an agenda every time you meet for example how much paper is being used, how much time is spent in putting those documents together, and duplicating costs. Dr. Hasson said the payback time period would be very short.

Mr. Dehnert asked if you need a license for each computer that the software is on and Dr. Hasson said yes you will receive this. Mr. Dehnert said the Board Members use their own personal computers and Dr. Hasson said you could bring in your computer and the training team would set it up for you. Dr. Hasson stated that in her district they actually recycled some old student and teacher computers for the Board Members to use.

Mr. Shafer asked if there was a way to see a tangible cost savings, Dr. Hurda responded that she had sent home in the Board packet information that looked at the cost of the courier, the paper, the time, and the overtime. Dr. Hurda stated that we have stopped a lot of this already by sending our Board information electronically but it is not possible right now to say how much we have saved as we initiated this process.

Mrs. Mullin asked how far back the historical information would go or is it something that will start from here out. Dr. Hasson said the searching aspect would search from when you start forward, but if you would like to have your older agendas/minutes put on the website so that they can be searched then you can be shown how to do that.

Mr. Dehnert questioned the 10 gig storage memory that is included in the program fee and he wondered what the charge would be for additional memory. Dr. Hasson explained that once you reach the 10 gig storage then BoardDocs will back it up in a file and send you that file and then start you all over again.

- A. Dr. Barbara Hasson to give a presentation on the features and benefits of BoardDocs, a paperless agenda system.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. The Board approved the January 20, 2009 Work Session minutes.

IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. Grispon asked that Item I be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve items A-H and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

A. Resignations:

1. **Denise Perri**, 5/6th Grade Center; Playground Asst., effective with last work day January 29, 2009.
2. **Kerry Jo Powell**, 5/6th Grade Center; Playground Asst., effective with last work day February 6, 2009.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Brigitte Diaz**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective February 8, 2009, for the remainder of the 2008/2009 school year.
2. **Kelly Donatelli**, High School; Learning Support Teacher, in accordance with the Board Policy, effective tentatively April 2, 2009.
3. **Gloria Moyer**, District Office; Coordinator of Transportation, in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 3, 2009.
4. **Diane Obenshine**, District Office; Administrative Assistant, in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 6, 2009.
5. **Natalie Stark**, High School; Instructional Assistant, in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 20, 2009.
6. **Jean Marie Taddeo**, 8th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 1, 2009.

C. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Melissa Alexander**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, compensation will be set at \$40,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective retroactive January 27, 2009.
2. **Laura Krawczun**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$40,000, BS, Step 1 with benefits, effective retroactive February 9, 2009.

D. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Timothy J. Hunsberger**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.16 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective February 24, 2009. (replacement position)

2. **Alicia Spatzer**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.16 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective February 24, 2009. (replacement position)

E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Bradley Amersbach**, Assistant Track Coach Girls & Boys, \$3,726
2. **Jeremy Daross**, Marching Band Mallet Percussion Leader, \$2,067
3. **Valarie Dubbs**, Head Cheerleading Coach – Winter, \$3,414
4. **Monica Morrison**, Marching Band Front Visual Facilitator, \$2,984
5. **Barbara Paige**, Assistant Cheerleading Coach – Winter, \$2,354
6. **Michael Siuchta**, Assistant Lacrosse Coach, Boys, \$3,726

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: Middle School

1. **Marilyn Erb**, Computer Lab-MS 2nd semester, (1/2 contract) \$686.50
2. **Sara Kalbfleisch**, Assistant Soccer Coach – Girls, \$2,588

G. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Randi Carp | Music |
| 2. Kathryn Cobbs | Elementary Ed./Social Studies |
| 3. Tracy Derban | Elementary Education |
| 4. Jeffrey Fuhrman | Social Studies |
| 5. Nicole Gingrich | English |
| 6. Laura Krawczun | Special Ed./Elementary Education |
| 7. Justine Kulp | Elementary Education |
| 8. Christina McConney | Art |
| 9. Glenn McLaughlin | Chemistry |
| 10. Evan Thomas | Art |
| 11. Leslie Wright | Elementary Education |

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12. Laura Christie | Earth Science |
| 13. Justin Flamini | Social Studies |
| 14. Christina Neubert | Health & Physical Education |
| 15. Anita Reed | Elementary Education |
| 16. Christine Schmidt | Elementary Ed. / Special Ed. |

H. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Todd Berry | Custodian |
| 2. Richard Coryell, Jr. | Custodian |
| 3. Annemarie Gruenling | Nurse |
| 4. Jacqueline Knerr | Support |
| 5. Dorothy McWilliams | Support |
| 6. Kerry Powell | Support |
| 7. Ronald Quigley | Custodian |
| 8. Thomas Reed | Custodian |

New Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 9. Tara Chappelle | Support |
| 10. Kimberly Pettine | Support |

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

- I. The Board approved granting a commission to Dr. Kenneth P. Donahue for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools and executing a contract consistent with his current contract. This commission will begin on July 1, 2009 for a period of three years ending June 30, 2012.

V. FINANCE

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

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Items A1 and B1 be separated. Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item A1 and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mr. Pettit asked for an explanation of the four invoices for Limerick Township for professional services, Mr. Cooper explained that the \$33,000 invoice was for what is called a waiver fee, the \$7,000 fee is for License and Inspection, the remaining amount was for legal fees for the township to write the escrow agreements.

Mr. Masciandaro stated he would like to make a protest regarding the traffic impact fee as he does not believe schools increase the traffic, he believes the population increases due to the building of houses and families with children moving in not because of the existing schools.

Mrs. Williams commented that she was present for most of the meetings we had with Limerick Township and under their rules the traffic impact fee was almost triple the amount when we began. Mrs. Williams thanked the township saying they truly worked with us with regards to the traffic impact fee and the waiver fee. Mrs. Williams stated that she agrees with Mr. Masciandaro that we are not a developer, we are a reactor and once the children are here we must educate them and build a building to do so. Mrs. Williams stated that she would like to publicly express her appreciation to the township for working with us. Mr. Masciandaro said he acknowledges this but he feels it is all a little backwards as the impact fees should be on the developments which would then slow down the influx of housing and in turn help us have a steadier school district so our growth is not occurring so fast. Mr. Masciandaro said he does not feel this is fair. Mrs. Williams responded that the traffic impact fee is not an arbitrary number as it is a formula and each township pays to have an Act 209 Study done. This study then assesses the trips coming in and out of a location. In particular, here at the high school we have a lot of traffic due to after school sports so there are parents, busses and so forth.

Mr. Grispon asked Mr. Davis if these fees were in line with normal business practices for townships and Mr. Davis responded yes.

The motion passed 7-0.

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

1. **SENIOR HIGH- ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS**

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$	230.00
EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	2,229.01
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	2,713.13
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	7,285.77
Limerick Township	Traffic Impact Fee	\$	31,122.00
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	33,606.00
PennDot	Sidewalk/Handicap Ramp Permit	\$	40.00
UPS Store	Drawing Copies	\$	26.00
*Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	<u>2,397.50</u>
	TOTAL	\$	79,649.41

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

Mr. Masciandaro asked when the move in date is for the new district office, Mr. Cooper explained the new schedule has been released and it is to be finished by spring break so it will be up to the administration to decide when the best time to move in will be without impacting the operation of schools. Dr. Hurda commented that it is projected that we will move in once the school year ends and the budget process is complete.

The motion passed 7-0.

- 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**

Colonial Elect.Suply	14AWG Wire	\$	181.25
Foreman Architects	Professional Services	\$	4,063.00
High Safety Consult	Indoor Air Quality Assessment	\$	915.00
Lenni Electric Corp.	Applic. #11- Electric Contractor	\$	12,706.11
PECO	Electricity	\$	148.72
*DDL Enterprises Inc.	Applic. #11- General Contractor	\$	267,750.00
*John DiBattista	Cut out the existing ceiling joists Frame in/heating units & other misc. work	\$	<u>1,950.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	287,714.08

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items B2 – H and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

2. **10TH AVENUE BY-PASS**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	<u>234.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	234.00

3. HIGH SCHOOL FIELD #9		
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 180.00
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 180.00</u>

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.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
	<u>January</u>	
	Check No. 128562 – 128650	\$ 683,294.56
	<u>February</u>	
	Check No. 128651 – 128813	\$ 785,087.78
2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
	Check No. 128985 - 129044	\$ 260,374.00
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
	Check No. 128814 - 128984	\$ 201,445.95
4.	<u>Athletic Fund</u>	
	<u>January</u>	
	Check No. 301141 – 301265	\$ 30,359.25

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

1. **Jack Hartman – St. Petersburg, FL.** Provide two (2) assemblies for the AM and PM kindergarten classes district-wide entitled "Move to the Music". Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$2,900.00).
2. **Jack Bracale, DMD – Royersford, PA.** Perform state mandated dental screenings of students in grades 3 and 7 during the 2009-2010 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed four dollars (\$4.00) per screening.

New Independent Contracts:

3. **Lakeside Educational Network (Mainstay) – Fort Washington, PA.** Provide tutoring for a special needs student as per the IEP for six (6) hours per week at a rate of sixty-nine dollars and twenty-five cents (\$69.25) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed nine thousand nine hundred seventy-two dollars (\$9,972.00).

4. **Dr. Jim Cianciulli – West Norriton, PA.** Conduct neuropsychological testing and provide an education report for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00).
5. **The Devereux Foundation – Villanova, PA.** Provide educational services, psychiatric intervention, and psychological services to a special needs student as per the IEP for four (4) days at a rate of one hundred seventy dollars (\$170.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six hundred eighty dollars (\$680.00).

NEW FINANCE

- F. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – January 2009
- PSDLAF – January 2009
- PSDMAX – January 2009
- Checking Account – January 2009
- PLGIT Account – January 2009
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – January 2009
- Payroll Account – January 2009
- Tax Account – January 2009

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – January 2009
- 7th Grade Activity – January 2009
- 8th Grade Activity – January 2009
- High School Activity – January 2009
- Athletic Account – January 2009

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – January 2009
- Note Of 2004 – January 2009

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – January 2009
- Debt Service Fund – January 2009
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – January 2009

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – January 2009
- Cafeteria Checking Account – January 2009
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – January 2009
- Investment Account – January 2009

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

January

Check No. 8567 - 8609

\$ 279,212.80

- H. The Board approved Employer Admin Services, Inc. (EAS), as the district's third party administrator for the 403(b) Plan and authorizes the Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company to share all necessary employer and individual participant information with EAS as required by the 403(b) Product Provider Service Agreement. This authorization shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the Employer's contract with EAS expires or is terminated.

VI. PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved the extension of the Turf Maintenance Mowing and Trimming Bid with Coventry Property Services, Inc. for the 2009 mowing season in the amount of \$803.50 per mowing. This mowing service is utilized for all of the elementary schools within the school district with the exception of Upper Providence Elementary School (done in-house). The bid was awarded in March 2008 with the option to extend for 2 additional years. Administration recommends extending the bid for 2009. Funding will come from the 2009-2010 General Fund - Maintenance Budget.
- B. The Board approved seeking bids for Filters to maintain indoor air quality throughout the school district. Funding will come from the General Fund – Maintenance Budget.

NEW PROPERTY

- C. The Board approved seeking bids for a replacement Cleveland Convection Steamer for the Spring City Elementary School cafeteria, and award to the lowest responsible bidder. Funding will be paid from the 2008/2009 Cafeteria Budget.

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The Board approved Keith Edelman and Cheryl Murgia, Teachers, to accompany twelve (12) students on the Spring-Ford High School 2008-2009 Ireland Study Tour from Thursday, February 12, 2009 through Wednesday, February 25, 2009. The only cost to the district will be \$2,400.00 from the substitute account.

VIII. PSBA REPORT **John S. Grispon**

Mr. Grispon reported that PSBA is launching a new video update called "PSBA Focus." PSBA encourages members to play these videos (3-6 minutes long) as a regular part of one of their monthly meetings. Likely topics will include updates on the state budget, legislative initiatives and news of importance to school entities. We hope PSBA liaisons will help to add these videos to your school board's agenda.

The first video will discuss a new initiative PSBA is launching to help control unfunded and underfunded mandates that burden schools. The initiative is

known as FREE (Focusing Resources on Educational Expenses). Through FREE, PSBA will introduce 12-18 legislative proposals targeted at these mandates. Pension reform, prevailing wage, special education funding, economic furloughs, nonpublic transportation and cyberschool funding are just some of the issues that will be addressed.

The first video will be available **Feb. 25**. This and future videos will be posted on PSBA's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/PSBAvideo. The videos also will be embedded at psba.org. Links to the latest video will be e-mailed to PSBA liaisons and board secretaries next week.

This week, PSBA presented testimony to the Senate Education Committee on the state's plan for Graduation Competency Assessments that students would have to pass in order to graduate, as well as two pieces of proposed legislation that would halt further development of the GCAs.

SB 281, introduced by **Sen. Jane Orié** (R-Allegheny, Butler), would clarify that any change in the current high school graduation requirements can be established only by an act of the General Assembly. In addition, the bill would prohibit the Department of Education from developing statewide requirements for high school graduation until the General Assembly specifically appropriates funds for that purpose. She spoke at the hearing, criticizing the Education Secretary **Gerald Zahorchak** for moving ahead with the development of the GCAs in spite of a one-year moratorium under Act 61 of 2008 that is intended to halt further action on the proposal.

Senate Education Committee Chairman **Jeffrey Piccola** (R-Dauphin), who has spoken in support of the GCA proposal, has drafted his own legislation that would require the State Board of Education to create regulations to prohibit students who score lower than the basic level on the PSSAs from being promoted to the next grade. Exemptions would be made for students with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. In addition, the bill would include language similar to the Orié bill that would clarify that any change in the current high school graduation requirements can be established only by an act of the General Assembly and prohibit PDE from developing statewide requirements for high school graduation until the General Assembly specifically appropriates funds for that purpose. The bill will be introduced as **SB 307**.

Representing PSBA at the hearing was **Timothy M. Allwein**, assistant executive director of Governmental and Member Relations, who spoke in opposition of the use of mandated graduation tests and also raised concerns with the use of PSSAs for grade promotion.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Leslie Morrill**, Supervisor of Staff Development, to attend the “*Grant Evaluation Clinic Series*” in Pottstown, PA on February 20, March 20, April 23, and May 22, 2009. This series is required for recipients of the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant. There is no cost to the district as the total costs of \$228.40 are being paid by the 2008-2009 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant. No substitute is needed.

- B. **Gary L. Spohn**, Director of Technology, **Susan Gallagher**, Software Field Technician, **Judy Kuhns**, Technology Integration Specialist, **Sarah Sacks**, Software Specialist, to attend “*Skyward State User Group Training Conference*” in Harrisburg, PA on Wednesday, April 15, 2009. This conference will provide the technology staff with the required updates/training on the Skyward System. The total cost \$363.80 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

SPRING CITY

- C. **Bridget Mullins**, Certified School Nurse, to attend “*Protecting Our Children’s Future: Uniting Our Community to Reduce Childhood Obesity*” at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. There is no cost to the district for this conference as all fees and substitute costs will be paid from the 2008-2009 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Grispon asked that Item A be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Grispon voting no. Mr. Masciandaro stated that he would like to comment later on a possible policy recommendation and Mrs. Williams said that would be fine.

- A. The Board approved the revised 2009-2010 school calendar.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. The following policy was approved:
 - 1. Policy #817– OPERATIONS: Energy Conservation

- C. The following policy is submitted as a first reading:
 - 1. Policy #707 – PROPERTY: Use of Facilities

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item D and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- D. The following athletic trip for the purpose of participation in a tournament was approved. The matches/games played are part of the 2009-10 schedules that allows a maximum of 22 contests as per PIAA by-laws.
1. The High School Girls' Basketball Team requests permission to accept the invitation to participate in the KSA (Kaylee Scholarship Association) Basketball Tournament, from Saturday, December 26 through Thursday, December 31, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. The cost per student-athlete will be \$759.00 plus transportation. The girls' basketball program and staff will conduct fund raising events to help defray the costs. There will be no cost to the school district. Student-athletes will not miss any school days.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item E and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

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

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Bruce Bailey, Upper Providence Township, asked the Board if there is any move or interest to expand the television coverage of Board meetings to the Verizon System. Mr. Bailey questioned whether this would be a major deal or would it be something easy to do? Mr. Spohn responded that in his initial communication with Verizon they indicated that they would need about a year to accomplish this. Mr. Spohn stated that the last he heard was that Verizon Fios was not yet in Royersford and he is not sure if this has changed at this point or not. Mr. Spohn said that he did have some communication regarding putting Fios into the Flex School Complex and when the installers came out they discovered that they did not even have any fiber near the Flex School. Mr. Bailey asked if it was necessary for Fios to be in for the district to be carried by their system and Mr. Spohn responded that there would have to be fiber from here to their service point in order for us to get the signal to them. Mr. Spohn stated that it is not a matter of the district is not willing to do so but more a matter that Verizon has not made the opportunity available to us. Mr. Bailey said it if the district could make the effort it would be well worthwhile. Mr. Spohn suggested that the public contact Verizon also because if they hear it from a number of different avenues it may make it more effective. Mr. Bailey asked if the owness was on the district or Verizon and Mr. Spohn stated that we have made the contact so it needs to be a franchise matter as well. Mr. Grispon commented that this has to go through one of the municipalities in order to get it done just like the handling of the Comcast issue where Royersford Borough took the lead in getting all the municipalities together for a meeting.

Mr. Grispon reported that Tom Weikel and Mike Leonard are coordinating an effort with Verizon to get the municipalities all together and when that happens then the school district can get involved. Mr. Bailey asked what the members of the general public can do help the situation move forward, Mr. Grispon suggested they call Verizon. Mr. Grispon said it will occur because they have to have a contract and once they get the contract with Royersford they will contract the other municipalities. Mr. Bailey asked how hard it would be to have the School Board meetings available on the district website; Mr. Spohn responded that Mr. Bonetz would probably be the best person to answer this question. Mr. Spohn reported that it is time consuming to make programs available for the web as well as getting them ready for broadcast. Mr. Bailey stated that he feels the more access the better so if it can be done without a major expense he would encourage the Board to act on this and make it available.

Dr. Hurda commented that Verizon has been a good partner to the district this year as they gave us a grant which is paying for all of our internet safety programs. Dr. Hurda reported that when she met with them in early December they were as anxious as we are to get our cable programs on the Verizon Network. Dr. Hurda said it absolutely was a matter of getting all of the municipalities on board. Dr. Hurda stated that Verizon indicated that we could possibly have this in place before the start of the next school year. Dr. Hurda said that Verizon is very much aware of the fact that our community wants the district channel on their network.

Mr. Pettit said that possibly the Curriculum Committee can make this part of their agenda but probably the townships are the ones who are going to have to move on this.

Mr. Grispon said when the meeting with the municipalities and Verizon occurs he will let Dr. Hurda know so that she can attend.

Heidi Greenwald, Colledgeville Resident and District Employee, thanked the Board for approving the calendar with the September 28th date off as a holiday. Ms. Greenwald stated that being Jewish she feels it is very respectful of the district to allow them to have this day off, not every district in the area does this and she just wants to thank the Board.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary