

The March 25, 2002 work session of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro and Bernard F. Pettit
- Region II: Martha Magee Block
- Region III: Ed Cummins, John S. Grispon, and Richard J. Schroeder
- Administrators: Dr. Genevieve D. Coale, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant Superintendent, and Timothy C. Anspach, Business Manager
- Solicitor: Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.
- Student Representative: Amy March
- Clerk: Pat Dillon

Mr. Grispon announced that Mr. Weber was out of the district and that as vice president, he would preside over the meeting. He also announced that Mr. Rocchio and Mrs. Stokes would be absent from the meeting. Mr. Grispon opened the meeting with the call of order, roll call, and Pledge of Allegiance.

I. PRESENTATION

- A. **Mr. David R. Willauer**, Principal of Royersford Elementary School, made a presentation on the revisions to the elementary science program. The state has revised the standards for science and the district must realign its curriculum to meet those standards. He said that the elementary science program involves hands-on practice rather than using a textbook. Incoming teachers usually have only one science methods course and training falls on the district, which relies on lead teachers. He showed the units that are being added and deleted during the next school year. We would like to purchase teacher manuals and at least one kit of materials. We will also provide training to lead teachers.

Mr. Schroeder asked if the science kits are disposable and how much they cost. Mr. Willauer said some of the elements are disposable while other materials are reusable. Science kits cost approximately \$150. Are you proposing all new kits K-4 with the budget? Mr. Schroeder asked. Only for those new units, said Mr. Willauer. The budget also includes materials for existing units and Dr. Hurda's

budget will include the new kits. Why was finding the moon moved to 2nd grade, asked Mr. Grispon. Because of the standards, said Mr. Willauer.

- B. **Dr. Dennis Harken**, executive director of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, **Alan Clarke**, assistant executive director of the MCIU, made a presentation regarding the MCIU budget. Presented publications that describe national and state intermediate units. IU awards grants to special education teachers throughout the state, including Spring-Ford. Also presented the IU's annual report.

The MCIU budget is reviewed twice by superintendents and the IU board. Then local boards must approve them. Four budgets total \$2.7 million of a \$90 million operation and must go through a complex approval process. The budget must be in Harrisburg by May 1st. We are asking for a 2.85% increase. It is the first time in eight years that the IU has asked for an increase. I would recommend that you wait before passing your budget to see what Harrisburg will do with subsidy and retirement changes.

Mr. Schroeder asked, under your legislative services budget, you probably use a lobbying group, and that he is concerned about increasing the costs for alternative schools. Dr. Harken says the IU runs an alternative school for emotional support children. It is not a non-special education environment. Two school districts, North Penn and Souderton, decided to move alternative education programs in-house in either in-house facilities or they contract to an agency to provide services with their own staff or they are contracting with agencies such as Lakeside. Abingdon and Colonial have had in-house alternative ed for some years. Cost is the driving factor, he added. You're talking \$20,000 per student, said Mr. Schroeder. Dr. Harken said that we have explored it at times, it's always been almost as cost prohibitive for us to do it as a school district because of personnel costs.

Mr. Grispon said the board had motions to get money from the IDEA supplement, can you describe how it gets here. Dr. Harken said IDEA funds flow from intermediate units. Over the past five years, IDEA allocations have increased substantially. The Feds are not close to the 40% they promised when the bill was passed in 1974. The IDEA gross will be larger in real dollars especially if you keep the 1.5% subsidiary. Mr. Masciandro said you must submit your budget early because of retirement issues being considered in Harrisburg. Does that mean that if we get some relief, we will get relief from the IU budget? asked Mr. Masciandro. You will have to look next year, said Dr. Harken because the IU budget must be submitted by May 1st. If Harrisburg amortizes retirement over 20 or 30 years instead of 10, then you can ask me next year.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There was no public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Items A and B. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

IV. BOARD REPORTS

Board Athletic Committee – Mr. Grispon said the committee met on March 13, the girls' basketball out of state trip, the high school lacrosse fields soil testing, senior athletic banquet, and the proposed new pole vault standards.

Board Community Relations Committee – Mrs. Block said the committee met and continued discussion of the plans for the dinner to honor past board members. Discussed making more information about activities available on the district website. Discussed alternative methods to the website to communicate with members of the public. Will continue to explore these issues.

Board Curriculum Committee – Mr. Schroeder said the committee met on March 5. We had several presentations. Pat Stroop and other members of the autistic support team made a presentation on autism that was very emotional and the achievements are very impressive despite how people maligned us in the past. We had a presentation on EveryDay Math. Teacher team leaders expressed pros and cons of implementing this new program, which is in its first year. Everyone is supportive of the program.

Board Finance Committee – Mr. Schroeder said the committee met on March 8. We talked about alternative school costs and ways to rein in the costs, perhaps by in-house programs. In a few years, we will spend close to a million dollars a year for placements. We reviewed the financial roadmap regarding the flex school, project revenues and shortfalls. Next month, we will prepare a draft for the April presentation. Spoke on an assessment appeal regarding having appraisers look at properties with appeals pending to save money in the competitive quote process.

Board Policy Committee – Mr. Grispon said the committee met and everything is on the agenda.

Board Technology Committee – Mr. Masciandaro said the committee met and reviewed the budget and the results of the community technology, the e-tech planner, which is presented to the board for approval. He thanked the administration, staff, and public that participated in that process. It is good vision and presents good execution plans to continue technology and integration with the rest of curriculum.

Board Transportation Committee – Mr. Masciandaro said the committee met on March 5 and discussed bus tracking and will look at software to do satellite tracking of busing.

WCTS – Mr. Schroeder said the joint operating committee met on March 4 and had preliminary discussion of a five-year plan and direction of delivery system. Enrollment at WCTS is 460 students, up 200 students from three years ago. On February 5, the District 2, VICA 2 competition was held in Norristown. First place winners were Eric Allen, auto service, and Mike Evagelist, precision machining technology. Second place went to Dave Smith, architectural drafting; Maurice Miller, prepared speech; and in third place was Mike Metzger, related technical math. First place winners will move to the state competition in April.

Community Facilities Committee – Dr. Coale said that the committee met on March 21. SFASD reviewed the Committee Facilities Report of 1999, current enrollment, and revised enrollment projections from the Pennsylvania Economy League, which was completed in June 2001. The committee had an opportunity to discuss enrollment projections as far out as 2011, district guidelines, and construction projects that were and will be completed. Members reviewed elementary schools that can have an addition and recommended items for the next agenda. The next meeting will be held in April. The committee will review the need for another elementary school and current available space.

American Legion Report – Mr. Grispon said that after difficult discussions with the American Legion Baseball Inc. and Southern Bleacher, it was decided to delay the grandstand project until August 4th because the season for both Spring-Ford and the American Legion teams would be disrupted by construction.

Student Representative Report – Amy March reported that there are numerous activities going on. Spring athletics are phenomenal. Air Band was a great success and was held in the first weekend in March. The regional chorus was held and five students participated. Halley Jeffords made it to states. The volleyball marathon has been going on for the past month. The musical Annie will be held April 19 and 20th and it should be a great show. A week after spring break, different scenes will be presented at the elementary schools to get the younger kids involved. That has been key this year, increased interaction between different grade levels. High school students participated in Art Goes to School.

Athletic	John Grispon	2 nd Wed., 10 a.m.
Contract-Grievance	Richard Schroeder	As needed
Community Relations	Martha Magee Block	2 nd Wed., 7 p.m.
Curriculum/SE	Richard Schroeder	1 st Tues., 7 p.m.

Finance	Richard Schroeder	2 nd Thurs., 7 p.m.
Policy	John Grispon	2 nd Mon., 7 p.m.
Property	Janet Stokes	2 nd Wed., 8 p.m.
Technology	Mike Masciandaro	2 nd Tues., 7 p.m.
Transportation	Mike Masciandaro	1 st Wed., 7 p.m.
WCTS	Weber, Schroeder, Block	1 st Mon., 7:30 p.m.
MCIU-Legislative	John Grispon,	3 rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
	Richard Schroeder, Alternate	
MCIU Board	John Grispon	4 th Wed., 7:45 p.m.
Community Technology		4 th Tues., 7 p.m. (Nov.)
		3 rd Wed., 7 p.m. (Sept., Oct., Jan., Feb., March)
Community Safety & Security		4 th Tues., 7 p.m. (April)
Community Facilities		3 rd Thurs., 7 p.m. March
American Legion Report	John Grispon	
Student Representative Report	Amy March	

V. PERSONNEL

Regarding Item A, Mrs. Block expressed her deep regret of losing Mr. Musitano as an employee and wanted to thank him for his service. She wished him good luck. Mr. Schroeder thanked Mr. Musitano for his services. Without his expertise, I don't think our special ed department would be where it is today. Mr. Cummins thanked Mr. Musitano for his help and said that the district's autism program is recognized by the Autism Society of America. Mr. Cummins gave Mr. Musitano most of the credit for that accomplishment. Mr. Mascindaro said that before he was on the board, the district's special ed department was under fire and since then, it has changed as a result of a lot of people's effort and Mr. Musitano played a large role in that. Sorry to see you go, Frank, you did a wonderful job, said Mr. Grispon. Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The board approved of the resignation with regret of **Frank Musitano**, Special Education Supervisor. Mr. Musitano has taken a job with another school district, effective April 29, 2002.

Mrs. Block said if we have to lose Frank, I must complement Dr. Coale and the administration for finding such a fine replacement. She said that Mr. Krueger would be a wonderful asset to our district. Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- B. The board approved of the hiring of **Joseph Krueger** as Special Education Supervisor to replace Frank Musitano. Mr. Krueger holds his certification as Supervisor of Special Education from Millersville University, Millersville, PA; his Master's degree in Special Education from Trenton State College, Trenton, NJ; and his Bachelor's degree in Special Education, Elementary Education from Millersville University. The effective date of employment will

tentatively be April 30, 2002, pending receipt of clearances with compensation set at \$84,453 plus benefits as per the Administrators' Plan.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items C-R. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- C. The board approved of the resignation, with regret of **Paul Nihart**, Head Custodian at Limerick Elementary for the purpose of retirement. Mr. Nihart's last day of work will be April 30, 2002.
- D. The board approved of the resignation, with regret, of **Hal Holzer**, as director of the Variety Show at the Middle School, effective February 26, 2002.
- E. The board approved of the resignation, with regret, of **Bernadette Tufillaro**, 9th grade Lacrosse Coach at the Middle School, effective January 27, 2002.
- F. The board approved of **Gretchen Colombo**, Learning Support Teacher at Oaks Elementary School for a maternity/childrearing leave, effective May 15, 2002 until the end of the 2001/2002 school year.
- G. The board approved of **James Williams**, custodian at the High School for an extended Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 5, 2002 until April 9, 2002.
- H. The board approved of hiring two (2) speech therapists to provide five days of **Fast ForWord** testing to be offered to Regular and Special Education Students to be held from June 17 until June 21, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost of the program will be \$28 per hour per teacher for a total cost of \$1680 plus benefits. The cost will be paid through the Special Education budget.
- I. The board approved of employing one (1) to (2) two Special Education Teachers to support the Summer 2002 **Extended School Year** programs tutoring student(s) who receive special education services as per their IEPs. The teacher(s) will receive \$28.00 per hour for a total of 48 hours. The total cost shall not exceed \$1,344.00 plus benefits. Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement. Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.
- J. The board approved of employing three (3) Learning Support Teachers to support Extended School Year programs for students who receive special education services as per their IEPs. The programs will operate from July 1, 2002 to August 8, 2002, Monday through Thursday (with the exception of July 4, 2002 that will be made up on July 12, 2002), from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. In addition, the teachers will work two days before the program begins and two days after the program ends. Each teacher will work each day from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Each teacher will receive \$28.00 per hour for a total of 168 hours. Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement.

Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Placement and costs are as follows:

1. **Brooke Elementary School** – two (2) positions - The total cost shall not exceed \$9,408 (total cost for each teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits).
2. **Intermediate School** – one (1) position - The total cost for the teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits.

K. The board approved of employing three (3) Autistic Support Teachers to provide an Extended School Year program for special education students who receive services as per their IEPs. The program will operate from July 1, 2002 to August 8, 2002, Monday through Thursday (with the exception of July 4, 2002 that will be made up on July 12, 2002), from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. In addition, the teachers will work two days before the program begins and two days after the program ends. The teachers will work each day from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. The teachers will receive \$28.00 per hour for a total of 168 hours. Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement. Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Placement and costs are as follows:

1. **Limerick Elementary School** - The total cost for the teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits.
2. **Intermediate School** - The total cost for the teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits.
3. **Middle School** – The total cost for the teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits.

L. The board approved of employing twenty (20) Instructional Assistants to support Extended School Year programs for students who receive special education services as per their IEPs. The program will operate from July 1, 2002 to August 8, 2002, Monday through Thursday (with the exception of July 4, 2002 that will be made up on July 12, 2002), from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. In addition, the assistants will work two days before the program begins and two days after the program ends. The assistants will work each day from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Each assistant will receive \$12.00 or \$12.35 per hour based on agreement for a total of 168 hours. Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement. Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Placement and costs are as follows:

1. **Brooke Elementary School** – eight (8) positions for the Learning Support extended school year program - The total cost shall not exceed \$16598.40 plus benefits for three assistants. (The total cost for each assistant shall not exceed \$2,074.80 plus benefits).
2. **Limerick Elementary School** – three (3) positions for the Autistic Support extended school year program - The total cost shall not exceed \$6224.40 plus benefits for three assistants. (The total cost for each assistant shall not exceed \$2,074.80 plus benefits).

3. **Intermediate School** – six (6) positions; three (3) positions for the Learning Support and three (3) positions for the Autistic Support extended school year program - The total cost shall not exceed \$12448.80 plus benefits for three assistants. (The total cost for each assistant shall not exceed \$2,074.80 plus benefits).
 4. **Middle School** – three (3) positions for the Autistic Support extended school year program - The total cost shall not exceed \$6224.40 plus benefits for three assistants. (The total cost for each assistant shall not exceed \$2,074.80 plus benefits).
- M. The board approved of employing three (3) Speech Clinicians to support Extended School Year programs for special education students who receive services as per their IEPs. The programs will operate from July 1, 2002 to August 8, 2002, Monday through Thursday (with the exception of July 4, 2002 that will be made up on July 12, 2002), from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in multiple buildings. In addition, the clinicians will work two days before the program begins and two days after the program ends. The clinicians will work each day from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Each clinician will receive \$28.00 per hour for a total of 168 hours. The total cost shall not exceed fourteen thousand, one hundred and twelve dollars (\$14,112.00) plus benefits for three clinicians (The total cost for each clinician is \$4,704.00 plus benefits). Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement. Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.
- N. The board approved of employing one (1) Behavior Analyst to provide support for District operated Extended School Year programs for special education students who receive services as per their IEPs. The programs will operate from July 1, 2002 to August 8, 2002, Monday through Thursday (with the exception of July 4, 2002 that will be made up on July 12, 2002), from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in multiple buildings. In addition, the analysts will work two days before the program begins and two days after the program ends. The analyst will work each day from 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. The analyst will receive \$28.00 per hour for a total of 168 hours. The total cost for the teacher is \$4,704.00 plus benefits. Funding for the program will be supported by the District's IDEA supplement. Previously this service was provided by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.
- O. The board approved of the following **support staff**.
1. **Lisa Hornberger**, Royersford, PA, as a one-on-one Instructional Assistant for the newly created position at Brooke Elementary School. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, prorated, with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective March 26, 2002.
 2. **Susan Teator**, Gilbertsville, PA, as a one-on-one Instructional Assistant at Limerick Elementary School replacing Kathleen Howe who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, prorated, with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective March 26, 2002.

3. **Joseph M. Doherty**, Trappe, PA, as a district wide .5 custodian working 2-10 hour days on Saturday and Sunday replacing Andrew Whitmore who was transferred. Mr. Doherty is currently a district substitute. Compensation will be set at \$14.10 prorated, plus benefits as per the Custodian Plan, effective April 6, 2002, and as previously approved by the Board in April 2000 for Mr. Whitmore.
- P. The board approved of the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Communications Connections**, Inc., Norristown, PA, to provide interpreter services for a deaf parent, of a special education student, to participate in an Instructional Support Team Meeting at Oaks Elementary School. The cost will be \$96 an hour for 2 hours for a total cost of \$192. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget.
 2. **Chester County Intermediate Unit**, Exton, PA, to provide a one-on-one behavior assistant for a district special education student attending the Child Development Center in Coatesville for a period of thirty school days at a cost of \$30 per hour, for six hours a day for a total of \$5400. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget.
 3. **Jack Chambers**, Chester Springs, PA, to present a "Social Skills for Success" presentation on self-control, leadership, cooperation, communication, problem-solving, self-confidence, decision making and refusal skills. The cost of the presentations will be \$700 per day for 2 days at a total cost of \$1400 to presented on April 15 & 16, 2002. Funding will be from the Oaks PTA.
 4. **Camp Joy**, Schwenksville, PA, to provide a socialization component of Extended School Year services for special education students as per their IEP's. The contract will include a total of 57 days at a rate of \$86.00 per day for a total cost not to exceed \$4902. The contract will be in effect from June 17 through August 23, 2002. Funds for \$1290 will be allocated from the 2002/2002-district budget and the balance will be incurred during July and August 2002 by the 2002/2003 IDEA allocations.
 5. **Campus Outreach Services**, St. Davids, PA, to provide an assembly, to the 11th and 12 grade class concerning issues relating to sexual assault and date rape. The contract will be presented on April 5, 2002 for a total cost not to exceed \$1500. Funding sources will be from the Student Council, Senior Class and Junior Class.
 6. **Kezia Renee Lechner**, Philadelphia, PA, Artist in Residence to work with students for a total of 10 days to instruct students in sculpting techniques to be applied to tiles, and attach the completed tiles to the mural surface. The dimension of the mural will be 4' x 24'. The mural will eventually be placed on the main lobby wall of the Oaks Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$2500 and will be in effect until June 2002. Funding will be from the Oaks Artist-In-Residence Budget

7. **Yello Dyno Safety Presentation**, Linda Fratantoni, coordinator, West Chester, PA, to present an assembly for Kindergarten students to create an awareness for safety to be held at the Oaks Elementary School. The total cost will not exceed \$270 and will be presented on April 27, 2002. Funding will be from the Oaks PTA.

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

Janet Ehnot 9th Grade Lacrosse Coach \$2,290 Code F
(Replacing Bernadette Tufillaro who resigned)

Ruth Ann Donnelly MS 7/8th gr. Asst. Track Coach \$1,341 Code I
(Replacing Lyndi Puleo who is on maternity leave)

Todd Bowers MS Variety Show \$ 288 Code M
(Replacing Hal Holzer who resigned. Variety show is May 23, 2002)

R. The board approved of the following **substitutes**:

Deborah L. Antosh Playground Assistant
 Royersford, PA 19468

VI. FINANCE

Mr. Masciandaro said that he didn't see the green cards to submit his vote. The secretary said that she would distribute them at a later time. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

A. The board approved of **Resolution 2002-4** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit budget** for the general administrative services budget, curriculum and staff development services budget, State and Federal legislative services budget, and instructional materials services budget of the Intermediate Unit for the fiscal year July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003.

Mr. Grispon deleted Item B, since there was no Item B. Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item C1. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

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

1/. Checks Being Held for Board Approval
 Check No. 85120-85213 \$80,872.41

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item C2. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 4-2 with Mr. Grispon and Mrs. Block voting against it.

2/. Addison Wesley/Scott Foresman
 Check No. 85214-85215 \$926.72

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item C3. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

3/. Athletic Fund
 Check No. 293634-293679 \$13,513.30

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items D-K. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

D. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of MARCH, in connection with the G.O.B. SERIES OF 1999:

1. LIMERICK ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS

Acton Mobile Industries	Modular Bldg-Return Freight	\$	108.90
Anchor Fire Protection	Applic. #17- Fire Protection	\$	4,313.55
Architectural Studio	Professional Services	\$	3,691.00
B&S Sheet Metal	Applic. #15- Plumbing	\$	3,119.47
Wm. V. MacGill & Co.	Vision Screener- Nurses Office	\$	1,280.00
Martin Stone Quarries	Stone-Playground	\$	192.15
Prisco Group	Professional Services	\$	3,825.00
Pro Video	2 Stereo Monitor/Receivers 27"	\$	676.00
Tri-State Balancing Co.	Applic #3-Test/Adj/Bal HVAC	\$	11,660.00
Troxell Communications	1- 20" TV Wall Mount	\$	126.60
Virco	14 Uphl. Chairs-Teacher Dining	\$	386.70
Virco	Activity Tables, Table Caddies		
	Student Chairs	\$	8,948.40
*O'Connell Associates	3 Mobile Folding Tables	\$	1,315.00
	(Teachers Dining Area)		
*Torrissi Electric, Inc.	Appilc. #19- Electrical	\$	18,325.20
	TOTAL	\$	57,967.97

2. OAKS ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS

Flaghouse	Port. Volleyball Game Standards	\$	568.93
Linecom, Inc.	Wiring & Cabling	\$	14,453.00
Nasco	Portable Partition (7 Panel)	\$	849.17
Nystrom	10 U.S. World Maps, Globes	\$	4,258.50
Prisco Group	Professional Services	\$	3,825.00
Virco	14 Uphl. Chairs-Teacher Dining	\$	386.70
*O'Connell Associates	2 Mobile Folding Tables " "	\$	958.00
	TOTAL	\$	25,299.30

3. <u>BECHTEL PROPERTY – 5, 6, 7 SCHOOL</u>		
Spring-Ford School Dist.	Postage- Fed Ex	\$ 35.04
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$ 30,000.00
*R.M. Shoemaker Co.	Applic. #3 – Gen. Contractor	<u>\$ 983,358.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$1,013,393.04
4. <u>K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</u>		
Fox Rothschild O'Brien &	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 2,118.40
Upper Providence Twp.	Professional Services	\$ 1,230.72
U.S. Engineering Lab.	Soil Testing & Inspection	\$ 1,750.65
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$ 12,000.00
*Fox Rothschild O'Brien &	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 375.00
*U.S. Engineering Lab.	Soil Testing & Inspection	\$ 4,125.86
*R.M. Shoemaker Co.	Applic. #3 – Gen. Contractor	<u>\$ 794,315.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 815,915.63

***NEW BUSINESS**

- E. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **MARCH** in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT- Fund 22:**

<u>Concession Stand/Storage Project</u>		
A.D. Moyer	Misc. Building Supplies (4 Inv)	\$ 326.28
Glenwood Metals LLC	Misc. Roofing Items	\$ 79.40
Dave Kuterbach	Retaining Wall/Pour Concr. Pad	\$ 850.00
Peter Lumber	Misc. Building Supplies	<u>\$ 907.50</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 2,163.18

- F. The board approved of the following exonerations from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:
- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Limerick Township | No. 18 |
| Royersford Borough | No. |
| Spring City Borough | No. 13-27 |
| Upper Providence Township | No. |
- G. The board approved of the following Treasurers' Reports:

- Treasurer's Report – February 28, 2002
- Money Market – February 28, 2002
- Naturium Fund – February 28, 2002
- Checking Accounts – February 28, 2002
- Payroll Account – February 28, 2002
- Athletic Fund – February 28, 2002
- Investment Schedule – February 28, 2002
- Note of 2000 – February 28, 2002
- High School & Middle School Projects – February 28, 2002
- G.O.B. of 1999 – February 28, 2002
- Capital Reserve Fund – February 28, 2002
- Series A 2001 – February 28, 2002
- General Fund Tax Account – February 28, 2002

Revenue Budget Report – February 28, 2002
Summary Budget Report – February 28, 2002
Check Register – February 28, 2002

- H. The board approved of the following report:
Use of Facilities Report – March 25, 2002
- I. Limerick Green Apartments has filed an interim assessment appeal, challenging the interim assessment of \$4,019,800. The taxpayer believes the property should be valued at \$970,000. Two appraisals have been received. The board approved of accepting Tom Bearoff's fee quote for a cost of \$2,000. The limited appraisal can be expanded to a trial-ready report for an additional fee of \$2,500.
- J. The board approved of the replacement of single-point-of-failure network routing equipment in the Senior High, Middle School, and Intermediate School. This package also includes core equipment required for the two new Bechtel site buildings. The replacement equipment will enable increasing the network backbone speed ten-fold while offering lifetime warranty. (Existing equipment requires the purchase of extended warranties.) The existing routing equipment is no longer manufactured and is approaching the end of available technical support. A significant savings will be realized through a 3Com program for replacement of discontinued equipment. The 3Com equipment will be purchased through ePlus Technology of Pennsylvania at a net cost of \$35,291. Funds were set aside in the current Technology Fund budget for this anticipated replacement.
- K. The board approved of the purchase of a PowerQuest software upgrade through ePlus Technology of Pennsylvania at a cost of \$7,415.50. The PowerQuest software is used initialize our new computers with the exact same software on every computer. Using PowerQuest, multiple computers can be processed at the same time. PowerQuest is making this special one-time offer (received only on Friday afternoon) to Spring-Ford as a repeat customer. Without the special offer the software from Power Quest would be at least 3 times as expensive. The nearest priced competitor costs twice as much. The offer is only available through March 31, 2002. This item is within budget and covered by the Technology Fund.

VII. PROPERTY

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A & B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

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

- B. The board approved of Karl and Associates Environmental Consultants to perform an asbestos management analysis and to prepare a cost analysis of the Middle School prior to renovations. Costs not-to-exceed \$4,600.00. Monies will come out of the Capital Reserve.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The board approved of setting up Fast ForWord 2002 Program from 6/24/02 to 7/26/02 with 7/4/02 a holiday (24) days for students in grades 2-8. The cost to the student would be \$125.00. Additional days for the teachers and instructional assistants would be needed for training and preparation before the start of the program and for running and completion of the reports after the program. These costs will be paid for out of the General Curriculum Budget not to exceed \$10,000. Administration recommends the following personnel for the Fast ForWord 2002 Program:

- 2 teachers at the rate of \$28.00 per hour for five hours per day from 6/20/02 to 7/31/02 (29 days) for a total cost of \$8,120 plus benefits.
- 2 instructional assistants at the rate of \$12.00 per hour for four and one half hours per day from 6/20/02 to 7/31/02 (29 days) for a total cost of \$3,132 plus benefits.

Regarding Item B, Mr. Schroeder asked if we are approving the entire e-Technology plan as presented or just one year's worth? It is a \$3.6 million plan. Do we plan to implement it fully or is it a road map? I understand we have final say on expenditures, but is our goal to fully implement this plan as presented? Dr. Coale said the plan is mandated by the state and we are committed to it. Any plan is a roadmap plan and the expenditures would have to come before the board, she added. Mr. Masciandaro said it is a roadmap with objectives and goals broken down into an implementable plan. Each element is an estimate that must be funded through the Technology budget. If we as a board are committed to a technology program in unison with curriculum, we need to fund technology in the range of 3-5% of the budget, which is what we have historically done. Some of the elements may not make sense three years from now, but the state requires that we get to that level, so those items are not a commitment. Some of it is not conceivable, such as getting computers to every student. But you want to have some element of it in the plan. Mrs. Block proposed changing the wording of the motion to "Administration recommends approval of the filing of the state-mandated e-Tech Planner Technology Plan as a planning tool for the SFASD." Mr. Grispon said the board should approve the plan because it qualifies you for grants. Mr. Masciandaro said this was discussed at the Technology Committee

meeting and that is why the last sentence was worded the way it was saying "initiative will be addressed to the board as required in future months and years for specific approval. Approval of the plan does not imply approval of individual initiatives." We wanted to make it clear that this is a plan. Mr. Schroeder said that was a good explanation and a thorough plan. Why do we use the term "minimal storage" in the video library? I thought that was restrictive. I thought an area regarding busing should be in the transportation department's endeavor. I support the plan but have a few questions, he added. Mr. Grispon asked if the board could make Mrs. Block's suggested changes and still comply with the state requirement. Dr. Coale said she had no objection and thought the wording was accurate. Dr. Hurda said that the only issue was that the plan had to be board approved. Dr. Coale added that the district had to have a plan in order to obtain grants. I don't believe it commits us to spending, she added. Mr. Schroeder said the sentence at the end says that we don't have to change anything. Mrs. Block said the reason why she offered this amendment is that she has seen other motions where the board's action might be subject to interpretation by later boards. Mr. Masciandaro said that he thought you diminish this by stating "by filing." Mr. Grispon called for a second to the motion. There was none. The motion failed for lack of a second, Mr. Grispon announced. Mr. Masciandaro said that there was one omission: the technology committee had a member of the community technology committee and we missed Mr. Rocchio as being mentioned as part of the group on page 4. That's a clarification and not a problem, said Mr. Grispon. Dr. Coale agreed that it could be changed easily. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- B. The board approved of the state mandated eTech Planner Technology Plan for the Spring-Ford Area School District. The plan is the result of the efforts of the Community Technology Committee that has been meeting since October 2001. The District is required to submit this three-year plan to PDE for ePeer Review prior to April 30, 2002. Eligibility of the District for future state and federal technology funding is contingent on an current and approved technology plan. The plan consists of a variety of curricular, administrative, and training initiatives that will provide a roadmap for the future of technology. The initiatives will be addressed to the Board as required in future months and years for specific approval. Approval of the plan does not imply approval of the individual initiatives.

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

- C. The board approved of the District submitting the **Special Education Plan and Assurance for the Operation of Special Education Services and Programs** for School Years 2002-2005 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education retroactive on March 20, 2002. The District is required to submit

the plan and assurance to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than March 31, 2002.

- D. The board approved of an Elementary Summer School Program to be offered at Royersford Elementary School. The focus will be on a **developmental and remedial math program** for students who have completed kindergarten through grade three as of June 2002. The dates for the program will be Monday, June 24 to Friday, July 26, 2002 (no classes will be held on July 4 in celebration of the Independence Day holiday). A minimum of twelve students is necessary to operate each class and the number of students enrolled will determine the number of teachers. The cost this year is \$125.00 per class. Teacher salary will be calculated at the present rate of \$28.00 per hour plus benefits. Subsequent to the approval by the Board, elementary principals will notify parents of this program. All money and applications for these courses must be completed and submitted to the attention of Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant Superintendent, by May 17, 2002. Classes that do not have a minimum of twelve enrolled by that date will be cancelled. The Elementary Summer School Program will be fully funded by tuition payments.
- E. The board approved of an Elementary Summer School Program to be offered at Royersford Elementary School. The focus will be on a **developmental and remedial reading program** for students who have completed kindergarten through grade three as of June 2002. The dates for the program will be Monday, June 24 to Friday, July 26, 2002 (no classes will be held on July 4 in celebration of the Independence Day holiday). A minimum of twelve students is necessary to operate each class and the number of students enrolled will determine the number of teachers. The cost this year is \$125.00 per class. Teacher salary will be calculated at the present rate of \$28.00 per hour plus benefits. Subsequent to the approval by the Board, elementary principals will notify parents of this program. All money and applications for these courses must be completed and submitted to the attention of Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant Superintendent, by May 17, 2002. Classes that do not have a minimum of twelve enrolled by that date will be cancelled. The Elementary Summer School Program will be fully funded by tuition payments.

IX. CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, and **Dr. Leticia M. Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*Spring Legal Roundup*" at the Radisson Valley Forge on April 3, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$150 from the 580 account.
- B. **Timothy C. Anspach**, Business Manager, to attend "*Loss Control, Claims and Safety Workshops*" in Valley Forge, PA on April 25, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$120 from the 580 account.
- C. **Bruce W. Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, to attend "*Allsafe Environmental, Inc. – Asbestos Training*" in Boiling Springs, PA on April 8, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$157 from the 580 account.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

- D. **Tina Weidenbaugh**, Assistant Principal, to attend *Keeping Our Children Safe/Strategies for Schools and Communities* in Harrisburg, PA from April 29-May 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$345 from the Safe Schools Initiative Grant.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- E. **Dr. Dennis Booher**, Assistant Principal, to attend *Keeping Our Children Safe/Strategies for Schools and Communities* in Harrisburg, PA from April 29-May 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$345 from the Safe Schools Initiative Grant.

BROOKE ELEMENTARY

- F. **Nancy Kodish**, Physical Education Teacher at Brooke Elementary School, to attend "*The Physical Education State Standards Workshop*" at the Holiday Inn – Airport, in Essington, PA on Monday, May 6, 2002. The total cost of the workshop is \$290 - \$145 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK ELEMENTARY

- G. **Joanne Garro**, Kindergarten Teacher at Limerick Elementary School, to attend "*Teaching Reading and Writing in Your Kindergarten Classroom*" in Philadelphia, PA on Tuesday, May 14, 2002. The total cost of the workshop is \$326 - \$181 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.

OAKS ELEMENTARY

- H. **James Westlake**, Music Teacher at Oaks, Brooke and Limerick Elementary Schools, to attend "*PMEA In-Service Conference*" at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, April 19, 2002. Total cost to the district is \$145 from the substitute account.
- I. **Lucinda Iezzi**, Physical Education Teacher at Oaks Elementary School, to attend, "*The New Physical Education*" on Monday April 29, 2002, at the Clarion Hotel in Allentown, PA. Total cost of the conference is \$315 - \$170 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- J. **Mary Moore**, Teacher at Oaks Elementary School, to attend "*Increasing Literacy Achievement in Your 2nd Grade Classroom*" in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, May 9, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$310 - \$165 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- K. **Jeanne Rickards**, Speech Clinician at Oaks Elementary School, to attend, "*Assistive Technology Core Team Training*" at the MCIU on April 12, 2002. This training is required. Total cost of the workshop is \$155 - \$10 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.

SPRING CITY ELEMENTARY

- L. **Patricia Kawczynski**, Teacher at Spring City Elementary School, to attend, "*Educators Empowering Educators Internet Conference (K-12)*", on Wednesday, April 24, 2002. Total cost of the conference is \$280 - \$135 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- M. **Connie Henry**, Administrative Assistant at Spring City Elementary School to attend "Business Writing and Grammar", a 2 day workshop at King of Prussia, PA on June 5 & 6, 2002. The total cost of the conference will be \$409 from the 580 account.

PSBA REPORT**JOHN S. GRISPON****Appropriations Committee Hearings**

Earlier this month the House and Senate Appropriations Committees completed their rounds of hearings on the proposed 2002-2003 Commonwealth Budget. Secretary of Education, Charles Zogby testified before each committee regarding the basic education funding proposals. The Secretary's remarks were clearly supportive of the Governor's proposed budget. He noted in his remarks that funding increases had been provided to basic education during the last several years and that additional monies had been made available by greatly reduced retirement contribution rates.

The Secretary's comments were met by criticism from legislators who indicated that a 1% increase in the basic education subsidy and a 1.5% increase in special education were not acceptable. They further indicated that the request for \$75 million in additional funding for Philadelphia was going to be an extremely "hard sell" given the minimal increases proposed for all other school districts in the Commonwealth.

The members of the General Assembly have returned to their regular legislative session. Budgetary discussions are not expected to begin in earnest until May with finalization of a budget in June. It appears that the major basic education issues to be considered during the budget negotiations will be the basic subsidy increase (1%), the impact of the increased retirement rate contributions on school districts, and cyber charter schools.

House Education Committee

The House Education Committee met last week and reported two bills. The bills are:

HB 2359 (Stairs-Westmoreland): establishes the Office of Community, Business, and Education Partnership within the Department of Education. The Office is intended to help establish partnerships between school entities and the private sector. It is to act as a clearinghouse for material dissemination and to provide training and consultations for school districts.

SB 705 (Greenleaf-Montgomery): provides for integrated pest management programs in schools. (A companion bill, **HB 1289** (Rubley-Chester), is to be considered by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.)

This week representatives of the **HR 42** Select Committee on Public Education Funding are to appear before the House Education Committee

to provide an update on the Committee's findings and possible recommendations.

New Legislative Proposals

Legislation to address the increased retirement contribution rates and provide a COLA for current school retirees has been drafted and is being circulated for sponsors. The proposal is intended to enable the Commonwealth to:

- Reduce the employer contribution rate increase for fiscal year 2002-2003
- Provide a COLA for annuitants
- Establish a mechanisms that would enable the Commonwealth to accumulate reserves to fund future annuitant benefit increases

At this writing, the proposal has no bill number.

Discussions are also being held regarding legislation to create a local tax policy plan that would impact school district funding and the operational control of special education. As discussed the proposal would place the operational control and funding of the special education system (excluding gifted) under the control of the Department of Education.

School district expenditures would be separated into two categories: instructional expenses and other expenses. A local PIT would fund the instructional expenses. All other expenses would be funded by a real estate tax. A protection plan would limit the real estate tax of those who fall below a defined income limit. Future tax increases would be limited. Additional information regarding the proposal will be forthcoming.

Forum will convene to discuss diploma seals

On Wednesday, March 27, the State Board of Education's Council of Basic Education will convene a student rewards forum to discuss issues and concerns related to the placement of seals of achievement on graduation diplomas. The forum will be conducted by board chairperson **Karl Girton**, with the support of **Secretary Zogby** and the assistance of **Sen. James Rhoades** (R-Schuylkill), majority chairperson of the Senate Education Committee. During the January board meeting, Rhoades had initiated discussion regarding the state assessment system and raised a number of concerns with the plan to place seals on diplomas beginning with the next school year. At that time, Rhoades asked the board to reconsider the issue. (end of Mr. Grispon's report)

Mr. Schroeder strongly recommended that the administration have a representative and a school board member attend the March 27th meeting to read our resolution into the record. Mr. Grisopon asked Dr. Coale to attend and she agreed.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The board approved of the following policies:
 - 1. **Policy #005** – Local Board Procedures: Organization
 - 2. **Policy #006** – Local Board Procedures: Meetings
 - 3. **Policy #007** – Local Board Procedures: Distribution
 - 4. **Policy #113.1** – Programs: Behavior Management for Special Education
 - 5. **Policy #218** – Pupils: Student Discipline
 - 6. **Policy #221** – Pupils: Dress and Grooming
- B. The board approved of the revised **student calendar** for the 2001-02 school year.
- C. The board approved of Friday, June 7th as the **graduation date** for the Class of 2002.
- E. The board approved of **Courtney Hulihan**, currently a junior at the Spring-Ford Area School District Senior High School to spend her senior year in college. Courtney will have 20.5 credits by the end of her junior year and will complete her English and Physical Education requirements at college. Courtney has met the qualifications under the Spring-Ford guideline for early admission to college.

Regarding Item D, Mrs. Block said she supports the idea of closing Brooke Elementary School and a plan that prevents overcrowding at Limerick Elementary School and a plan that ensures that all spaces within the district are used. However, she does not support the plan in Item D because she does not believe that it achieves those objectives. She said that space was available at Oaks Elementary School. She said at least one parent at Spring City said that students within Brooke's attendance area do not arrive at Spring City until 9:10 a.m. She said this is a disruption for every child in that class and a loss of instructional time from 10 to 30 minutes per day. It is unacceptable. Mr. Cummins asked if the alternative plan supposes that all spaces will be filled by November of the next school year. Dr. Coale said if the spaces at Royersford and Spring City are used, we will use Oaks. Dr. Coale maintained that she did not believe that all spaces would be filled but if it were to happen, a recommendation would be to add units to Spring City and Oaks. Will exceptions be made? he asked. Dr. Coale said board members may ask for exceptions and that answer would be no. Mr. Cummins asked if this is

the best alternative. Given the fact that the board has directed her not to use portable units, Dr. Coale maintained that this was the best plan. Mr. Cummins said that he could not support the plan because the administration says it is a flawed plan. He said that he believes that there are better alternative plans such as the ones outlined by the redistricting committee last year. Mrs. Block said she chaired the redistricting committee and that the numbers from Limerick said that the adopted plan would be a short-term fix. She said she spoke with the township to identify subdivisions that had been filed and granted. It was clear that no matter what plan was adopted, once Upper Providence Elementary School was under construction, the prudent thing to do would be to immediately begin construction of another elementary school at the Winnies Property. That was two years ago.

Mr. Masciandaro asked what the maximum capacity is afforded by this plan. You don't ever reach the fill number, said Mr. Grispon. You only use 87% of the building, he added. Dr. Coale said if we were to fill regular classrooms to the max of 25, we could handle 2450. When we add the additional two, 27 for grades 3 and 4, that includes mainstreaming of special ed, we can handle 2500. That doesn't include four portables at Brooke and the LGI room, which would allow us to handle another 200. I believe we can hold them in Royersford and Spring City and if necessary, we can use Oaks, said Dr. Coale. 2650 to 2700, said Dr. Coale. She added that special ed considerations have an impact. Our current enrollment was 2563 in February said Dr. Coale. Mr. Schroeder said 2563 plus growth of 187 puts you at 2750. PDE projections are 100 short and historically they have been five to seven percent short. That would put us at 2800 and our facilities will not hold those numbers. I will support Dr. Coale's initiative here but under New Business, I'm going to take a leap into reality. Dr. Coale added that the district could hold another 63 at Spring City and another 106 at Royersford and another 48 at Oaks, without any move-ins. We hope to have the new elementary school in August 2003, but even after that, we do have to see if we have the debt service to build another elementary school in time. Mr. Masciandaro said you don't have portable units because the board said not to, if you didn't have that constraint, where would you put them and how many. Dr. Coale said the best situation now would be Spring City, which can hold six modulars. Mr. Masciandaro asked about the disruption mentioned by Mrs. Block. Mrs. Rhoads reported that she was told that students were arriving by 9 am. Mr. Cummins said he's seen them arrive later. Dr. Coale asked Mrs. Rhoads to investigate. One option is to bring in the buses earlier, said Dr. Coale. If that is undesirable, then direct bus service is the answer, she added. Mr. Masciandaro asked for the administration to commit to getting students to the school by 9 am. Dr. Coale maintained that direct service would be the solution. A discussion ensued regarding scheduled

and actual bus arrival times and alleged lateness. Mr. Cummins said his wife complained about lateness.

Mr. Grispon said that you can't have 100% capacity because 13% is required for special ed, which reduces capacity. If you plan, plan appropriately. Mr. Schroeder start times were a concern when the redistricting committee was looking at the issue. He mentioned the possibility of staggering start times at elementary schools affected by the plan. Starting times should be addressed without additional transportation, he added. Mr. Pettit said the timing could be monitored by the administration rather than rely on anecdotal evidence. Other than that, I see no alternative other than approval of this plan, he added.

Mr. Masciandaro asked what the alternative would be to this plan. Dr. Coale said the original plan was in place. Mrs. Block said that she intended to propose another plan. Mr. Masciandaro asked what the impact would be on the educational program if you don't get your plan. Dr. Coale said it was our hope that it would be approved this evening. If not, art and music would be on a cart next year. We were hoping not to bring Brooke over 800 students. Mr. Masciandaro said so the alternative is that Brooke continues to grow. Mr. Cummins asked whether the original plan was to shut down Brooke and take students over to Spring City. Dr. Coale said the plan is not to shut Brooke but to work with maximum class size. If we were to continue with that plan, Brooke could growth to 867 students or so, but we thought that would be difficult for Brooke. Mr. Cummins asked whether this is what he envisioned when the hunker down theory would come into effect as mentioned by parents during the redistricting debate. Mr. Masciandaro said the plan was to use all space available before taking further measures. That was not the plan a year ago, said Mr. Cummins. The plan was to use Brooke until the new school came on line, he added. Mr. Masciandaro said to hunker down and use all space available. Mrs. Block reiterated the issue of disruption and lost instructional time incurred by the shuttle system that would range between 30 and 48 hours of lost instructional time. Why are students at Spring City and Royersford getting less instructional time? **There was a tie vote regarding Item D with Mrs. Block, Mr. Grispon, and Mr. Cummins voting against it.**

- D. The board's vote tied for the **Amended Plan for Enrollment Growth** at Brooke and Limerick elementary schools effective March 26, 2002.

XI. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Schroeder asked if his concern would be addressed regarding graduation requirements. Mr. Grispon assured him that the committee would address his issue.

- A. The following new policies were submitted as a first reading this evening:
1. **Policy #217** – Pupils: Graduation Requirements
 2. **Policy #802** – Operations: School Organization
 3. **Policy #804** – Operations: School Day

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL

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

- A. The board approved of the following **professional substitutes**:

Bonnie C. Baker
Pottstown, PA 19464

Elementary

Margaret A. Wright
Collegeville, PA 19426

Family & Consumer Sciences

- B. The board approved of **Richard M. Cechak**, Barto, PA, as Professional Employee, for the Learning Support Teaching Position in the Intermediate School replacing Michele Henry who resigned. Mr. Cechak is a graduate of Kutztown University with a Master's of Education and holds certification in Elementary and Mentally and Physically Handicapped. Compensation will be set at \$56,231 Masters, Step 12, prorated, plus benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively May 13, 2002
- C. The board approved of **Jennifer Gillespie**, Mathematics Teacher at the High School, for a maternity leave of absence effective March 11, 2002 for the remainder of the 2001/2002 school year.

PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Regarding Item A, Mr. Grispon asked why Juniata. Mr. Brownback, said historically that is where the science fair is held. Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved unanimously.

- A. The board approved of the Spring-Ford Middle School Science Olympiad Team to participate in the 2002 State finals of the Pennsylvania Science Olympiad. The Team qualified by competing against 36 other Middle Schools in the Southeastern Regional Olympiad at Delaware Valley College. This State competition will be held at Juniata

College in Huntingdon, PA on April 25, 2002, with registration starting at 7:00 a.m. This request includes transportation to and from Juniata College, overnight lodging on Friday, April 24, 2002, and meals. The Science Olympiad Team consists of 15 students and 3 teachers. The estimated cost is approximately \$2,500. Funding will come from the General Fund.

ADDENDUM

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve the addendum to hire PEL. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved 5-1 with Mr. Cummins voting against it.

- A. The board approved of a comprehensive update of *An Analysis of Demographics and Community Growth Patterns and Projections of Public School Enrollment in the Spring-Ford Area School District*. The cost for the update of the original study completed by the Pennsylvania Economy League in 1998 is not to exceed \$7,000.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Schroeder said the board is being short-sighted and said we are building our buildings too small and not looking at data in a timely fashion. Spring-Ford is currently the sixth largest school district in Montgomery County and within three years, it will probably become number three. We have to increase space. Right now we're building Upper Providence Elementary School. If we keep to this rate of building 600-student schools, we're going to have five or six new schools. We can increase this space to an 850-student school. Even this will not meet the needs of the district in 2003 when it opens. We're on a narrow timeline to do this without incurring additional cost. Right now is the time for the board to increase capacity of this building. It is necessary to make this change within 30 to 60 days to make this change order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary D'Angelis, Upper Providence

Expressed her support for Mr. Schroeder's motion.

Mrs. Block said that there was a time when additional classrooms were added to this building (the high school) and that she believed this was fortuitous. Mr. Grispon said that plans already include the option to add classrooms and Dr. Coale confirmed that statement. She said that she was not in total agreement with Mr. Schroeder and said that our projections have been very accurate. We're in another growth spurt, she added. We felt the charter schools would offset it as it did the first year. On the facilities committee, we looked at enrollment projections and additions to Spring City, Upper Providence, and Oaks.

Mrs. Block said when the redistricting committee was looking at gross figures, we considered St. Clare's plans to build a new elementary school. Since that time, the diocese has decided not to build that time and they are selling that land. I think that will add to our elementary school enrollment. Mr. Pettit said we are one third depleted of our board this evening and frankly, I'm not sure how I feel about adding eight classrooms. I would like more time to study the cost and get information from the administration. If this was held until we had a full board compliment, would that make a difference? Mr. Cooper said the concrete slab was poured today and steel will be delivered within days. Every day that we wait and every wall we put up, will be another wall to take down. We are starting to fall behind the eightball.

MOTION 1

I would like to have this as an action item at the next work session said Mr. Schroeder. This has the district moving forward with the PlanCon documents. Mr. Masciandaro asked for the administration's opinion. Dr. Coale said originally, we thought another elementary school would be built in Limerick, approximately four students from the district will be attending a school that is being built in Upper Providence. Our biggest need after we build Upper Providence Elementary School will be another elementary school. To plan that, we would need three to four years, she said. We are maxed out in debt service and we are borrowing to finish the flex school. We may be overcrowded again as early as 2005. Special education drives classroom space. We don't fill these classrooms to capacity, we fill them in ratios as Mr. Grispon said. It makes sense to add eight classrooms to Upper Providence. Mr. Cooper pointed out that we only have a 30-day window, otherwise, it will cost us money. If you ask building principals, they would prefer to have buildings of 650 as opposed to 850. I don't believe that you may have the time to have another school on board before we find ourselves in a situation as we are now. I do support adding eight classrooms to Upper Providence, Dr. Coale said. Mr. Masciandaro asked for preliminary cost estimates. Mr. Cooper said it would be less per square foot than what you got on bid day since you would save on the exterior wall, site costs, tying in roofs, and demolition costs. Steel prices will rise soon. It is in the \$850 and \$900 range or \$100,000 per classroom. There is no need for additional bathroom facilities or stairwells. Mr. Masciandaro asked whether the building would be open in August 2003. Mr. Cooper said yes as soon as he received approval on the PlanCon and gives notice to contractors to negotiate with steel manufacturers. We'll need the action item next month. Mr. Grispon called for a vote on the motion to prepare PlanCon I documents to add eight classrooms to Upper Providence and called for a vote. Final approval would be put on the April work session when the entire board would be in session. The motion carried unanimously. (Discussion ensued and Mr. Pettit and Mr. Cooper confirmed that final approval would be next month as an action item on next month's work session. Mr. Masciandaro repeatedly expressed concern about falling behind schedule. If this slows down this project by one week, I want to know about it, and I'm sure the rest of the board wants to know about it, he said.)

Mr. Schroeder said by increasing Upper Providence's school from 650 to 850, we still don't meet projections for 2005. We're just opening in time and bulging at the seams the next year. PDE full-time equivalency will be less than 3,100. If we take the 87% rationale, we're behind the eight ball.

Mrs. Block seconded Mr. Schroeder's motion. It was approved unanimously.

MOTION: The board approved having the administration prepare documentation under PlanCon I to add eight additional classrooms to the Upper Providence School.

MOTION 2

Mr. Schroeder said my second motion is to direct the administration to add six classrooms, including bathrooms, to Spring City to bring up full-time equivalency to 350 students. It would provide relief until another elementary school can be put on line. It would be a 731 plan paid for from capital reserve. Mr. Cummins made a second for the motion. Mr. Grispon called for comment. Mr. Pettit said he had a problem moving this quickly without having sufficient information and that three board members were absent from the meeting. There is no rush on this as there was on the Upper Providence addition. Time is critical, said Mr. Schroeder. If we were to approve this, we could have this construction completed by early October and it could be the solution to space that you're looking for immediately. Mr. Grispon called for public comment on the motion. There was none. Mr. Grispon called for comment from the board. Mr. Cummins said that Mr. Masciandaro told him numerous times that the board could not delay voting because we must deal with who's here now. If this was an important item to them, they'd be here. Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Cummins exchanged comments. Dr. Coale expressed support for the motion in response to Mr. Masciandaro and added that she believed that it should be discussed before the entire board. Mr. Pettit said that board members would be here if they were aware of the motion. Mr. Masciandaro asked how we would fill the extra capacity at Spring City. Dr. Coale said she just became aware of the motion on Friday and had no plan. Mr. Schroeder said this plan would involve redistricting to create the most efficient use of the space. It would be the superintendent's responsibility. It is permanent classroom space that will help us get to 2006. Mr. Masciandaro asked, you want this facility open by October. Mr. Schroeder said it may be feasible if we move immediately. He asked Dr. Coale and Mr. Cooper to comment. So we would have to do redistricting between now and October and another one next year – three redistricting plans in three years. It was November 2000, it was a 6-3 vote, three people aren't here any more and two people didn't come to the meeting, said Mr. Grispon. Mr. Masciandaro asked why things pop up in New Business when we have a work session the week before. Now we're talking about redistricting and no members of the public heard about this plan. Mr. Schroeder said the same building project was on the table for the past three years. We're

not moving fast, we're failing to move. As chair of the meeting, Mr. Grispon asked Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Pettit to tell him what to do with this motion. Ask for a vote, said Mr. Masciandaro. I don't want to get blamed for this, said Mr. Grispon. Mr. Cummins said the bottom line is that we need space to lower classroom sizes. It benefits the students and puts them in a better learning environment. That was the best plan two years ago. You're redistricting now by sending kids from Brooke to Spring City and back to Brooke. You're going to see test scores dropping like rocks. Load up classes, you have problems. Mr. Pettit said if this is a good idea tonight, it should be as good an idea when the entire board is here. Without it being on the agenda is what bothers me. Mr. Masciandaro said two board members offered to call in and that's why there's a phone sitting there. Apparently, we were advised not to do it for legal reasons. We talk about technology, but we can't teleconference to get more board opinion, I think that's not a good thing. The solicitor said based on recent cases that she would advise the board against voting by telephone. (Comments regarding the motion being opportunistic went back and forth.) Mr. Schroeder said most of the board members have heard this plan before and it originated from statistical data that was presented this Thursday (at the facilities committee meeting). That's why we have a realignment plan that was controversial and why a plan supported by the superintendent died tonight. Mr. Grispon called for a vote on the motion to add six classrooms to Spring City and bathrooms as a 731 plan out of the capital reserve account.

MOTION 2: The board to direct the administration to add six classrooms, including bathrooms, to Spring City to bring up full-time equivalency to 350 students.

Mr. Cummins seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 4-2 with Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Pettit voting against it.

ITEM D REVISITED

Mr. Grispon made a motion to bring back the enrollment growth plan, Item D. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. Mrs. Block offered to make an amendment as follows: to approve the amended plan for enrollment growth at Brooke and Limerick Elementary Schools effective March 26, 2002 through June 7, 2002 and instruct the administration to prepare for the April board meeting, a new plan for enrollment growth at Brooke and Limerick Elementary Schools for the 2002-03 school year, which would comply with the following parameters: 1) children living within walking distance of Brooke or Limerick would be given preference in attending those schools. 2) All children attending Spring City or Royersford Elementary School be bused directly to Spring City or Royersford and not be shuttled and that that a transportation plan be developed in the most cost effective manner. Mr. Cummins seconded the motion. (A discussion ensued between Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Grispon on point of order.)

Dr. Coale said that if walkers are included, you will be over enrolled and you may need portable units. That is not true said Mrs. Block. Dr. Coale said we may be over enrolled at Limerick. I will have to add cost to that plan and it will be in the most efficient manner. I think Oaks gives you flexibility, said Mrs. Block. Why do we bus children who can walk? she asked. Pick an area and have those kids go to the same school. Mr. Grispon called for a vote on the amendment. Then he called for a recess for 10 minutes. The board recessed.

The board returned from recess. Mr. Masciandaro said changing the plan at the board plan needs more study. He said he liked that the plan affected move-ins not the existing members of the district. Your plan messes that up, he said referring to Mrs. Block's plan. Mrs. Block said that she didn't like the plan because it affects move-ins and said the code does not favor people who have lived in a place longer versus those who just moved. It doesn't matter. Mrs. Block said that putting a child who can walk to Brooke on a shuttle to Spring City worried her because none of the neighbor kids would go to Spring City. In addition, the child walks in 20 minutes later. I don't think that's a good impact on the child, she added. Parents at redistricting committee meetings identified this factor as being very important. Either you have parents who are unhappy if their children are redistricted or you have parents whose children are not redistricted be upset over overcrowded classrooms, Mrs. Block added. Once you redistrict parents who were originally unhappy, eventually the children readjust and complaints go away. If you continue to have overcrowding, the complaints never go away, she said. Mr. Schroeder asked how the amended plan could be done with maintaining the shuttle system and not use a door-to-door system so it is more cost effective? Can we adjust our starting times? Dr. Coale said the shuttle system is viable if we bring in students earlier. If the ride is too long, we may need an extra bus. The best route is direct busing. We'll study it, she added. Mr. Grispon called for a vote on Mrs. Block motion. The board voted 1-5 against it with only Mrs. Block voting for it.

Mr. Grispon called for a motion on Item D. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item D. -Schroeder offered a second. The motion passed 4-2 with Mr. Cummins and Mrs. Block voting against it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Hudson, Abbey Downs

Said his child is bused to Spring City and that the busing does not work. He said he spoke to Dr. Coale about this. To say there were no comments is not the truth. Dr. Coale said your concern was not regarding 9:30. Your real concern was that you wanted door-to-door busing. Mr. Hudson said time was a concern. (Debate ensued whether time or complaints were the issue.) To penalize people who just move in is unfair because there is no notification on the website. We bought from the owner, so realtors being notified (didn't affect him). Especially to break up siblings is unfair.

Mary D'Angelis, Upper Providence

Asked whether the enrollment plan would change. Mr. Grispon said he didn't know. Is Brooke closed as of March 26th? That is correct said Mr. Grispon. Dr. Coale said students could come back when reconciliation is made on June 1st. If a student moves to a private school, that slot would not be closed? They would not be filled by move-ins or early registration, said Dr. Coale. We're only moving with the group moved to Spring City or special ed students. For everyone else, it is closed, she added. I hear numbers of 176. Dr. Coale said that could be true because of a waiting list for first grade and kindergarten. If any one of the 150 enrolled kindergarten students drop out, will those slots be filled? No, said Dr. Coale. We're capping it as of today. Dr. Leiderman has a wait list of 150 for kindergarten. The old enrollment plan didn't deal with kindergarten. She added that consideration would be given to those affected by the old plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Masciandaro seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Michael V. Masciandaro
Board Secretary

Pat Dillon
Recording Clerk