

On March 23, 2009 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:33 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I:	Michael V. Masciandaro 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:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Rep.:	Samantha Wanner

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that the Spring-Ford Area School District's annual consignment sale will be held on April 25, 2009. All proceeds will benefit the March of Dimes. Anyone interested in renting space should contact Dr. Hurda's office by calling (610) 705-6203 regarding seller fees, which are due to the Spring-Ford Area School District's Administrative Office by Tuesday, April 7, 2009. Items to be sold must be tagged and dropped off to the Spring-Ford Intermediate School by Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Mr. Pettit arrived at 7:34

I. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Kollar thanked the Board for allotting time in order to recognize a few outstanding seniors. Mr. Kollar introduced Tyler Brown and recognized her for being named as a Finalist in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Mrs. Williams presented Tyler with a certificate of achievement.

- A. Presentation to Tyler Brown for being named as a Finalist in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Mr. Kollar introduced Sue Ling Dong, Jane Esterline and Daniel Gilbert and recognized them for being named as Finalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Mrs. Williams presented Sue, Jane and Dan with certificates of achievement.

- B. Presentation to Sue Ling Dong, Jane Esterline, and Daniel Gilbert for being named as Finalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mr. Kollar explained the rigorous process the students must follow in order to be considered for these awards. Mr. Kollar expressed his pride and stated that Spring-Ford is very proud of these students as well. He congratulated the students and their parents.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Janet Stokes, Limerick Township, asked about the Use of Facilities Policy that is on the agenda for approval saying that over the winter we host a lot of PIAA basketball games and wrestling matches, she wondered under what classification PIAA falls in terms of the use of facilities. Mr. Grispon responded that PIAA does not fall under facilities as they pay whatever amount they are billed. Mrs. Stokes asked if this costs the taxpayers anything extra and Mr. Grispon replied no and Mr. McDaniel confirmed this saying they pay for everything including custodians, security, and any workers involved. Mrs. Stokes stated that it is good news that the high school addition project bids came in well under the estimated amount by approximately \$6 million. She questioned why the district borrowed \$36 million when the construction bill came in at \$22 million and whether the additional funds were for a second project. Mrs. Williams responded no. Mrs. Stokes stated that we are \$14 million under the bond issue; Mr. Anspach said this was not correct. He explained that the amount on the agenda for approval is for the prime contractors only and does not include furniture costs, the architect's fee, and engineering fees. Mrs. Stokes said we are still \$6 million under the projected construction costs, she asked for some assurance that the \$6 million being saved does not turn into a slush fund that will then be turned around and used for a field house, turbing of fields or some unnecessary things around the district. Mrs. Williams replied as it stands right now we have to be concerned about overages or change orders which we certainly are not banking on. Dr. Hurda reported that we just received the bids a week before we placed them on the work session agenda so there has not been any discussion regarding this but for now we just have to let the project begin and look at possible additional costs. Mrs. Stokes stated that her point is that with people losing their jobs and retirement accounts for our seniors being depleted the community is not interested in going out and spending unnecessary dollars on facilities that we really do not need. Mrs. Stokes referenced a letter she wrote to The Mercury and the feedback she has been receiving regarding people being up in arms about the spending on turf fields and the talk of a field house. Mrs. Stokes stated in these economic times we really need to focus on education, get back to educating kids and buying textbooks. Dr. Hurda responded that she wanted to clarify something that was not completely accurate in the article which said that we are not buying textbooks; in fact we are looking at spending over \$350,000 on new textbooks. Dr. Hurda reported that what has been done in response to the economy is to look very carefully at what we needed to do this year and what we can do next year. Dr. Hurda said this is just good business, we are not eliminating any curriculum or instruction materials that are necessary.

Mr. Dehnert asked about the money that comes in from the concessions during PIAA events. Mr. McDaniel replied that the money goes to the Spring-Ford team hosting the event.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. The Board approved the January 26, 2009 Board Meeting minutes.
- B. The Board approved the February 17, 2009 Work Session Meeting minutes.

NEW APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- C. The Board approved the February 23, 2009 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Dehnert commented on the extra-curricular positions saying it makes sense that we do everything we can to get the contracts approved before the season starts so they can be done in advance rather than after the season starts. Dr. Hurda said she agrees one hundred percent and Mr. McDaniel is aware of the fact that we have timeframes for when we want to receive these items. Mr. McDaniel stated that this is something they will be taking care of and they will have the contracts out by May with the goal of 100% completion by June. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Resignations:

- 1. **Kathryn E. D’Orazio**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of *retirement*, effective with the last day of employment, June 15, 2009.
- 2. **Charles H. Evans**, High School; Custodian, for the purpose of *retirement*, effective April 1, 2009.
- 3. **Joann Pizzico**, 5/6th Grade Center; Playground Assistant, effective with the last day of employment, March 6, 2009.
- 4. **Roger F. Schmidt**, 8th Grade Center; Head Custodian, for the purpose of *retirement*, effective with the last day of employment, August 7, 2009.
- 5. **Bethany N. Lewis**, High School; English Teacher, effective March 12, 2009.

New Resignations

- 6. **Joseph A. Miscavage**, 7th Grade Assistant Softball Coach, effective March 17, 2009.
- 7. **Elaine Ruppert**, Girls’ Lacrosse Assistant Coach, effective retroactive December 1, 2008.
- 8. **Chadwick Strickler**, Spring Intramural Fitness Center, effective March 17, 2009.

B. Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy:

- 1. **Randi Law**, Evans Elementary School; Support Technician, effective February 2, 2009.

2. **Tom Melissen**, Bechtel Building; Maintenance, effective February 25, 2009.
3. **Sally Whitton**, Flex Building; Custodian, effective March 27, 2009.

New Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy

4. **Susan M. Mehan**, District Office; Administrative Assistant, effective April 2, 2009.
5. **Marie Armentrout**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, effective March 18, 2009.

C. Extra-Curricular Contract: High School

1. **Monica L. Morrison**, Indoor Color Guard Instructor (Winter) \$2,984

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

2. **Jeremy Daross**, Indoor Percussion Team Instructor, \$2,067
3. **John Holsinger**, 9th Grade Lacrosse Coach, \$2,986
4. **Jeffrey Mast**, Asst. Track Coach, Boys & Girls, \$3,726
5. **Elaine Ruppert**, Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach, \$4,968
6. **Amy Short**, Girls' Lacrosse Assistant Coach, \$3,726
7. **Michael Siuchta**, Asst. Basketball Coach, Boys, \$4,471

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

8. **Joseph Miscavage**, Lacrosse Head Coach – Boys', \$2,588
9. **Josiah Platchek**, Baseball Coach, \$2,588
10. **William Racich**, 7/8th Gr. Head Track Coach, \$2,588

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7th Grade Center

11. **Kathryn Ball**, Lacrosse Head Coach, Girls', \$2,588
12. **Stacey Bogus**, Asst. Softball Coach, Girls', \$1,294 (1/2)
13. **Katie Uhas**, Asst. Softball Coach, Girls' \$1,294 (1/2)

D. Professional Staff Substitutes:

1. **Tracy Cornell** Elementary & Early Childhood
2. **Jennifer Flynn** Social Studies
3. **Andrew Lynn** Music
4. **Noelle Picard** Elementary & Special Education
5. **Julia Ranson** Art
6. **Melissa Rose** Elementary
7. **Katherine Saylor** Elementary & Special Education
8. **Richard Stephenson** English & French

New Professional Staff Substitutes

9. **Elizabeth Carrier** Elementary & Special Education

- 10. **Albert Gender** Biology and Environmental Education
- 11. **Robert Montalbano** Social Studies
- 12. **Shelby Roland** Early Childhood & Elementary
- 13. **Megan Staudenmayer** Early Childhood & Elementary
- 14. **Andrew Taylor** Social Studies

E. Support Staff Substitutes:

- 1. **Michele Fogarty** Support
- 2. **Laura Piland** Support
- 3. **Lindsay Shaner** Support

New Support Staff Substitutes

- 4. **Sharyn Barbish** Support
- 5. **Kevin D'Annunzio** Support
- 6. **Sandra Scott** Support
- 7. **Jane Watson** Support

F. Personnel Information Item

The individual listed below has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee and is approved for tenure status:

- 1. **Alane Rey** Elementary Education

G. Extra-Curricular Contract: Elementary School

- 1. **Keith Heffner**, Brooke, Science Coordinator, \$996

V. FINANCE

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

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

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

1. SENIOR HIGH- ALTERATIONS & ADDITIONS

Bursich Associates.	Professional Services	\$	250.00
EI Associates	Professional Services (4 Inv.)	\$	52,765.98
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	4,847.50
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	9,365.00
UPS Store	Drawing/Talley Sheet Copies		
	(4 Inv.)	\$	123.81
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	13,003.02
*Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	2,886.50
*UPS Store	Copies – Bid Talley Sheets	\$	5.94
	TOTAL	\$	83,247.75

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

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

1. **NEW DISTRICT OFFICE**

Bureau Veritas	Professional Services	\$	594.50
Foreman Architects	Professional Services	\$	1,218.00
Lenni Electric Corp.	Applic. #12- Electric Contractor	\$	14,906.66
Myco Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #11- HVAC Contractor	\$	24,880.50
PECO	Electricity (2 Inv.)	\$	807.20
*TMI Commercial, Inc.	Applic. #7- Fire Suppression	\$	12,546.07
	TOTAL	\$	54,952.93

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

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	72.00
U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies (4)	\$	14.40
*Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	792.00
*U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies (4)	\$	14.40
	TOTAL	\$	892.80

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

D. Checks:

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

<u>February</u>			
Check No. 129045 – 129141		\$	667,543.25
<u>March</u>			
Check No. 129142 – 129296		\$	644,868.01

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

Check No. 129417 – 129509		\$	355,928.55
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3. **Board Checks held for approval**

Check No. 129297 – 129416		\$	84,484.53
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4. **Athletic Fund**

<u>February</u>			
Check No. 301266 – 301288		\$	14,772.36

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

1. **Box of Light Theatre – Bloomsburg, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies at Brooke Elementary School entitled "AESOPS Fables". Funding will be provided by the 2008-2009 Brooke Elementary Home and School

Association and shall not exceed seven hundred seventy-five dollars (\$775.00).

2. **John Hain – Mohnton, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies at Evans Elementary School entitled “Traveling America’s Musical Highways”. Funding will be paid from the Evans Elementary School Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed six hundred dollars (\$600.00).
3. **Ambler Day School – Ambler, PA.** Provide direct instruction in the school environment and diagnostic evaluations for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at a rate of one hundred six dollars and sixty-five cents (\$106.65) per day for a period not to exceed seventy-five (75) days. Funding will be provided from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven thousand nine hundred ninety-eight dollars and seventy-five cents (\$7,998.75).
4. **Deanna Harbaugh – Eagleville, PA.** Provide homebound instruction for a student at a rate of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour for five (5) hours per week for a maximum of four (4) weeks. Payment will come from the General Fund and shall not exceed six hundred dollars (\$600.00).
5. **Dr. Marilyn Vogel – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide educational testing and an independent educational report for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).

New Independent Contracts

6. **Todd Kupper – Huntingdon Valley, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “The Magic of Nutrition” at Brooke Elementary School on April 3, 2009. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed nine hundred dollars (\$900.00).
 7. **Claire Choutka – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis consultation in the school and home setting for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct intervention services, consultation and training will be provided to school staff not to exceed twenty (20) hours at a rate of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00).
- F. The Board approved the yearly renewal with Scientific Learning for the Fast ForWord Support and Progress Tracker Agreements at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00). Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Curriculum and Instruction Budget and shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).
- G. The Board approved awarding the Request for Professional Auditing Services for years ending June 30, 2009, 2010 and 2011 (with a two year extension clause) to Maillie, Falconiero & Company, LLP, P.O. Box 680, Oaks, PA. The

quote for the school district audit was \$19,500 for 2008/2009; \$20,000 for 2009/2010; and \$20,500 for 2010/2011. The quote for the Education Foundation audit was \$1,000 for each year. In addition, \$1,250 will be charged for each PlanCon J Construction Report audit completed.

- H. The Board approved the acceptance of the actuarial evaluation report prepared by Conrad Siegel Actuaries, Harrisburg, PA as required by GASB 45. In addition administration is recommending the adoption of Method A for the purpose of GASB 45 reporting.

New Finance

- I. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

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

Activity Accounts

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

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – February 2009
- Note of 2004 – February 2009

Other Funds

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

Cafeteria Fund

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

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

February

Check No. 8610 - 8682

\$ 317,611.59

- K. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2008-2009 school year:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 001 – 051
Limerick Township Deletions	No. 001 – 835
Royersford Borough Additions	No. 001 – 114
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 188 – 230
Spring City Borough Additions	No. 001 - 017
Spring City Borough Deletions	No. 155 - 181

- L. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2008-2009 school year:

Royersford Borough	100 - 101
Upper Providence Township	77

- M. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2008-2009 school year:

Permits No. 2541 – 2609

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item D be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved Schiller and Hersh Associates, Inc. to prepare the plans and specifications to bid the Duct Cleaning of the Spring Ford High School – Band Area, Auditorium & Stage, the Intermediate/Middle School – HRU #3 & 4 and surrounding areas, and Brooke Elementary School, not to exceed \$5,000.00. Funding will come from the 2009 General Fund - Maintenance Budget.
- B. The Board approved seeking bids for Duct Cleaning of the Spring Ford High School – Band Area, Auditorium & Stage, the Intermediate/Middle School – HRU# 3 & 4 and surrounding areas, and Brooke Elementary School. Work would be completed during the summer months. Funding will come from the 2009 General Fund – Maintenance Budget.
- C. The Board approved seeking bids and awarding to the lowest responsible manufacturer the replacement chiller at Limerick Elementary School that was damaged by the electrical surge during a storm. Costs not-to-exceed \$180,000 with installation to be completed in-house. Payment will come from the General Fund.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item D and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked what the original bid quote for the high school project was and what was the total project cost? Mr. Cooper replied the original architect estimate was approximately \$28 million and the total project cost estimate is still at \$36 million.

Mr. Pettit questioned if we do in fact finish up the project and find that we have \$6 million left are there restrictions for its use and what are they. Mr. Fitzgerald answered saying the restrictions would be specific to the bond issue and when that time came they would be glad to look into it for the district. Dr. Hurda said the way it was identified when the money was borrowed was for other capital projects so the money is designated and the specifics must be looked at but it would have to be used for another capital project.

Mr. Dehnert commented that last week Mr. Davis said one of the alternatives would be to turn the money back to the bond holders, he asked exactly what this meant. Mr. Fitzgerald responded saying this subject would be better for Mr. Davis and bond counsel to speak to the Board about. Mrs. Williams stated that it is a ten year call on the bond.

Mr. Masciandaro suggested that the Finance Committee discuss this so that they can take a look at the long term capital picture is.

The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

- D. The Board approved the following lowest responsible bidders for the High School Addition including the following alternates, rejecting all other bidders and alternates not selected, pending architect and solicitor review, for a total project amount of twenty-two million ninety-three thousand one hundred ninety-six dollars (**\$22,093,196.00**).

The contractors and alternates are as follows:

General Construction - E R Stuebner - \$ 13,900,000.00

Accepting alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12B, 13, 14 (items 4, 11, 24, 33, 35, 37, 45, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28 and rejecting all other alternates

Total: \$13,900,000.00

Fire Protection – A B J Sprinkler - \$392,400.00

Accepting alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12B, 13, 14 (items 4, 11, 24, 33, 35, 37, 45, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28 and rejecting all other alternates

Total: \$ 392,400.00

Plumbing Construction – Apex Plumbing – \$925,200.00

Accepting alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12B, 13, 14 (items 4, 11, 24, 33, 35, 37, 45, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28 and rejecting all other alternates

Total: \$925,200.00

HVAC Construction – Goshen Mechanical Inc. - \$4,124,946.00

Accepting alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12B, 13, 14 (items 4, 11, 24, 33, 35, 37, 45, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28 and rejecting all other alternates

Total: \$4,124,946.00

Electrical Construction – MBR Construction Services - \$2,750,650.00

Accepting alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12B, 13, 14 (items 4, 11, 24, 33, 35, 37, 45, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56), 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28 and rejecting all other alternates

Total: \$2,750,650.00

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

- E. The Board approved **Resolution #2009-08** which approves PlanCon F Attachment C indicating the acceptance of responsible low-bid contracts and approved Alternate Bid items for the project known as “Alterations and Additions to the Spring-Ford Area High School”, contingent upon receipt of bonds, insurance and necessary agency approvals. In addition, this resolution authorizes E.I. Associates to prepare and submit PlanCon G and H to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-I and Mr. Pettit 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 22 through Friday, July 24, 2009 (no classes Friday, July 3, 2009). 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 plus benefits.
- B. The Board approved the Summer Strings Program to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center for grades 4-10. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district summer school program, from Monday, June 22 through Friday, July 24, 2009 (no classes Friday, July 3, 2009). 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 plus benefits.
- C. The Board approved the 2009 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 22 through Friday, July 24, 2009 (no classes Friday, July 3, 2009). 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 Fast ForWord 2009 Summer Program to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center for twenty-four (24) days beginning Monday, June 29 through Friday July 31, 2009 (no classes Friday, July 3, 2009). The cost to students not utilizing Fast ForWord as part of their ESY Program will be \$140.00. Two (2) additional days for the teachers and instructional assistants will 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 2009-2010 IDEA Budget.
- E. The Board approved the 2009 Extended School Year (ESY) Program and positions identified below to be held at Upper Providence Elementary School, Limerick Elementary School, 5/6th Grade Center, 7th Grade Center, and the Senior High School. The program will run from June 29, 2009 to July 31, 2009 (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.). There will be two additional work days for teachers, June 25, 2009 and August 3, 2009. Funding for these positions will be provided through the 2009-2010 IDEA Budget. It is estimated that the following positions will be required to support the ESY Program based upon projected enrollment:
1. Sixteen (16) Special Education Teachers at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
 2. Seven (7) Teachers to work as tutors at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
 3. Three (3) certified Speech Therapists at a rate of \$30.00 per hour.
 4. Thirty-eight (38) Instructional Assistants. The rates will vary between \$13.56 - \$15.56 per hour depending on experience and educational degree.
- F. The Board approved hiring three (3) ESY Instructional Assistants at a rate between \$13.56 and \$15.56 per hour depending on experience and educational degree. These assistants will support the educational needs of three (3) district special education students who attend ESY programs outside of the district as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for eight (8) weeks for two hundred eighty (280) hours per instructional assistant for a maximum not to exceed thirteen thousand seventy dollars and forty cents (\$13,070.40). Funding for these positions will be provided through the 2009-2010 IDEA Budget.
- G. The Board approved a certified school nurse/registered nurse to work five (5) hours per day from 6/31/09 to 7/31/09 (except Friday, July 3, 2009) at the four ESY school sites at a rate between \$26.07 and \$30 per hour depending on level of certification. The nurse will be responsible for the administration of medication and monitoring of health issues as they arise.
- H. The Board approved Camp Invention. Camp Invention is a hands-on, creativity and science summer camp for elementary students that will run from 6/22/09 – 6/26/09. This camp will be held at Brooke Elementary School. These programs will be run at no cost to the district.

- I. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District speech therapist to conduct pre-tests for approximately twenty-five (25) students as required by the Fast ForWord Summer Program. The therapist will be paid at the contractual rate of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour, not to exceed seven hundred fifty (\$750.00) dollars. Funding is from the 2008-2009 IDEA Allocation.

PSBA REPORT

J. GRISPON

Mr. Grispon reported that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association has announced an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the State Board of Education over the issue of graduation requirements. The agreement on new language proposed by the parties is an attempt to reach consensus on what has been a divisive issue within the basic education community for almost two years. The plan replaces a controversial proposal for graduation competency assessments and preserves broad local testing authority.

Under the new proposal, the state tests, known now as Keystone Exams, would be strictly optional for all school districts. Districts would be required to use only one of the following as graduation requirements: the results of the 11th-grade Pennsylvania System of State Assessment test, the Keystone Exams, aligned local assessments or International Baccalaureate or Advanced Placement tests. Consequently, the only mandated assessments would be the PSSA, because it is the designated state assessment for No Child Left Behind Act purposes, and the graduation requirement the school district chooses.

The new language also ensures that a local assessment option is still available for school district use and makes major changes regarding the development and implementation of those tests.

PDE issued a guide and materials for use of federal stimulus funds.

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide Pennsylvania with a total of \$2.6 billion in federal stimulus funds for investment in early childhood, K-12 and higher education. Last week, the state Department of Education sent guidance to school district superintendents and intermediate unit executive directors regarding the federal stimulus funds that will flow to school districts, including a guide to strategic investment of these funds.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently announced that it will partner with the National Student Clearinghouse to enable all commonwealth public high schools to track their graduates' progress throughout the students' postsecondary education.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

A. The following policy was approved:

1. Policy #707 – PROPERTY: Use of Facilities

- B. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:
 - 1. Policy #801 – OPERATIONS: Open Records
 - 2. Policy #907 – COMMUNITY: Classroom Visitation
- C. 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.
- D. The Board approved the revised student calendar for the 2008-2009 school year. The calendar contains 181 student days. The last student day will be Friday, June 12, 2009; the last teacher day will be Monday, June 15, 2009. The approval is based upon the district not requiring the use of any additional snow or emergency days between the date of approval and the last student day. Should snow or emergency day(s) occur, the calendar will be revised to reflect 180 student days.
- E. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Graduation Commencement to be set for the evening of Friday, June 12, 2009 in Coach McNelly Stadium.

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item F and Mr. Masciandro seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- F. The Board approved John S. Grispon for a seat on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for the term beginning on July 1, 2009 and ending on June 30, 2012.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEM

Mrs. Williams said a discussion item came up last week and all of the Board Members have been provided with a copy of the policy in question. The question remained that this was not the correct policy.

Mrs. Mullin said she does not agree with the interpretation of the policy. Mrs. Williams said we have a letter from our attorney's office explaining the policy. Mrs. Mullin stated she does not agree with this either. Mrs. Mullin said according to the logic in Mr. Davis' letter a School Board Member who has filed papers cannot speak at a school event, Mrs. Williams confirmed this. Mrs. Mullin pointed out that Mr. Grispon gave out trophies at the drum line event this past Saturday so why is this any different. Mr. Grispon said he did not speak and he came because he was invited. Mrs. Mullin said the Board was invited to attend the Upper Providence Home and School. Mr. Grispon asked if Mrs. Mullin felt he should not have gone and Mrs. Mullin said you cannot have the rule both ways. Mrs. Mullin stated that with regards to the policy that she voted on, her interpretation is that even if you have filed papers you can go and present as a School Board Member but you cannot campaign. Mrs. Mullin said Mr. Davis' letter specifically says its purpose is to even the playing field. Mrs. Williams said the policy says actively speak or engage individuals at school sponsored events. Mrs. Mullin said her understanding of the policy is different from Mrs. Williams and it needs to be made clear being it is campaign season. Mrs.

Williams commented that when the policy was adopted Mrs. Mullin served on the Policy Committee along with Mr. Grispon and herself and when it was approved on March 25, 2008 there was an 8-0 vote in favor and in fact Mrs. Mullin made the motion. Mrs. Williams said she believes it very clearly says "who has filed a nominating position to run as a candidate that they may not actively speak or engage individuals" and she is sorry Mrs. Mullin does not agree with it. Mrs. Mullin stated that under the authority piece it says "who intend to engage in political activities" so if Mr. Grispon and Mr. Weber, who are the only two Board Members with petitions filed, were asked to speak about the budget at a school event then they can do that as this is her understanding of the policy she voted on. Dr. Hurda asked that Mr. Fitzgerald from Fox Rothschild be permitted to respond and speak about the policy since he was involved with the development of the policy.

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the purpose of the policy was to even the playing field. The scenario contemplated was for the individual who was not a present Board Member and was not afforded the opportunity to be at the same events. Mr. Fitzgerald said specifically even for individuals who are on the Board at this point there is some concern that all individuals be made aware of the activities available for them to speak at, Mrs. Mullin said she wholeheartedly agrees with this. Mr. Fitzgerald said this is not to say that individuals cannot attend some events on behalf of the Board if everyone is aware that these things are going on.

Mr. Grispon questioned the wording of the policy which states "School Board Members may participate in such activities as official representatives of the School Board and district as a whole" and the event that took place on Saturday everyone was invited to attend. Mr. Fitzgerald said this is the important thing with this provision as it is more of a notice provision than anything else as it does not preclude if there is notice for all to participate. Mrs. Mullin said this is her exact argument, that they could have all attended the Home and School Meeting as they were all invited.

Mrs. Williams said the Home and School Meeting was on Wednesday March 11th at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday March 10th the nominating petitions were due into Norristown and at that time we had no way in that ½ hour on Wednesday morning to ascertain who filed. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that all policies are not perfect when it comes to certain scenarios like that. Mrs. Williams said she respects Mrs. Mullin's right to disagree and if the rest of the Board is not happy with the policy then it can be taken back to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Masciandaro gave his interpretation is a little different because of the wording which says you cannot speak at a PTA as a "candidate". Mr. Masciandaro said he believes this means that if you are running for the School Board you cannot go to a PTA meeting and inform anyone in attendance that you are running for the Board and ask for their vote. Mr. Masciandaro stated the idea is that we wanted to have seated Board Members running again to refrain from political activities associated with their candidacy. Mr. Masciandaro said he does not think any Board Member should be restrained from doing their duty as a Board Member which means going out and speaking on behalf of the Board educating the public as to what is going on in the school district. Mr. Masciandaro said he wants to see this policy do what it is intended to do which is to restrain people from campaigning at these events. Mr. Masciandaro stated he does not think the policy needs to be changed as it is pretty clear.

Mr. Pettit commented that he agrees with Mr. Masciandaro that the policy clearly states campaigning and that is exactly what it is meant to preclude, nothing more and nothing less. Mr. Pettit stated to say as Mr. Davis did in his letter that Board Members are prohibited from speaking at a meeting such as this is probably not the proper interpretation of the policy.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the policy is meant to afford the candidates for a Board position the same opportunity to attend the same activities as those seated Board Members. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that there is a fine line between providing information to a group of people and campaigning and the policy may not contemplate that. Mr. Pettit said Section G of the policy clearly states that you are precluded from campaigning if the event is not open to all candidates running for School Board. Mr. Pettit said there may even be an exemption within this but it also emphasizes the point that School Board Members should have the right to speak to Home and School Associations as long as they are not campaigning and if the Board invites all of the candidates to come then they could even campaign.

Mr. Dehnert stated that his interpretation of the policy when it was voted on was that it was meant to stop sitting School Board Members from attending the PTO meetings and having an advantage of being a School Board candidate and using that as a forum to make themselves known as a School Board Member. Mr. Dehnert said he witnessed this first hand when he ran for election because the incumbent he was running against went to all the Home and School meetings in his region right before the election and spoke at all the meetings. Mr. Dehnert said he felt this was an unfair advantage and he believes that is what this policy is addressing. Mr. Dehnert stated if he was running for reelection he does not feel that he should be able to go to the Home and School meetings by himself as a School Board Member to speak as this would give him an unfair advantage that the candidate running against him would not have. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that this was the intent of the policy. Mr. Pettit said that is all well and good but that is not what the policy says at the present time.

Mr. Masciandaro said he would not have voted for this policy if that was the case because you are basically taking almost a year away from a School Board candidate to go out and do what they are supposed to do which is talk to the public. Mr. Masciandaro stated that the seated Board Members who are duly elected have a responsibility to go out and do their job and it should not be constrained like this.

Mr. Fitzgerald said one note Mr. Davis wanted emphasized is that if a Board Member is speaking on behalf of an issue regarding their child then these are things you can do at these meetings.

Mrs. Mullin pointed out that the last line of F of the policy says School Board members may participate in such activities as official representatives of the School Board and district as a whole so if Upper Providence Home and School invited anybody who filed papers to come and speak about the budget then according to that they can, they just cannot go and campaign. Mrs. Mullin stated that by saying that no one from the School Board can come and speak was inaccurate. Mrs. Mullin said she believes it was perfectly fine for Mr. Grispon who filed nominating papers to be at the event on Saturday because he was not there campaigning he was there filling his duty as a School Board Member. Mrs. Mullin said this policy was to keep

people from campaigning not from fulfilling their responsibility. Mrs. Mullin said she agrees with every argument at the table which is why she brought it up last week.

Mrs. Williams commented that she believes that she has explained it several times and it is very clear. Mrs. Mullin responded that it is not very clear. Mrs. Williams asked if there was any other discussion on this issue.

Mr. Masciandaro asked how we are going to behave as a Board going forward because he was not aware that there was an invite and clearly no matter how you interpret the policy he was qualified to go. Mr. Masciandaro asked if in the future all of the Board would be notified of these events and Mrs. Williams said certainly, if the invites come through her.

Mrs. Williams stated that the letter from the Home and School League was very succinct as it said one or two Board Members could attend. Mrs. Mullin replied that is absolutely not true. Mrs. Williams asked if Mrs. Mullin had a copy of the letter and Mrs. Mullin replied yes. Mrs. Mullin read a letter to the Board saying "our Executive Board would like to extend an invitation to you and your fellow Board Members to attend our March Home and School meeting to be held on March 11th at 9:30 in the Upper Providence Home and School cafeteria. We are hoping that one or two of you would come to speak about the current plans for the future of the district as well as answer any questions our parents may have for you. If any of the Board Members would be interested, please have them email me". Mrs. Williams responded saying we went through this last week and she already apologized, Mrs. Mullin said she is not asking for an apology. Mrs. Williams said we went through this last week and you do not like the answer, you don't like the policy and that is fine. Mrs. Mullin stated that she does like the policy but she is concerned about the interpretation of the policy, she agrees with the policy 100%. Mrs. Mullin said she does not believe they are all on the same page as to what the policy says as Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Pettit have both said it is about campaigning. Mrs. Mullin further stated that they were specifically asked to come and speak about school district business. Mrs. Williams said the fact that the meeting was after the nominating petitions were filed makes potential attendees candidates and we have a legal interpretation on this. Mrs. Williams asked if anyone on the Board wanted this taken back to the Policy Committee to examine.

Mr. Dehnert commented that it is good practice that if there is going to be a request from a Home and School Organization to have somebody from the School Board speak, each region has three members and at any one time during the election period there is at least one that can attend and speak as an official representative of the School Board so that person should go to take away the level of impropriety of having someone speak who may be running as a candidate.

Mr. Masciandaro stated that if Mrs. Williams agrees to include everyone then he is happy with that.

Mr. Grispon said he believes the Board should police themselves and if there is any doubt then they should not go and if they are sure that it is not campaigning then they should go. Mr. Grispon commented that the work sessions used to be held at the individual elementary schools which gave everyone at that school an opportunity to talk to the Board so moving the work session, where no votes take place, to each

elementary school and each individual school would not be a problem because it was done before. Mrs. Williams pointed out that televising the meetings might be a problem and Mr. Grispon said the meeting can be taped as the cameras move and could be set up in the individual schools.

Mr. Masciandaro said another thing that was looked at many years ago at a Community Relations Committee meeting was having a speaker's bureau of sorts where Board Members could sign up and offer to come out and talk about the basics of a School Board such as structure and what a School Board does.

A. Policy #021 – LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES: Political Activities of School Board Members

X. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Joseph Ciresi, Limerick Township, commented on the policy discussion that just took place saying that he was the Board Member who attended all of the Home and School meetings. Mr. Ciresi stated that he attended the meetings from the first day he started on the School Board because as a responsibility to the district he feels you need to go out and report on what's happening. Mr. Ciresi said it is not a political event and he does not disagree with the policy but he disagrees with the argument. He feels that Board Members should attend at least 2-3 of the PTA meetings, the Booster Club meetings and anything that has district relations for us. Mr. Ciresi said he agrees with Mr. Grispon's suggestion that the work sessions be moved to other schools. Mr. Ciresi commented that at the PTA meetings people feel more comfortable approaching the Board Members as opposed to a Board meeting. Mr. Ciresi said you must remember that you must attend the PTAs, the Home and Schools, the Booster Leagues since they are the lifeline of the district, they are the ones we go to for money when we cannot afford to do things, they are the ones who fund a lot of the programs, and they are the ones who support the teachers in the classroom. Mr. Ciresi said these groups have taken a little bit of a beating tonight from people not being able to attend but he feels it is important that a Board Member should be allowed to attend whether they are up for reelection or not. Mr. Ciresi stated that any Board Member seated at the table knows enough that they cannot campaign there and it is fine to invite the opponent. The Home and Schools have tried to invite both people who may be running to the meetings if possible.

Thomas DiBello, Limerick Township, asked for clarification on figures discussed tonight with regards to the high school project. Mr. DiBello asked if the total bond was \$36 million and the construction costs were \$22 million, the answer was yes. Mr. DiBello said that is a difference of about \$14 million, he asked if the district was anticipating an overrun of about 20% and Mrs. Williams responded saying it was more like 10% but you must also consider the soft costs for the project. Mr. DiBello asked what the soft costs would run and Mr. Cooper replied that soft costs usually run around 28% of the construction costs. Mr. Cooper pointed out that although construction costs are down soft costs have not come down the same way so the soft cost figure should be calculated using the original construction cost figure of \$28 million. Mr. DiBello said he is just trying to get clarification as there are a lot of numbers being thrown around and you read newspaper articles which say we are

saving \$6 million but then you hear \$3 million might go towards possible upgrades. He asked if it is safe to say that at this point and time we are really still working off of the original \$36 million and maybe a month from now we may have a better handle on what our surplus is going to be, Mrs. Williams said she does not think it will be a month that we may not know the exact figure until the end of the project. Mr. DiBello commented that we really should not be saying that we saved \$6 million Mr. DiBello questioned if it was safe to say at this point and time that we do not know if we are actually going to save \$6 million. Dr. Hurda said we are safe to say that we came in \$6 million less than the anticipated cost of the project.

Kathy Regan, Limerick Township, questioned if the classroom visitation policy which is on the agenda as a first reading compliments our Act 34 and Act 151 requirements and wondered what the thoughts were behind the revision of this policy. Dr. Hurda said the policy on clearances requirements is in place and is now a part of the process in every one of our buildings. She commented that the policy on the agenda is different as it pertains to IDEA, special education regulations, which required that the district write a policy regarding the visitation in classrooms by parents. Dr. Hurda said the impetus for this was parents outside of the district coming to visit programs in another district and then requesting that their child be admitted to that program or requesting that their district implement that program. Dr. Hurda said this is really special education driven. Mr. Fitzgerald added that Chapter 14 was revised this past summer and one of the issues was that some districts had very restrictive classroom visitation policies where other had very open door policies. The State Board of Education decided that we needed to have the districts streamline their policies in order for a reasonable standard to be instituted which allowed parents, especially those of disabled students, to come in and observe the classrooms and their own private evaluator see the classroom which is all part of the collaborative IEP process. Mrs. Regan said she is worried about the parents who do not have their clearances and if they would fall under this. Dr. Hurda replied no because our policy was designed so that any person who would be alone or outside of the supervision of the teacher would absolutely be required to have clearances. Dr. Hurda said if a parent came into a classroom and read to a class and that was the only thing they planned on doing all year and the teacher was present the entire time then that parent would not be required to have clearances. Mrs. Regan said she believes there is a misinterpretation of the policy because there are only three or four parents in one of her daughter's classrooms that have clearances and those parents are being called all the time to volunteer since teachers are afraid to let anyone in the classroom who does not have clearances even if it is just for reading. Dr. Hurda reported that she will look into the possible misinterpretation of the policy.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Morgan made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:31.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary