

On February 25, 2008 the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:41 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:	Ammon G. Morgan, Jr., and Julie A. Mullin
Region III:	Mark P. Dehnert, John S. Grispon, and Robert A. Weber
Presiding Officer:	Donna L. Williams
Superintendent:	Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager:	Tim Anspach
Solicitor:	Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.:	Michael J. Masciandaro

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 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spring-Ford Middle School Jazz Festival will take place on Friday, February 29 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. On Saturday, March 1, the John Swana Quintet will perform a 90 minute Jazz Concert for the public at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$20 for families. Tyler Schwirian, Katie Troutman and Paul Prescod members of the Spring-Ford High School Wind Ensemble have been selected for a Pennsylvania Music Educators Association sponsored all-state band ensemble based on their successful auditions at the 2008 PMEA Regional VI/State Band. The all-state wind ensemble and symphonic concert band will perform as part of the annual PMEA State Convention which will be held from Wednesday, April 16 through Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Hershey Convention Center.

Mrs. Williams introduced the next video in the series of programs entitled “Destination: SUCCESS”. The video focused on the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center.

**I. PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Orathia Bradley, House Principal for the 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, recognized Blake Tran on being named as a finalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. Blake’s achievement on the PSAT and NMSQT moved him to the status of semi-finalist, a group which represents less than one percent of the entrants. Mrs. Bradley reported that as a semi-finalist Blake had to fulfill several requirements before advancing to the final stage, such as obtaining an endorsement by the High School Principal, and submission of a detailed

scholarship application which included a self descriptive essay including information pertaining to his participation and leadership in school and community activities. Mrs. Bradley said Blake is one of 15,000 National Finalists who have the potential of receiving 1 of 8,200 monetary awards. Mrs. Bradley stated that Merit Scholarship Winners are academic champions who will be the leaders of tomorrow. Mrs. Bradley concluded by saying Spring-Ford is very proud of Blake and would like to recognize him and his parents for his achievements. Mrs. Bradley presented Blake with a certificate from the National Merit Scholarship Program recognizing his accomplishment.

- A. Presentation to Blake Tran for being named as a Finalist in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

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

There were no questions or comments.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- A. The Board approved the January 22, 2008 work session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the January 28, 2008 board meeting minutes.

**IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Donna Williams</b>	<b>As needed</b>
No report.		

<b>Curriculum/Technology</b>	<b>Bernard F. Pettit</b>	<b>Quarterly as needed</b>
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Mr. Pettit reported that the Curriculum/Technology Committee met as part of the Strategic Planning Committee which has twenty-five members consisting of members of the public, School Board members, teachers and administrators. Mr. Pettit said the group is basically in the process of trying to provide criteria for goals being set; two of which were set by the state and two which were set by the district. The two state mandated items are meeting or exceeding proficiency standards on the PSSA and strive for improvement in participation in state assessments, attendance and graduation rates. The group came up with goals for preparation for college/career success and collaboration between school community and the community at large sharing responsibility for student success. Mr. Pettit announced that there is a follow up meeting scheduled for tomorrow, February 26 in order to carry the program forward and strive to meet the vision and mission that was established at the first Strategic Planning meeting. Mr. Pettit encouraged everyone interested to attend the meeting as this something that is very vital to the District.

<b>Finance</b>	<b>John S. Grispon</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. 7 p.m.</b>
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Mr. Grispon reported that the Finance Committee met on February 21 and went over a proposal for banking services. Mr. Grispon said the quotes for gasoline are in the process. The Committee also reviewed the tax collector's reports, talked about the roll back on real estate taxes, and discussed the Blue Cross contingency payments and new rates. Mr. Grispon said the Committee also went

over the budget update and reviewed the reports pertaining to savings on the retirement incentive. Mr. Grispon reported that there will not be a March Finance Committee meeting as Mr. Anspach and Mrs. Rhoads will be out of the district attending a conference. Mr. Grispon said that the Committee also received word that the budget for Cafeteria Services is in process and it was reported that due to the increase in salaries, benefits and the cost of food an increase in lunch prices would be necessary. The increase is estimated to be at forty cents. There has not been an increase in four years and the Committee discussed the possibility of an increase every two years so that the prices do not jump too drastically at any one time.

**Property/Facilities                      Robert A. Weber                      2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. 7 p.m.**

Mr. Weber reported that the Property/Facilities Committee met on February 13 and discussed the township approvals for the turf at Coach McNelly Stadium as well as High School Field #9. The Committee also discussed going out to bid for the remaining waterproofing project at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center which will cost approximately \$250,000. Mr. Weber reported that they also discussed the update on the sprinkler system engineering at both Brooke Elementary and Spring City Elementary and it is anticipated that this will go out to bid in April. The High School Softball Field Project is slated to be completed by March 15. The outside bathroom project is completed and the walkways will be worked on as soon as we have better weather. The bids for the New Administration Building were received. Mr. Weber said it is anticipated that we will go out to bid for the High School Addition Project for approximately a thirty-six million dollar cap. The Committee also discussed the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Project. The Committee decided to put on hold the discussion on a bridge way across Lewis Road. The Committee talked about the Oaks boilers which should now be completed. Mr. Weber reported that Committee also discussed the padding and a survey for gymnasium safety. The Committee determined that the signs for the Flex Building should be the same as every other school building's signs. Mr. Weber said the Committee reviewed an option to purchase a fork lift for the removal of supplies within the district. The final item discussed was weekend activity permits.

**V. PERSONNEL**

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

**A. Resignations:**

1. **Ronald Hoinowski**, High School, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Science Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective tentatively with the last day of school, June 17, 2008.
2. **Joanne Karlson**, District Office; Executive Secretary, for the purpose of retirement, effective April 25, 2008.

**New Resignation:**

3. **Rick Pizico**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball, effective February 15, 2008.

**B. Leave(s) of Absence:**

1. **Dana Claffey**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective April 7, 2008 for the remainder of the 2007/2008 school year.
2. **Karen L. Connors**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 24, 2008 through the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
3. **Shannon K. Dallahan**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; School Counselor, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively April 18, 2008.
4. **Jean Novis**, Brooke Elementary School; Librarian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 27, 2008.
5. **Marie Armentrout**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively April 21, 2008.

**C. Long Term Substitute Employees:**

1. **April Collins**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive December 3, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
2. **Joanna R. Flanagan**, Evans Elementary School; Art Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive to January 28, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
3. **Donald Miller**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive to October 1, 2007 through tentatively March 15, 2008.
4. **Jacqueline S. Perry**, High School; Chemistry Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive to February 11, 2008 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.

**New Long Term Substitute:**

5. **Kate E. Seward**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Social Studies, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective retroactive February 5, 2008.

**D. Support Staff Employees:**

1. **Rita Brownholtz**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; 3 Hour Food Service Person, compensation will be set at \$13.05 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective February 26, 2008.
2. **Marci Thurston**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; 3 Hour Food Service Person, compensation will be set at \$13.05 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective February 26, 2008.

**E. Professional Staff Substitutes:**

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <b>Matthew Fabian</b>    | Health & Physical Education |
| 2. <b>Michael Hoinowski</b> | Music                       |
| 3. <b>Trina Kraus</b>       | English                     |
| 4. <b>David Reichley</b>    | Art                         |
| 5. <b>Kate E. Seward</b>    | Social Studies              |
| 6. <b>Tamura Yun</b>        | Elementary Education        |

**New Professional Staff Substitutes:**

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7. <b>Stacy Martellucci</b>  | Elementary Education            |
| 8. <b>Jennifer Murray</b>    | Elementary Education            |
| 9. <b>Judith A. Reinhart</b> | Elementary Ed/Special Education |

**F. Support Staff Substitutes:**

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>Deanna Colgan</b> | Support             |
| 2. <b>Michael Iezzi</b> | Support - Custodian |

**New Personnel**

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items G-I and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- G. The Board approved implementing the Administrative Sick Leave Bank, effective March 1, 2008.

- H. The Board approved increasing the annual Professional Per Diem Substitute rates, effective March 1, 2008, as follows:

Days 1-20: \$110/day  
Days 21 to 40: \$120/day  
Days 41-50: \$135/day  
Days 51+: \$150/day

Professional Per Diem Substitutes in a consecutive assignment lasting forty (40) days or longer shall be compensated at \$150 per day.

All currently employed Professional Per Diem Substitutes shall be paid at these rates, pursuant to the number of days worked during the 2007-08 school year, effective March 1, 2008. Consecutive assignment pay will

be effective March 1, 2008 through the end of the school year for current employees. The new scale then begins each school year for all Professional Per Diem Substitutes.

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

1. **Erika Giesy**, Asst. Track Coach – Boys and Girls, \$3,600
2. **P. Josée Voorstad**, Academic Decathlon Team Co-Head Advisor, \$927

VI. **FINANCE**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Pettit 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 G.O.B. 2004:**

1. **EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse GF-Salary/Benefits	\$	46,891.45
*Worth & Co., Inc.	Applic. #18 - HVAC Contractor	\$	90,338.98
*Worth & Co., Inc.	Applic. #19 - HVAC Contractor	\$	196,036.67
*Zeswitz Music	Music Instruments (3 Inv.)	\$	2,434.00
	TOTAL	\$	335,701.10

2. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELDS**

Stanton Door Co.	Doors/Hardware -Dugouts	\$	2,257.00
	TOTAL	\$	2,257.00

**RESTROOMS**

Barber's Septic Serv	Maintenance/Waterless Restrm	\$	640.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	68.00
	TOTAL	\$	708.00

**ARTIFICIAL TURF – ATHLETIC FIELDS**

Chester Valley Engin	Professional Services	\$	6,565.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	41.97
*U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies	\$	7.20
	TOTAL	\$	6,614.17

**SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – BROOKE & SPRING CITY**

Anchor Fire Prot.	Professional Services	\$	1,219.37
Lehigh Valley Eng.	Consulting Engineering Service	\$	16,000.00
	TOTAL	\$	17,219.37

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

1. <u>Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation</u>			
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	<u>12.30</u>
	TOTAL	\$	12.30
2. <u>Pole Barn Project – Maintenance &amp; Operations Bldg.</u>			
*John DiBattista	Labor/Nails Framing/Shelving	\$	<u>1,220.00</u>
		\$	1,220.00
3. <u>New District Office</u>			
Pottstown Mercury	Advertisement for Bids	\$	1,114.71
Print-O-Stat	Printing of Bids	\$	5,784.38
Times Herald	Advertisement for Bids	\$	1,068.94
U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies	\$	48.00
U. Providence Twp.	Plan Re-View Admin. Bldg.	\$	950.00
*Rental World	Equipment Rental	\$	102.68
*U. Providence Twp.	Construction Permit	\$	<u>30,814.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	39,882.71
4. <u>10<sup>th</sup> Avenue By-Pass</u>			
U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies	\$	<u>129.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	129.00

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>			
<b><u>January</u></b>			
	Check No. 121499 – 121580	\$	158,797.12
<b><u>February</u></b>			
	Check No. 121581 – 121734	\$	840,407.79
2. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>			
	Check No. 121893 - 121956	\$	240,346.65
3. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u>			
	Check No. 121735 - 121891	\$	287,040.78
4. <u>Scott Foresman Checks</u>			
	Check No. 121892	\$	385.25
5. <u>Athletic Fund</u>			
<b><u>January</u></b>			
	Check No. 300153 – 300253	\$	30,719.34

- E. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Spring-Ford Family Practice (Pottstown Medical Specialists, Inc.) Pottstown, PA.** Perform school physical examinations, provide standing orders and consultation regarding school-based medical issues. This three year contract is set at eleven dollars (\$11.00) per student physical for the 2007-2008 school year, twelve dollars (\$12.00) per student physical for the 2008-2009 school year, and thirteen dollars (\$13.00) per student physical for the 2009-2010 school year. Funding will be paid from the General Fund Budget.
  2. **Jack Bracale, DMD – Royersford, PA.** Perform state mandated dental screenings of students in grades 3 and 7 as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund Budget and shall not exceed four dollars (\$4.00) per screening.
  3. **Peter Catalanotto – Doylestown, PA.** Provide three (3) presentations in conjunction with author day at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,700.00).
  4. **George Schauer – Willoughby, OH.** Provide a basketball wizardry presentation in conjunction with an anti-drug assembly at Spring City Elementary School on March 6, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Spring City Elementary Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed two hundred ninety-five dollars (\$295.00).
  5. **Todd J. Kupper, RD, LDN – Hatboro, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “The Magic of Nutrition” at Spring City Elementary School on April 21, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Spring City Elementary Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
  6. **Hop 2 it Music – St. Petersburg, FL.** Provide an evening performance on May 1, 2008 for district-wide kindergarten students and their families at the Senior High School entitled “Move to the Music” followed by a morning performance on May 2, 2008 for district-wide kindergarten students. This contract also includes an afternoon kindergarten staff workshop on May 2, 2008 entitled “Let Music Make Learning Fun”. Funding for this will be divided up among the seven elementary schools 2007-2008 assemblies budget and shall not exceed three thousand three hundred five dollars (\$3,305.00).
  7. **Aubrey Atwater – Foster, RI.** Provide two assemblies on Traditional American Folk Music and Dance at Limerick Elementary School on Friday, March 14, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Limerick Elementary Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).



8. **Mobile Ed Productions – Redford, MI.** Provide two assemblies at Royersford Elementary School entitled “CSS: Crime Scene Science” on March 5, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Royersford Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization and shall not exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
  9. **Musicopia – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide assemblies/workshops in all of the district’s schools during the 2007-2008 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 General Fund Budget and shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$4,800.00). Additional funding for the program will be provided through grants from The Teleflex Foundation and The Bard Foundation.
- F. The Board approved seeking bids for “**Publications**” (Newsletters - 4 issues, District Activity Calendars, Student Handbooks, Crisis Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Plan Flip Chart, Post-Secondary Guidance Handbooks and Student Planners) for the 2008/2009 school year.

**NEW FINANCE**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items G-K and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- G. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:
- General Fund
    - Money Market – January 2008
    - PSDLAF – January 2008
    - PSDMAX – January 2008
    - Checking Account – January 2008
    - PLGIT Account – January 2008
    - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – January 2008
    - Payroll Account – January 2008
    - Tax Account – January 2008
  - Activity Accounts
    - Elementary Activity – January 2008
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – January 2008
    - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – January 2008
    - High School Activity – January 2008
    - Athletic Account – January 2008
  - Bond Funds
    - Note of 2003 – January 2008
    - Note Of 2004 – January 2008
  - Other Funds
    - Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – January 2008
    - Debt Service Fund – January 2008
  
    - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – January 2008
  - Cafeteria Fund
    - Cafeteria Money Market – January 2008



- C. The Board approved awarding the Turf Maintenance, Mowing and Trimming bid for 2008 to Coventry Property Services, Inc. in the amount of seven hundred eighty six dollars (\$786.00) per mowing, pending review of all paperwork. Funding will come from the 2008-2009 Maintenance Budget.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item D and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- D. The Board approved having **Arthur Altemose Architects** prepare plans, specifications and go out to bid for the balance of the old portion of the **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center** for waterproofing the facade. Total estimate of the final phase of this project is approximately \$225,000.00. Funding for this project is from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item E and Mr. Shafer seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro commented that he is happy with these bids and he is very happy to move forward with this project. Mr. Masciandaro asked that the Ad Hoc Committee be discharged. Mr. Masciandaro asked if fire protection is a required code element and Mr. Cooper said yes due to the fact that the building is a wood frame structure and has an attic.

Mr. Pettit asked about the status of multi-prime versus single prime contractors for school buildings and renovations, Mr. Davis responded that the State Supreme Court recently indicated that the Department of Education could grant mandate waivers for that purpose. Mr. Pettit said going forward on other projects we would then have the option to seek a mandate waiver for single prime as opposed to multi-prime. Mr. Davis replied that was correct but keep in mind that you would have to obtain the mandate waiver before moving forward and the Commonwealth may not necessarily grant it.

Mr. Masciandaro thanked the Administration for working so hard with the architect in order to get the bids down.

Mr. Dehnert commented that coming in as a new Board member, and with the lengthy process that projects go through before completion, he wondered if we could institute a procedure that when we evaluate a large project like this we have a record of the comparisons of what the alternatives were as far as costs. Mr. Dehnert said he asked for this information last week and essentially what he received was a lot of minutes from the last few years which makes it very difficult to understand from the sound numbers and reasons where we started from and how we got to here. Mr. Dehnert stated he would like to make sure that going forward we keep track and have records so that when decisions are made all the information is in one place and is organized in some manner that can actually be evaluated. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no.

- E. The Board approved accepting the following lowest responsible bidders for the **New District Administration Building** including the following alternates, rejecting all other bidders and alternates not selected, pending architect and solicitor review, for a total project amount of three million forty-five thousand two hundred ninety dollars (\$3,045,290.00).

The contractors and alternates are as follows:

**General Construction** – DDL Enterprises-\$2,124,000.00  
Accepting alternates 5, 6, 8, 10 and rejecting all other alternates  
Total: \$2,114,500.00

**Fire Protection** – TMI Commercial, Inc.-\$97,940.00  
Total: \$97,940.00

**Plumbing Construction** – Kirk Grater Plumbing & Heating, Inc.-  
\$114,000.00  
Rejecting all alternates  
Total: \$114,000.00

**HVAC Construction** – Myco Mechanical, Inc.- \$347,850.00  
Total: \$347,850.00

**Electrical Construction** – Lenni Electric Corporation-\$371,000.00  
Rejecting all alternates  
Total: \$371,000.00

#### **NEW PROPERTY**

Dr. Hurda said the board agenda was put together last week early in anticipation of the bad weather and at that time we did not have the PlanCon F, G and H documents in our possession. We have since received them and they have been placed at each Board members seat tonight. Dr. Hurda reported that we are asking the Board to approve these documents so that they may be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval. Once approval has been received we will need to place these approved documents back into the minutes for final approval.

Mr. Grispon commented that he has served on the Board in 1997 when the Bechtel property was condemned and we are finally moving forward to convert this building into our new Administration Building. Mr. Grispon said the plan was always to convert the Bechtel Dairy Building into the Administration Building. Mr. Grispon stated that along the way there were changes in the Board and that stopped this process from moving forward. Mr. Grispon said the costs today are higher than they were ten years ago back in 1997.

Mrs. Williams stated that is very different comparing private industry to the bureaucracy that a school district must go through just with the PlanCon process alone.

Mr. Masciandaro commented that he remembers that it was the Property Committee that looked into the various options with regards to the Administration Building and it is probably not unreasonable to ask the committees to not only create the case but sustain the case for a project. This way when a question comes up it is distilled at a level that can easily be digested by the Board and therefore does not fall off the radar screen. Mr. Masciandaro suggested that going forward with projects we let the committees do the work for us.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Items F-H and Mr. Weber seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no.

- F. The Board approved **Resolution 2008-10** for Foreman Architects to submit **PlanCon F- Attachment C** - Post Bid Opening Certification for the Spring-Ford Area School District Administration Offices.
- G. The Board approved **Resolution 2008-11** for Foreman Architects to submit **PlanCon G** – Project Accounting Based on Bids for the Spring-Ford Area School District Administration Offices
- H The Board approved **Resolution 2008-12** for Foreman Architects to submit **PlanCon H** – Project Financing for the Spring-Ford Area School District Administration Offices.

**VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the Summer Instrumental Program for grades 4-12, under the direction of Ms. Kris Noel Jennings, Music Department Chair, to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district's summer school program, from Monday, June 23 through Friday, July 25, 2008 (no classes Friday, July 4, 2008). Weekly lessons would be offered to students on a tuition basis, and there would be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$16.50 per half hour private lesson. All tuition money that is collected would be submitted to the Business Office and the teachers would be paid at the current summer school salary rate of \$30.00/hour.
- B. The Board approved the Summer Strings Program to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center for grades 4-9. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district summer school program, from Monday, June 23 through Friday, July 25, 2008 (no classes Friday, July 4, 2008). Weekly lessons would be offered to students on a tuition basis, and there would be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$16.50 per half hour private lesson. All tuition money that is collected would be submitted to the Business Office and the teachers would be paid at the current summer school salary rate of \$30.00/hour.
- C. The Board approved the 2008 Summer School Program at Spring-Ford High School for students in grades 9-12. It is anticipated that there will be a need for five (5) academic teachers. The dates for this year's program will be Monday, June 23 through Friday, July 25, 2008 (no classes Friday, July 4, 2008). Staff rate as per contract this year is \$30.00 per hour plus benefits. Tuition rates will be \$225.00 per one credit for resident students (\$450.00 for two credits) and \$500.00 per one credit for non-resident students (\$1000.00 for two credits). Summer school is fully funded by tuition payments.

- D. The Board approved the 2008 Summer School Program at the Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center for students in grades 7-8. The dates for this year's program will be Monday, June 23 through Friday, July 25, 2008 (no classes Friday, July 4, 2008). Staff rate as per contract this year is \$30.00 per hour plus benefits. Tuition rates will be \$225.00 per one credit for resident students (\$450.00 for two credits) and \$500.00 per one credit for non-resident students (\$1000.00 for two credits). Summer school is fully funded by tuition payments.
  
- E. The Board approved the Fast ForWord 2008 Summer Program to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center from Monday, June 30 through Friday August 1, 2008 (no classes Friday, July 4, 2008). The cost to the student will be \$140.00. Additional days for the teachers and instructional assistants would be needed for training and preparation before the start of the program and for completion of reports after the program. Total cost will not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). The cost will be paid from tuition collected and supplemented if necessary from the General Curriculum Budget.

**IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Weber asked that Item T be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-S and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

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

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

- A. **Susan Gallagher**, Software Field Technician, to attend "*Education Web Professionals National Conference*" in Rockville, Maryland on Monday, April 7, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Technology Budget and shall not exceed two hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$227.00).
  
- B. **Gary Spohn**, Director of Technology, and **Mary Quintrell**, Bookkeeper, to attend "*Skyward Steering Committee Meeting*" in Chambersburg, PA on Monday, February 25, 2008. The total cost of this meeting is \$161.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- C. **Diana Ward**, FCS Department Chairperson, to attend "*85<sup>th</sup> Annual PAFCS Conference*" at the Willow Valley Conference Center in Lancaster, PA on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12, 2008. The total cost of the conference is \$717.60 – 592.60 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

- D. **Barbara O'Brien**, Librarian, to attend "*PA School Library Association 2008 Conference*" in Hershey, PA on Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$854.00 - \$604.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- E. **Mary Palladino**, Math Department Chairperson, to attend "*Dennis Sparks: Leading for Results: Transforming Teaching, Learning & Relationships in Schools*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 12, 2008. The total cost of these two half day conferences is \$340.00 - \$215.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

**9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER**

- F. **Nancy McDonough, Edward Ritti, Tina Weigner, Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, and **Sherry Sterling-Holt**, Supervisor of Special Education, to attend "*Redesigning Instructional Delivery: Co-Teaching as a Strategy for Success*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, March 5, 2008. There is no cost for this ½ day conference other than \$187.50 from the substitute account.

**7<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER**

- G. **Louise Plush**, Teacher, to attend "*Literacy Fest*" at Oak Ridge Elementary School in Harleysville, PA on Saturday, March 8, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$30.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- H. **Louise Plush**, Teacher, to attend "*What's New with Literature Circles?*" in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, April 23, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$371.00 - \$246.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- I. **Laurie Exeter**, Teacher, to attend "*Building Adolescent Writers Workshop*" on Monday, April 21, 2008 at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. The total cost for this conference is \$265.00 - \$140.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

**5/6 GRADE CENTER**

- J. **Joseph Schroeder**, Teacher, to attend "*Administering the PASA*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, February 21, 2008 in the AM only. The total cost of this conference is \$85.08 - \$22.58 from the Special Education Budget and \$62.50 from the substitute account.

**BROOKE**

- K. **Judith Rickard**, Teacher, to attend "*Conference for Pennsylvania Kindergarten Teachers*" in Harrisburg, PA on Monday, March 10, 2008.

The total cost of this conference is \$412.00 - \$287.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

- L. **Nina DiCicco** and **Nancy Daly**, Teachers, to attend "*Motivating Unmotivated Students*" in Mount Laurel, NJ on Thursday, April 10, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$718.00 – \$468.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

#### LIMERICK

- M. **Janette Pymmer**, Teacher, to attend "*Structured Teaching*" at The Timothy School in Berwyn, PA from Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$1665.40 from the Special Education Budget. No substitute is needed.

#### UPPER PROVIDENCE

- N. **Dr. Melissa Patschke**, Principal, to attend "*PAESSP High Stakes Testing Task Force*" in Harrisburg, PA on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.
- O. **Jeannine Acri**, Teacher, to attend "*Wilson Intervention/Applied Methods Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA from Monday, May 5 through Wednesday, May 7, 2008. The total cost of this workshop is \$815.00 - \$440.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$375.00 from the substitute account.

#### DISTRICT-WIDE

- P. **Joan Staples** and **Jen Smith**, Speech-Language Therapists, to attend "*Progress Monitoring for the High Incidence Speech-Language Caseload*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, March 28, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$300.00 - \$50.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- Q. **Laura McNeil Honish** and **Jacquelyn M. Raco**, Certified School Nurses, to attend "*PA Association of School Nurses Annual Education Conference*" at the Radisson Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, March 28, and Saturday, March 29, 2008. The total cost for this conference and substitutes is \$625.00 and will be paid from the 2007-2008 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant.
- R. **Vicki Maumus** and **Elaine Sandilos**, Psychologists, to attend "*Implementing a Response to Intervention Model*" at the Hilton Airport in Philadelphia, PA on Thursday, March 6, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$570.87 from the Psychologist's Budget. No substitutes are needed.
- S. **Dr. Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, and **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend "*Professional Learning Communities at Work Institute*" in Somerset, NJ from Wednesday, June 18 through



Friday, June 20, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$2,712.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item T and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 6-3 with Mr. Dehnert, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Weber voting no.

Dr. Hurda commented that a correction needs to be made on Item T as all costs including substitutes for this conference will be paid through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation; there is no charge to the District. Dr. Hurda said the second thing she wants to comment on is regarding a question that was brought to her attention as to why we are sending Mrs. Kodish who is retiring to participate in this activity. Dr. Hurda explained that Mrs. Kodish has been a member of the Health and Wellness Committee since its inception and she has served with Dr. Morrill as we have looked at creating a Healthy Choices Program and activities that support that. This year the District is looking at a new initiative with which we will use our grant money and that is called a virtual gym. Dr. Hurda reported that there is only one such gym in the state of Pennsylvania and that is in Jersey Shore, PA. Mrs. Kodish through her hard work was able to make a contact with the Jersey Shore School District and the teacher who was responsible for writing the grant for that particular program in their district. Dr. Hurda said since Mrs. Kodish was the contact person and because she will be coming back to help the Health and Wellness Committee write the grant for submission to the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation she was asked to go along with a seventh grade teacher, which is the grade level where we are looking for this program to be housed. Dr. Hurda concluded by saying this is the reason why Mrs. Kodish is on the agenda for participation in this event.

- T. **Tara Bologa** and **Nancy Kodish**, Physical Education Teachers, to attend "*Middle School Virtual Gym Visit*" at Jersey Shore, PA on Thursday, March 6, 2008. The total cost of this visit is \$667.00 - \$417.00 from the 2007-2008 Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

#### **NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item U and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Dr. Hurda said when this study tour was initially approved Mr. Grispon asked about this item coming back before the Board so that they can see the cost of substitutes. The expenditure for the study tour was approved several months ago so that airline tickets could be purchased but this item is for the approval for the teachers and the cost of the substitutes to cover them while they are out of the District. The motion passed 9-0.

- U. **Lisa Pupo** and **Jennifer Farishon**, Teachers, to accompany 14 students on the Spring-Ford High School 2007-2008 Ireland Study Tour from Saturday, March 8 through Saturday, March 22, 2008. The total cost for this tour will be \$4,750.00 - \$3,500.00 for travel expenses and \$1,250.00 from the substitute account.

#### **X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item B be separated. Dr. Hurda spoke about Item A saying at each Board member's seat there is a Revised Option 2 of the calendar,

that she is recommending, which addresses the Friday preceding Labor Day. Dr. Hurda stated that she had the opportunity to look at the calendar of surrounding school districts and it seemed that we would be the only district in our area that would be bringing kids in the Friday before Labor Day. Dr. Hurda said this also impacts our commitment to the Western Center due to the fact that if two of the sending districts are off then the Western Center would not be open. Therefore, while the rest of our students are in school those students we send to the Western Center would not be in school since it would not be open.

Mr. Morgan said he believes a couple years ago we purposely linked a week together for spring vacation for the purpose of a class trip or for families to take a vacation at this time of year without having to request permission to take their children out of school. Mr. Morgan asked about any input received from parents with regards to losing a full week of spring vacation, Dr. Hurda said whatever input she received on the calendar was included in the packet. Dr. Hurda said most of the input she received had to do with starting school after Labor Day but she believes the Easter vacation was originally extended so that the senior class trip could take place during this time and students would not miss school. Dr. Hurda reported that our seniors have not taken the trip during this time because spring sports are still taking place and also parents were concerned about their kids being away over the Easter holiday. Dr. Hurda said the trip last year and also this year takes place over the Memorial Day break so the reason the full week off for spring break was originally created is not a reality now. Dr. Hurda said the main concern that she has heard is why do we start so early and end so late and this is part of the reason why we are considering this Revised Option 2 as it will allow us to get the kids out a couple days earlier.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Morgan voting no.

- A. Administration recommends approval of Option 2 of the 2008-2009 school calendar.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Masciandaro commented that he agrees with this resolution as he feels we are already over testing our kids and if we have PSSAs, SATs, and PSATs and our students still can't get to the point where they can read or write then shame on us. Mr. Masciandaro said more focus on just testing is not necessarily the answer so he is in very strong agreement with this motion.

Mr. Pettit stated that he appreciates the information sent home to the Board which expresses partially PSBA's opposition to the testing and he agrees with one portion of this and that is the fact that this is being rushed to judgment. This is moving much too quickly for what is being offered and more study needs to be done on the costs of this and what benefits will be achieved. Mr. Pettit said he supports this resolution for these reasons but would like to defer judgment totally until we know exactly what we are going to be facing in terms of costs, what it means and how intense it will be.

Mr. Dehnert said he agrees with Mr. Pettit as it looks like what is trying to be done is create standardized type finals and he is not sure what the benefit of this will be when the PSSA's will allow a student to obtain a graduation requirement. Mr. Dehnert stated that it seems like they are doing the same thing and this is just a repeat of essentially another set of tests that will do what the PSSA's will do.

Mr. Shafer commented that it is very simple for him and that is until a significant plan is placed in front of him that outlines any and all financial impacts to the local school district then it just appears to him to be another example of how Harrisburg is implementing additional costs which the local school district must carry the burden of and is not attached to any academic truths. Mr. Shafer said he is fully in support of this resolution.

Mr. Grispon said the state board did not do a lot of work on this, they issued a draft and three weeks later passed it without letting anyone know where they got their information from for the draft. Mr. Grispon reported that the draft information came from Achieve Incorporated, it is the Achieve Model. They just adopted the Achieve Model which is an educational service company that is nationwide. Mr. Grispon said when the superintendents and board member met with the person who is leading this project the answers were not there and still are not there. Mr. Grispon said he is not opposed to graduation competency assessments as long as they go through the proper process and everyone knows what it is going to cost from the beginning.

The motion passed 9-0.

- B. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-07** opposing Pennsylvania's proposed high school graduation competency assessments.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items C, D, F and G. Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The following policy was approved:

- 1. Policy #121.1 – PROGRAMS: Overnight/Foreign Travel

- D. The Board approved expelling student number 20708 from the Spring-Ford Area School District in accordance with the conditions outlined by the Superintendent.

- E. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:

- 1. Policy #005 – LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES: Organization
  - 2. Policy #021 – LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES: Political Activities

- F. The Board approved the following annual report of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.

- 1. Spring City American Legion Baseball, Inc.

**NEW OTHER BUSINESS:**

- G. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-09** recognizing the Spring-Ford High School Wrestling Team on winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Co-Championship.

**XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis asked that the Board meet with him at 7:00 p.m. prior to next month's work session to discuss the PECO assessment appeal. Mr. Dehnert asked about the public access channel having advertising commercials and Mr. Davis said he will have information and a report for the Board at the March meeting.

**XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, asked if school board has any intention of recognizing through a formal statement or resolution its 2001 graduate who perished last week in Iraq. Mrs. Williams responded that they are aware of the situation but have not had the opportunity to talk about it yet. Mrs. Bryant spoke about a Phoenixville High School student who had perished and his sacrifice was noted. Ms. Bryant said obviously as the war drags on she does not want to see us become complacent about the loss of these young lives. Ms. Bryant asked about the district administration building and wondered if there was any finalized plan on the disposition of the land. She asked if the land which is currently exempt would go back on the tax rolls. Mrs. Williams stated that there has not been any discussion on this as of yet and she personally does not want to spook the move to the new building as this is something she has wanted for fourteen years. Dr. Hurda commented that the land is zoned institutional right now. Mrs. Williams said we may decide to keep the property for whatever reason. Ms. Bryant asked how big a tract the property is and Mr. Cooper said it is approximately six acres. Ms. Bryant asked if it would be the decision of Upper Providence Township on how the land is rezoned and Mr. Davis said it is his recollection that it is zoned residential so we could comply with the ordinance and develop a couple of houses or we could ask Upper Providence to rezone it or if we could prove a hardship we could have the zoning hearing board evaluate it. Ms. Bryant stated that institutional does not automatically equate to off the tax rolls and Mr. Davis said she was correct. Ms. Bryant asked whose decision that would be and who decides the fate of that tract, Mrs. Williams said it is the Board's decision. Ms. Bryant asked when the move will be to the Bechtel Dairy site and Dr. Hurda said if everything goes according to plan it will be November of 2008.

Mr. Pettit questioned whether there was a possibility that students from the Western Center could take on the current administration building as a project. Mr. Morgan said the students currently have a house project for the next two years but it is certainly an option that could be considered.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grispon made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28.

**SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD GOALS**

1. Continue to move forward with the development of the educational specifications for the High School Renovation/Addition Project.
2. Continue to address the growing enrollment at the 5,6,7,8 level by moving forward with Phase II Feasibility Study.
3. Continue to monitor and adjust (when practical) District-Wide Curriculum & Instruction including such areas as: Academic Programming, High School Scheduling, Graduation Requirements, New Course Offerings, Co-Teaching, New Program Requirements at the Western Center for Technical Studies, Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, Scholarships, College Acceptance Rates and Feedback from Past Graduates.
4. Provide leadership in the development of the 2008-2013 Spring-Ford School District Strategic Plan.
5. Increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency by assessing “Where we are and where we need to be in terms of each major department within the District.”

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern  
Board Secretary