

The February 25, 2002 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
and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.
- Region II: Martha Magee Block, Janet A. Stokes,
and Robert A. Weber
- Region III: Ed Cummins, John S. Grispon, and
Richard J. Schroeder
- Administrators: Dr. Genevieve D. Coale, Superintendent of
Schools, Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant
Superintendent, and Timothy C. Anspach,
Business Manager
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Clerk: Pat Dillon

Mr. Weber opened the meeting with the call of order, roll call, and Pledge of Allegiance.

I. PRESENTATION

Mark Moyer, Principal of Oaks Elementary School, made a presentation entitled, "Technology Applications and the Internet." As principal, he uses software, so do teachers. Students learn to use software such as Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Powerpoint, Publisher, and Front Page. They also learn to navigate on the Internet and use e-mail. Teachers use SmartBoards and digital cameras. Compass Learning supplements math and reading programs. Oaks Elementary also makes extensive use of its web page to communicate with parents about school activities and testing. In addition to using filters, teachers check websites to be sure links are still appropriate for elementary school students. Some of the websites Mr. Moyer demonstrated included math, geography, and language arts lessons.

Mrs. Block asked if teachers assign homework using computers, if so, do you make sure all students have access to computers? Mr. Moyer said access is an issue and so at this point, teachers don't assign homework necessitating the use of computers. Mr. Weber asked if Mr. Moyer shared his web page setup with district schools. Yes, the tech person has, said Mr. Moyer.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There was none.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve III. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved of the January 14 special meeting minutes.
- B. The Board approved of the January 21 work session minutes.
- C. The Board approved of the January 28 board meeting minutes.

IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A-J. Mrs. Block approved it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved of the following resignations, with regret:
 - 1. **Francis Curtis**, Crossing Guard at the High School and Intermediate School in the afternoons, effective with the last day worked February 8, 2002.
 - 2. **Michele S. Henry**, 6th Grade Learning Support Teacher at the Intermediate School. Ms. Henry is seeking employment closer to her residence, effective as soon as a replacement can be found.
 - 3. **Robyn Ginter**, Instructional Assistant at the High School. Ms. Ginter will be relocating out of state, effective February 14, 2002.
 - 4. **Kathleen Howe**, Instructional Assistant at Limerick Elementary School, effective with the last work day of March 27, 2002.
 - 5. **Martin Seibert**, Library Assistant at the High School, effective February 22, 2002.
- B. The Board approved of **Katherine Mumich Verespy**, Learning Support Teacher at the High School for a Maternity Leave of Absence effective tentatively May 5, 2002.
- C. The Board approved of **James Williams**, Custodian at the High School for a Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 29, 2002 until March 4, 2002.

- D. The Board approved of **Frances A. Sollinger**, Custodian at Brooke Elementary School for a Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 29, 2002 until February 17, 2002.
- E. The Board approved of **Stephanie A. Frantz**, Boyertown, PA, as a Long-Term Substitute replacing Charlene Lapp who is on medical sabbatical leave of absence. Ms. Frantz is a graduate of Shippensburg with certification in Elementary and currently enrolled in the Special Education Program at Kutztown University. Compensation will be set at \$ 32,668, BS, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective February 12, 2002.
- F. The Board approved of **Sharon Tobin**, Phoenixville, PA, as the Clerical Assistant/Receptionist at the District Office replacing Nancy Jann who was transferred. Compensation will be set at \$11.00 an hour, prorated, plus benefits as per the Secretarial Plan, effective February 26, 2002 pending updated clearances.
- G. The Board approved of **Jill Kuhns**, Royersford, PA, as a Long Term Substitute for the Elementary position at the Intermediate School replacing Lisa Knaub who is on maternity leave. Ms. Kuhns is a graduate of Kutztown University with certification in Elementary. Compensation will be set at \$32,668, BS, Step 1, prorated plus benefits, effective February 8, 2002.
- H. The Board approved of the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Dr. John J. Bearoff**, psychologist to present two presentations entitled "Eeeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo" and "Because I Said So" at the Intermediate School. The cost for each presentation is \$500 for a total of \$1000 and will be in effect from January 10, 2002 until April 19, 2002. Funding will be from Safe Schools Drug Free School Grant.
 2. **Bridgework Theater**, Goshen, IN, to perform "Crossing the Line" Theater in the Round at the Intermediate School. The total cost will not exceed \$660 and will be in effect from January 10, 2002 until May 24, 2002. Funding will be from Safe School Initiative.
 3. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22**, Doylestown, PA to provide Central Auditory Processing Evaluations for 2 special education students at Oaks Elementary School. The cost for each is \$300 for a total of \$600, effective December 20, 2001.
 4. **Buxmont Academy**, Pipersville, PA, to provide educational services for a student who receives special education services at the Community Service Foundation as required by the IEP. The cost is \$97 per day per a period of 79 days for a total not to exceed \$7663. This service is retroactive to February 15, 2002. Funding will be provided from the 2001/2002 District Budget for alternative education programs.

5. **Buxmont Academy**, Pipersville, PA, to provide educational services for a student who receives special education services at the Community Service Foundation as required by the IEP. The cost is \$97 per day per a period of 91 days for a total not to exceed \$8827. This service is retroactive to January 30, 2002. Funding will be provided from the 2001/2002 District Budget for alternative education programs.
6. **Invo Health Care Associates, Inc.** Doylestown, PA to provide psychological support services for a student who receives special education services as per the IEP. Services will be in effect from February 11 through June 15, 2002 for 51 hours at \$60 per hour. Seventeen hours will be funded from funds that became available from the special education budget due to a reduction of services. Thirty-four hours will be funded from dollars not budgeted in the district budget for 2001/2002 for a total cost of \$2040.
7. **Spring-Ford Family Practice**, Royersford, PA to review student files in the special education ACCESS program and complete necessary medical practitioner authorization documentation in connection with student IEP files. The cost will be \$8.00 per IEP not to exceed \$4000. The PA ACCESS Program will reimburse funding.
8. **Sadecky's Puppets**, Tarentum, PA, to perform a puppet show and hold two assemblies entitled "Allison's Choice" at Oaks Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$890 and will be held on March 11, 2002. Funding will be provided by the Oaks PTA.

I. The Board approved of the following **extra-curricular/supplemental contract(s)**:

Margaret Wright	IMS - Drama Club <i>(replacing Jeanne Havrilla who resigned)</i>	\$1054 Code J
Jennifer Moyer	IMS - Fitness Club <i>(Replacing Leslie Ruffo who resigned the position)</i>	\$288 Code M
Heather Karlson	IMS – Variety Show <i>(Replacing Jeanne Havrilla who resigned)</i>	\$288 Code M

J. The Board approved of the following **substitutes**:

Professional Substitutes

Merle D. Bainbridge Royersford, PA 19468	Social Studies
Eric Dusko Pottstown, PA 19464	Elementary

Barbara J. Giebler Phoenixville, PA 19460	Music
Keith Kercher Norristown, PA 19401-5516	Elementary
Mary Lickfield Parkerford, PA 19457	Elementary
Beverly E. Reimund Collegeville, PA 19426	Elementary
Kimberly M. Shenberg Limerick, PA 19468	Elementary
Aaron R. Smith Royersford, PA 19468	Social Studies
Support Staff Substitutes	
Catherine A. Pfanders Gilbertsville, PA 19525	Instructional Assistant
Martin P. Coleman Perkiomenville, PA 18074	Maintenance/Custodian
Edward C. Freeze Stowe, PA 19464	Maintenance/Custodian
Kim M. Hagendorf Sanatoga, PA 19464	Instructional Assistant Playground Assistant Office Clerical/Secretary
Helen E. Johnstone Royersford, PA 19468	Instructional Assistant Playground Assistant
Amanda C. Madiro Schwenksville, PA 19473	Office Clerical/Secretary Instructional/Clerical Assistant
Colette M. McAndrew Limerick, PA 19468	Office Clerical/Secretary Playground Assistant

VII. FINANCE

Mr. Weber announced the addendum that said Item F should have included Checks #3918-3962 for a total of \$192,890.16. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A & B. Mrs. Block seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved authorization to seek bids for **supplies** for the 2002-2003 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, general, medical, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
- B. The Board approved authorization to participate in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for **Copier Paper** and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2002-2003 school year.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items C 1-5, excluding 4. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting against it.

- C. The Board approved of 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:

1/.	<u>Checks</u> Check No. 84466-84548 Check No. 84549-84726	\$418,769.58 \$858,737.30
2/.	<u>Check List Held for Board Approval</u> Check No. 84727-84834	\$88,134.60
3/.	<u>Scott Foresman</u> Check No.	
5/.	<u>Athletic Fund</u> Check No. 293538-293633	\$8,932.12

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item C-4. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved 7-1-1 with Mr. Weber voting against it and Mr. Schroeder abstaining.

4/.	<u>Plott's Energy</u> Check No. 84835	\$1,886.89
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Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items D-O. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- D. The Board approved of the following exonerations from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

Limerick Township	No.
Royersford Borough	No.
Spring City Borough	No.
Upper Providence Township	No.

- E. The Board approved of the following additions/deletions from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

Limerick Township	No.
Royersford Borough	No.
Spring City Borough	No.
Upper Providence Township	No.

- F. The Board approved of the Cafeteria Listing of Bills:

Checks #3918-3962	\$192,890.16
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- G. The Board approved of the following Treasurers' Reports:

- Treasurer's Report – January 31, 2002
- Money Market – January 31, 2002
- Naturium Fund – January 31, 2002
- Checking Accounts – January 31, 2002
- Athletic Fund – January 31, 2002
- Investment Schedule – January 31, 2002
- Note of 2000 – January 31, 2002
- G.O.B. of 1999 – January 31, 2002
- G.O.B. of 1994/1997 – January 31, 2002
- Capital Reserve Fund – January 31, 2002
- General Fund – January 31, 2002
- Series A 2001 – January 31, 2002
- Cafeteria M/M Account – January 31, 2002
- Cafeteria Checking Account – January 31, 2002

- H. The following reports are submitted for your information:

- Cafeteria Savings Schedule
- Cafeteria Investment Schedule
- Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement
- Cafeteria Participation Report
- Cafeteria Manager's Meeting Reports
- Cafeteria List of Bills
- Use of Facilities Report

- I. The Board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **FEBRUARY**, in connection with the **NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT – 1994/1997 G.O.B.:**

J. The Board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **FEBRUARY**, in connection with the G.O.B. SERIES OF 1999:

1. **LIMERICK ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS**

Architectural Studio	Professional Services	\$	5,607.25
Dave Kuterbach	Labor & Equipment-Install B/B Poles & Backboards-Playground	\$	840.00
Pottstown Burial Vault	Cement-B/B Poles -Playground	\$	207.50
Recreation Resource	2- Basketball Units	\$	890.00
Waltz Turf Farm, Inc.	1 Roll Woven Fabric-Playground	\$	300.00
*Dave Kuterbach	Labor & Equip. Dig out/Install Drainage Playground Area	\$	3,350.00
*Sanatoga Quarry	Stone-Playground Area	\$	39.60
	TOTAL	\$	11,234.35

2. **OAKS ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS**

ABC School Supply	Guidance- 2 Bean Bag Chairs	\$	91.98
Adirondack Direct	Lectern/Sound System	\$	1,036.33
Dave Kuterbach	Labor/Equip. Dig out Kdg. Playground Area	\$	20.00
Lakeshore Learning Mat.	8 Classroom Learning Carpets	\$	
	2,800.00		
	Kdg./1 st Grade Classrooms		
Martin Stone Quarries	Stone-Playground	\$	226.71
Waltz Turf Farm, Inc.	1 Roll Woven Fabric-Playground	\$	300.00
*Dave Kuterbach	Labor/Equip. Install Stone & Drainage – Playground Area	\$	1,550.00
	TOTAL	\$	6,025.02

3. **BECHTEL PROPERTY – 5, 6, 7 SCHOOL**

EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv)	\$	39,340.58
McKinney's Copy Center	Blueprint Copy (Technology)	\$	8.75
Knox Company	2 Black Recessed Mount Boxes	\$	451.00
	Fire/Law Rapid Entry System		
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	30,000.00
*R.M. Shoemaker Co.	Applic. #2 – Gen. Contractor	\$	330,300.00
*Spring-Ford District	Postage – Fed. Ex.	\$	7.94
	TOTAL	\$	400,108.27

4. **K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	171,481.21
McKinney's Copy Center	Blueprint Copy (Technology)	\$	8.75
U.S. Engineering Lab.	Soil Testing & Inspection	\$	1,580.00
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	16,000.00
*R.M. Shoemaker	Applic. #2 – Gen. Contractor	\$	966,281.00
*U.S. Engineering Lab	Soil Testing and Inspection	\$	1,697.82
	TOTAL	\$	1,157,048.78

***NEW BUSINESS**

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

Concession Stand/Storage Project

A.D. Moyer	Misc. Building Supplies (2 Inv)	\$	1,225.15
Berks Products	4.5 Hours-Crane Rental	\$	382.53
Glenwood Metals LLC	Misc. Roofing Items	\$	2,316.42
Martin Limestone Inc.	Block & Misc. Items (2 Inv)	\$	703.95
*John DiBattista	Set Roof Trusses w/ Crane & Misc. Work Completed	\$	6,065.00
*J&L Building Materials	Misc. Building Supplies	\$	<u>377.74</u>
	TOTAL	\$	11,070.70

- L. The Board approved of the 2000/2001 Audit Report from the independent auditors of Hutchinson, Gorman & Freeh. There were no material weaknesses or reportable conditions in internal control as a result of the audit of the general purpose financial statements, Federal Programs, and National School Lunch programs. The auditors gave an excellent review.
- M. The Board approved acceptance of proposal from Xerox on a DocuTech 6115 copier for the District Office's copy center. The cost of the machine is \$6,093.11 per month for 5 years. The current copier Xerox 6090 is 7 plus years old, and is beginning to have a lot of maintenance problems, causing delays in producing copies for instructional purposes. With 2 reliable copiers we can expect to produce over 875,000 copies per month.
- N. The Administration has received RFPs for Fixed Asset Services, 3 companies reply. As required for GASB 34, all districts must report its capital assets (land infrastructure, buildings, furnishings and equipment) as a component of its financial statement. The District will need to establish historical costs, useful lives and calculate depreciation for capital assets. The District will need to implement a comprehensive capital asset management program in order to effectively manage and report the status of its capital assets. The Board approved either American Appraisal or Maximus because the cost are similar. Total cost (\$9320) of all buildings is \$7,600, tagging assets \$500, annual updating \$750, land valuation \$175, file (disk) \$295, fees are inclusive of all travel expenses.
- O. The Board approved of closing the H.S./ Middle School Bond account (Series of 1994/97) and transferring the funds to the General Fund. Currently the fund as of January 31, 2002 had a bank balance of \$628,557.37.

***NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item P. Mr. Masciandro seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mrs. Block voting no.

- P. The Board approved of transferring residual funds from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve fund the remaining dollars of the H.S./Middle School account (Series of 1994/97). The Capital Reserve fund shall designate the following remaining expenditures: Schoor Depalma 5 year field plan \$3,529.42; Field bid consultant \$6,000; Field improvements \$200,000; and \$400,000 as arbitrage rebate. The remaining funds are undesignated, \$19,027.95. The total designated and undesignated dollars equal \$628,557.37.

VIII. PROPERTY

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved the credit of unused items included in base bid for a total deduction of **-\$4,458** for the Limerick Elementary School Project. (SMJ Contracting Inc. and G - 3).

IX. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item A. Mrs. Block seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved acceptance of a donation of \$1,800.00 from the Masonic Lodge for the purpose of sponsoring a 9-week after school program for at-risk students at the Intermediate School. This program will be developed by members of the SAP student assistance team and monitored by the building principal.

VIII. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Items A-Q. Mr. Grispon seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

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

CODE:580 Account: Conference/Training, Registration, Food, and Accommodations

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend Women’s Caucus “PA Association of School Administrators Spring Conference” in York, PA from May 1 through May 3, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$422.00 from the 580 account.

- B. **Timothy C. Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "A/CAPA" in Hershey, PA from April 17 through April 19, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$507.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **Debbie Smith**, Administrative Assistant at the District Office to attend "A/CAPA" (Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association), Hershey, PA on April 17-19, 2002. Total cost of the conference will be \$497.

HIGH SCHOOL

- D. **Brad Murless, Guidance Counselor**, to attend "*Eating Disorders in Children and Teens*" at the M.C.I.U in Norristown, PA on Thursday, March 7, 2002. The total cost for the workshop is \$30.00 – from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- E. **Rachel Custer**, Teacher, to attend "*Strengthening your History/Social Science Instruction*" at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, April 17, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$330.00 - \$185.00 from the 580 account and \$145.00 from the substitute account.
- F. **Denise Fazio**, Teacher, to attend "*PASA Training Workshop*", on Thursday, March 7, 2002, at the M.C.I.U in Norristown, PA. This training is mandated for teachers with special needs classes. There is no cost for the training. Total cost including a substitute is \$155.00 - \$10.00 from the 580 account and \$145.00 from the substitute account.
- G. **Carol Frankel**, Teacher, to attend "*Achieving a Comprehensive Transition Service System*" via teleconference at the M.C.I.U. in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, March 20, 2002, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. There is not charge for the teleconference. Total cost to the district is \$7.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- H. **Kenneth Mueller**, Guidance Counselor, to attend, "*Depression, Adolescent Suicide, and Suicidal Behavior*" at the Foundation for Behavioral Health, in Horsham, PA on Thursday, April 18, 2002. Total cost for the workshop is \$85.00 – from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- I. **Connie Willauer**, Teacher of Gifted Support, to attend "*PA Assoc. for Gifted Education*" at the Harrisburg Hilton, in Harrisburg, PA on Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, 2002. Mrs. Willauer has been asked to be a presenter at the Conference. There is no charge for the conference. Total cost to the district is \$236.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

- J. **Juliet Davidheiser, Sara Holwager, Wendy McDonnell, Holly Smith**, Teacher, to attend "*SAP Add-on Training*" at the M.C.I.U. in Norristown, PA on April 30, May 1, May 8, May 9, 2002. The total cost of the training is \$1,200.00 and will be paid through the Safe Schools Initiative Grant. \$300 from the 580 account. A substitute will be needed for each teacher for each day for a total cost of \$2,320.00 from the substitute account.

ELEMENTARY

- K. **Victoria Sayko**, Library Assistant at Brooke Elementary to attend "Follett Software Regional Training" – Day 2, Harrisburg, PA on March 15, 2002. Total cost of the conference will be \$224.
- L. **Sue Pronchik**, Guidance Counselor at Brooke Elementary School, to attend "*PA School Counselors Assoc.*" in Lancaster, PA on Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$421.00 - from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- M. **Sue Pronchik**, Guidance Counselor at Brooke Elementary School, to attend, "*Intro-to Social Therapy: A Cultural Performatory Approach to Development*" on Friday, May 10, 2002. There is no cost to the District. No substitute is needed.
- N. **Susan Mercer, Alyce Gilhool, Margaret Shiley**, Teachers at Limerick Elementary School, to attend "*Kid Writing Workshop*" on Monday, March 18, 2002. This workshop will teach a "team of teachers" a systematic approach to phonics, journals and writing. It will enable them to measure their students' understanding of phonics and other conventions of writing by looking closely at students' writing. Total cost is \$480.00 - \$105 from the 580 account and \$375.00 from the substitute account.
- O. **Ann Dieter**, Teacher at Limerick Elementary School, to attend "*What's New in Children's Literature and How to Use it in your Program.*" at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, April 16, 2002. The total cost of the Conference is \$305.00 - \$160.00 from the 580 account and \$145.00 from the substitute account.
- P. **Janet Gebhardt**, Teacher at Royersford Elementary School, to attend "*Using Guided Reading to Increase Reading Achievement of Students*" at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia on Wednesday, April 3, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$320.00 - \$175.00 from the 580 account and \$145.00 from the substitute account.
- Q. **Kathryn Pogwist and Marylu Onorato**, Reading Specialist at Royersford and Spring City respectively, to attend "*Annual Federal Programs Conference*" at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA from Sunday, April 21 through Wednesday, April 24, 2002. This conference will be paid through Title I Funding. Total cost will be \$2,435.00 - from Title I Funds

PSBA REPORT

John S. Grispon

Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee met on February 20th. Tim Allweine, PSBA assistant executive director for governmental and member relations, and Karen (?) PSBA network operations director, talked about the grassroots program.

Senate Amendment on Senate Bill 1013 will include bullying as a problem behavior.

House Bill 102 prohibits the Secretary of Education from taking action against superintendents who act in good faith on behalf of school board directors.

House Bill 2059 amends public school code by granting school boards sole authority to affix seals to diplomas or transcripts.

On February 12, Secretary of Education provided testimony on ways to strengthen and improve cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania. He maintained that the Department of Education's position is that cyber charter schools are permitted under Act 22 of 1997 Charter School Law. He asked the committee to consider state-wide approval and oversight in monitoring cyber charter schools. Currently, local school districts evaluate cyber charter school applications and monitor them. He suggested that the state charter school appeal board assume such responsibilities. The secretary said the Department of Education would work with the General Assembly to develop a more uniform state-wide approach as to school districts provide funding to cyber schools. This spring, the Senate indicated intent to develop legislation to deal with cyber schools.

PSBA presented testimony to the House Labor Relations Committee in support of House Bill 883 that will exempt schools boards from abiding by the minimum wage act. It will provide increased savings to school districts and tax payers.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Items A-C. Mrs. Block seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved of **Resolution 2002-2** regarding Chapter 4 Regulations, which relate to the diploma seals.
- B. The Board approved of PlanCon Part J: Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for the current Intermediate School from the Pennsylvania Division of School Facilities. The reimbursable percentage under G.O.B. Series of 1994 is 26.22%. The reimbursable percentage under G.O.B. Series of 1997 is 26.72%.

- C. The Board approved of PlanCon Part F Construction Documents for the new Intermediate School from the Pennsylvania Division of School Facilities, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management. The approval authorized the proper bidding of the project and constituted approval for entering into contracts.

Mr. Masciandaro said that the attachments were not in order as they appear on the agenda. Dr. Coale said he was correct and that it would be corrected. She added that some of the policies had been moved to Information Items. Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item D. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- D. The Board approved the following policies:
1. Policy #005.1 – Local Board Procedures: Board Committee Agenda and Minutes
 2. Policy #815 – Operations: Acceptable Use of Electronic Communications Systems

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Weber asked why the names of newspapers must be named in Policy 006, page 2. The solicitor said the law says to advertise in newspapers in general circulation and you only have to use one. Mr. Grispon said, we could say a daily newspaper. Mrs. Block said at one time, all those newspapers were independent and there was a desire to cover both counties. Now all three newspapers are owned by the same company. Mr. Weber asked about page 8 of the same policy that said “committee meetings may be called at any time by the committee chairperson with the proper public notice or to do so by two members of the committee.” I have a problem with this, because I think committee meetings should be called by the entire board rather than just two members because of the advertising costs. Mr. Grispon said the policy had been in effect since 1989 and it hasn’t been abused. Mr. Weber said a lot of things haven’t been abused, but all it takes is just once. Mrs. Block said the remedy if someone abuses it, is to remove that person from the chairman’s position. Mr. Weber said he wanted a safeguard to prevent it. Mrs. Block cited a time when the policy committee wasn’t able to meet for a period of time and the meeting time had to be changed. Mrs. Block suggested polling the board. Mr. Masciandaro said committees should have some flexibility and he could only remember a couple of instances when a committee meeting time was changed. He indicated that oversee of the president pressured the chair not to change times unless absolutely needed. He didn’t think there was a problem. He said, last year, we changed the meeting place for the board technology committee and if the board had to approve that, it would be too bureaucratic. Mr. Schroeder said that he believed that there should be some flexibility and that courtesy be extended to the board

president to give a reason for a meeting time/place change. I don't think there's need for a full approval from the board, he added. Mr. Grispon said committee chairs should contact the board president that there will be a change. Mrs. Block said she didn't see any point of putting that in the policy since the board president doesn't have the power of veto. Mr. Grispon said it hasn't been abused in 13 years. Mr. Schroeder said he was bothered by the clause of "at any time." Mr. Grispon said the policy committee will look at it and will try to come up with different wording. Mr. Schroeder referred to a committee quorum with respect to the board chairman being able to appoint a temporary alternate to conduct committee business. It's in Policy #105, said Mr. Grispon and he offered to cross reference it.

A. The following policies are submitted as a first reading this evening:

1. Policy #007 – Local Board Procedures: Distribution
2. Policy #113.1 – Programs: Behavior Management for Special Education
3. Policy #218 – Pupils: Student Discipline
4. Policy #221 – Pupils: Dress and Grooming

B. The following policies are submitted as a first reading this evening:

1. Policy #005 – Local Board Procedures: Organization
2. Policy #006 – Local Board Procedures: Meetings

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A-E. Mr. Rocchio seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

PERSONNEL

- A. The Board approved of **Nicolette B. Antell**, Collegeville, PA, for the newly created Instructional Assistant position at Royersford Elementary School. A position was transferred from the high school due to the withdrawal of the student. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, plus \$.25 an hour for a degree for a total of \$12.25 an hour with benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective February 26, 2002.
- B. The Board approved of **Carol DiFrancesco**, Collegeville, PA, for the newly created Instructional Assistant position at Spring City Elementary School. Ms. DiFrancesco is currently a per diem substitute with the District. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour with benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective February 26, 2002.

- C. The Board approved of **Cathy Pfanders**, Gilbertsville, PA, for the newly created Instructional Assistant position at the Middle School. Ms. Pfanders is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, plus \$.25 an hour for a degree for a total of \$12.25 an hour with benefits as per the Assistants’ plan, effective February 26, 2002.
- D. The Board approved of **Carol E. Roth**, Trappe, PA, for the newly created Instructional Assistant position at Oaks Elementary School. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, plus benefits as per the Assistants’ plan, effective tentatively February 26, 2002.
- E. The Board approved of the following **substitutes**:

Professional

Tara Pfeiffenberger Douglassville, PA 19518	Elementary/Early Childhood
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Support Staff

Gail A. Ellis Royersford, PA 19468	Instructional/Clerical Asst. Playground Asst.
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FINANCE

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved Montgomery County’s request of exoneration from paying taxes on the following parcels: Upper Providence Township – Parcel #61-00-00835-004 & #61-00-00832-007 Welsh Property, 314 Canal Street, Montgomery County for the period of 7/1/2001 to 6/30/2002. The subject parcels were transferred by sales from the Federal National Mortgage Association to the County of Montgomery on June 28, 2001 for the purpose of parkland. The outstanding tax and penalty for both parcels is \$3,568.55.

PROPERTY

Mr. Schroeder said that he suspected that the cost of site improvements are beginning to spiral, probably more than the board realized. He said that it would be important to get an update periodically from the administration on the estimated costs for the site and road improvements, etc. and how they relate to the overall project and construction cap that the board has put in place. Mrs. Block asked whether there was really any choice regarding Item A. No, said the solicitor. It is a fairly standard thing, PECO is not going to move the poles, he added. Mrs. Block asked whether there is a way to go back and change the scope of road improvements that the school district has to do for this project. You could ask for an amendment of the land development plan, said the solicitor. If we were to ask for an amendment of the land development plan to maximize the chance of

spending less on road improvements, how long would that take, asked Mrs. Block. You could spend months doing that, said the solicitor. PennDOT could still require moving the poles, he added. Mrs. Block said there are certain things that we're going to have to do, some board members voted against it. I think we should respect the cap and we'll have to cut out something else, said Mrs. Block. I'm opposed to challenging this up front to delay this project, she added. Mr. Schroeder said that he wants a continual accounting update process to avoid going over the cap. I see some things that are going to cost more than we anticipated, he said. Dr. Coale said that would be no problem and she asked for direction as to how to compile the report. Mr. Schroeder said quarterly reports would be fine. Mrs. Stokes said that Mr. Cooper normally provides updates on costs. Cost overruns don't always have anything to do with change orders, said Mr. Schroeder. He stood by his request. Mr. Weber asked for clarification. Mrs. Block said she would like to see how much was budgeted and how far along it has gone. She added that it should come from the property committee on a quarterly basis. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The Board approved Montgomery County's request of exoneration from paying taxes on the following parcels: Upper Providence Township – Parcel #61-00-00835-004 & #61-00-00832-007 Welsh Property, 314 Canal Street, Montgomery County for the period of 7/1/2001 to 6/30/2002. The subject parcels were transferred by sales from the Federal National Mortgage Association to the County of Montgomery on June 28, 2001 for the purpose of parkland. The outstanding tax and penalty for both parcels is \$3,568.55.

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Items B & C. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- B. The Board approved PECO Energy Company to locate, relocate, install, renew, remove, replace, add to, operate, and maintain on, over, under, along, across and within the premises such gas and electric transmission and distribution facilities as from time to time the company shall determine necessary or proper to supply said premises and those adjacent thereto with gas, electricity and communication services, together with the right of ingress and egress and the right to trim and keep trimmed, cut down and remove, in a workmanlike manner, all trees, roots, and branches of trees to the extent determined necessary by the company, to provide sufficient clearance for the protection of the facilities. This motion and agreement is pending review and approval of the district solicitor.
- C. The Board approved Verizon to transfer all Verizon cable to the new PECO poles and to remove the old poles. Verizon will also need to replace a piece of buried cable under Lewis Road at Donna Drive. Total cost is \$5,239.00. This motion and agreement is pending review and approval of the district solicitor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Masciandaro asked if the intent of the agreement is to have advertising on the outside of the fence. The solicitor said that he patterned the language in the

motion to follow what the board said last week. A discussion ensued regarding the intent of the agreement. Mrs. Block said her intent was anywhere on the inside or outside of the fence or scoreboard. She said only two members present were on the board when the language was originally written. Mr. Weber said he concurred. Mrs. Stokes said that she supports the American Legion, however she expressed concern regarding signage that would remain when the High School teams are playing since the advertisers are supporting the American Legion team and not the High School team. She said her second concern was assuming the Legion could place signs on the outside of the fence that we find out whether it is legal to advertise on the outside of the fence. The solicitor said that he didn't know. There is an exclusion for primary roads that are zoned commercial or industrial. We now have office campus zoning, so it isn't always clear. So you're saying the Legion will need to acquire a permit to hang the signs, said Mr. Weber. Yes, said the solicitor. The cut-off is 660 feet, Mr. Cooper says it is 469 feet from the right of way, so they should come under one of those exclusions said the solicitor. More than that, you'll need a permit from PennDOT. Will the Legion also need a variance from Upper Providence, asked Mrs. Stokes. The solicitor said he would guess yes. Mrs. Stokes asked why the sign was covered with a blue tarp and asked whether it related to legality. The solicitor said he didn't know. Mr. Weber said he thought it was because we didn't have an agreement. Mrs. Block expressed concern that the district solicitor's opinion was being given for the benefit of the Legion and that they probably have their own counsel. The solicitor said the agreement is generic. You can advertise on the premises, such as for a sign saying Home of the Rams, you probably wouldn't need a permit. Mr. Masciandaro asked how much income is brought in by advertising. Mrs. Block said even if they double the prices for advertising, it doesn't come close to the amount of money spent on improvements. Most advertisers do it to support the Legion not because of the money it draws, she added. Mr. Schroeder said advertisers are supporting Spring-Ford through the American Legion. Mrs. Stokes said what if the booster club wanted to sell ad space, it eliminates the opportunity for another group to advertise. Clearly, I think we should have an advertising policy, she added. Mr. Grispon said last year the same 16 players on the American Legion team were on the Spring-Ford team. Mrs. Block made a motion to approve the motion for Item A as amended. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. The board approved it 7-2 with Mrs. Stokes and Mr. Masciandaro voting against it.

- A. The board approved authorization to adopt the attached second amendment to the American Legion license agreement. (Attachment)

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bruce Bailey, Upper Providence

Commended the district for posting on the district website pictures of the construction of the new school in progress. Said he was in favor of watching cost overruns regarding the construction project, but said it was more important to get the building built. If it's an issue of tax dollars versus getting the school open in the 2003-04 school year, said he hoped the board would go in the direction of getting the school finished. While you're pinching your pennies, it amazed me that you voted on this amendment when you don't know the value of the advertising signs.

Paula Terrell, Morgan Drive, Limerick Township

(Provided a list of questions) How did you determine 99% of parents are satisfied with class size at Brooke?

Dr. Coale said that throughout the year, she had very few complaints from parents regarding class size at Brooke. Of those complaints, Dr. Coale said she had one parent from Grade 1 and one from Grade 4. Some parents who have moved into the district have complained about not being able to enroll at Brooke. We have parents now who are watching our numbers closely. We had over 60 additional students registering for kindergarten at Brooke. Our kindergarten enrollment was expected to be 469, we're at 513. We are concerned about class size and the real estate development in Upper Providence.

Mrs. Terrell said no telephone or written survey was done, you based this percentage on complaints from parents. Dr. Coale said that she documented parents' phone calls. Major complaints have been from those moving in, one in first grade and one in fourth grade. Mrs. Terrell said, you didn't solicit parent input, you're waiting for parents to come forward. We did not do a survey, said Dr. Coale. We're monitoring enrollment very carefully on a weekly basis. We're also looking at real estate development growth here.

Mr. Weber asked Mrs. Terrell to direct her questions to him, the chair. Did Dr. Coale make this quotation that 99% of the parents are happy with class size? Mrs. Terrell asked. Mrs. Block said that the question has been asked and answered about four times now, it has gone from beyond comment and question to interrogation and now debate. Mrs. Terrell said the purpose of her question was to see where the 99% came from a telephone or written survey. That's already been answered, said Mrs. Block. So there was no solicitation of parents to determine if they're happy with class size. She answered that, said Mr. Weber. Only if we complain, that's when it counts, said Mrs. Terrell. That's right, said Mr. Weber. Mrs.

Terrell then requested that the school board survey the parents of Brooke Elementary to ask their happiness and satisfaction with class sizes. Mr. Weber said the board would consider it.

Mrs. Terrell said her son is currently in first grade at Brooke and her daughter is scheduled to begin kindergarten next year. She asked if the board could tell her if her children would be going to the same elementary school. Dr. Coale said she expected children within the school district to register at Brooke for kindergarten from March 11-16. Mrs. Terrell asked whether there was an estimate of kindergarten class size in August 2002. Our class size today is approximately 23, one is 22, one is 24. Class size limits are 25 and we expect to be within those limits, said Dr. Coale.

Mary D'Angelis, Upper Providence

Said she was at the property committee meeting a few weeks ago and asked when the new enrollment plan would be sent out to board members to review and when would it be available for public review. It will be sent to the board in March and it will be available to the public at the board work session, said Dr. Coale. The public will be able to review it at the board work session.

Kathy McCoy, Upper Providence

Said she had two children attending the High School and is a 4th grade teacher at Brooke. Expressed displeasure that the traditional Thursday football game would be rescheduled to Wednesday night. Said she didn't know anyone who supported the change. Said a night game would be harder on older spectators. Asked if the board could change it.

Dr. Coale said Mr. McDaniel has made the decision and we are moving forward with the Wednesday evening game. Mr. Schroeder said he also believed in the traditional Thanksgiving game and said he made his concerns known to the board athletic committee. He said players are not enthused and that there is the potential for icy weather at a night game and ice on the roads. Said he didn't like it. Mr. Grispon said it's a one time decision and we'll try it once and we'll see. He added that he fought for the Thanksgiving game but felt it was okay to try something new.

Mr. Masciandaro said last week, he asked a question about EveryDay Math and asked Mr. Schroeder to address the question. Mr. Schroeder said that he mentioned last week that he didn't have the Curriculum Committee agendas before them and that the EveryDay Math presentation would be on the March agenda. Dr. Coale said we will look at EveryDay Math in terms of new areas, textbook acquisition, and extending curriculum. Dr. Coale said that EveryDay Math is a program and the real analysis should be done of the curriculum and how EveryDay Math fits into curriculum. That meeting starts at 7 and we have two major presentations: on the autistic program and EveryDay Math, said Mr.

Schroeder. Mr. Grispon said that he had an answer to Mr. Masciandaro's question regarding how much the American Legion makes in advertising. We are a 501C3 corporation and an audit is done every year and the next one will come out in the next few months and it is regularly sent to the board, said Mr. Grispon.

Alice Lang, Upper Providence

Asked to read a letter that essentially said that last year, she started Friends of Mingo Creek, a grassroots organization seeking to raise public awareness of Mingo Creek and the Schuylkill River. Wants Spring-Ford would joint the Adopt a Stream Foundation and National Wildlife Federation habitat program, which is dedicated to natural growth for nesting sites for wildlife disturbed by urban sprawl, to reduce air pollution from lawnmower emissions, and to allow grasses to grow and to catch runoff. Since Spring-Ford is one of the largest landowners in the watershed and with education as its primary mission, Spring-Ford could become a model for environmental stewardship and we have come here with this goal in mind. We currently work with a teacher at Brooke Elementary to create a native planting area. Would like to see an interpretive trail established at the Bechtel site to show what is a wetland, what is a first order stream, what effects does Route 422 have on Mingo Creek, how a geothermal well would help save energy costs, how do native wetland plants help the environment, and how do storm water basins protect streams from heavy rains. She suggested establishing a trail, information plaques along the trail, a stream monitoring program, and an outdoor education program. We would like to partner with the district to apply for funds. We would also like students to document environmental management videos and to assist in setting up a website and to have a contest to name tributaries to the Mingo Creek.

John Kennedy, represents Department of Environmental Protection and lives in Upper Providence

Said DEP is trying to help grassroot organizations such as Friends of Mingo Creek and agrees with Mrs. Lang ideas of grading the property and educating kids on environmental issues.

Mr. Schroeder said this conservation effort could tie in with the Globe Program. The district could benefit by partnering with another organization and offered to invite Mrs. Lang to the Board Curriculum Committee in May. Both Mr. Schroeder and Dr. Coale agreed that the district could partner with the group to apply for grants. Regarding the groundwater recharge system is already an idea under consideration at the Bechtel site. We are not just letting the water run off, he added. Mrs. Block asked whether the grant would be through the Department of Community and Economic Development or through the CCNR. Probably DEP or CCNR said Mr. Kennedy and there might be others. Mrs. Lang said she needed to see if there was any interest from the board first and then she would pursue funding.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grispon seconded it. The board adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Michael V. Masciandaro
Board Secretary

Pat Dillon
Recording Clerk