

On March 25, 2013 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Bernard F. Pettit and Willard D. Cromley

Region II: Dawn R. Heine and Julie A. Mullin

Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi and Mark P. Dehnert

Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello

Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin

Business Manager: Timothy Anspach

Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.

Student Rep.:

The following Board Members were absent: Edward T. Dressler, Jr. and Clara M. Gudolonis

Board President, Mr. DiBello, opened the meeting with the call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello announced that the 15th annual Cool School Summer Program will take place at Upper Providence Elementary School starting in June. All classes will be held from Monday through Thursday. For more information on the program, visit the district's website. He reminded parents to check their children's individual building websites for news on activities and events taking place in their schools. You can also receive information about events taking place in the district by visiting www.spring-ford.net. Mr. DiBello announced that for the first time in Spring-Ford's history we had a team win a State Championship. He reported that the Girls' Basketball Team won a well-deserved State Championship with a phenomenal effort. Mr. DiBello stated that as a district and a community we are extremely proud of them and will be recognizing the team at a planned event within the next couple of weeks. Mr. DiBello added that the details on this event are being worked out and more information will follow.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A. The Board approved the January 28, 2013 Board Meeting minutes.

NEW APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. The Board approved the February 19, 2013 Work Session minutes.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum/Technology Julie Mullin

1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Curriculum/Technology Committee met on March 5, 2013 where Mr. Reynolds went over the technology refresh. Mrs. Mullin stated that all of the computers, laptops and iPads are in at Evans and as a parent she can honestly say everyone is thrilled and they are already being used. The Committee also discussed the Bring Your Own Device Policy and are working on the details with regards to internet access. Mrs. Mullin reported that the process is not as easy as everyone may think it is as the devices the students bring in to use will have to be registered with the district. Mrs. Mullin stated that the plans are to have everything ready to go for the next school year. The committee also discussed the mid-term exam schedule, the progress being made on the Global International Studies Program and the PA School Performance Profile. The Committee talked about the assistant director of curriculum position and her understanding is that this position has been posted and that applications are starting to come in. Dr. Goodin confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he would think that before the job was posted and we interview people that the position should be approved by the Board. Mrs. Mullin stated that she thought that was done last month. Mr. DiBello replied that at last month's meeting there was a mix up and the motion to approve the position did not happen. He stated that he believes everyone was in agreement but no one followed through with a motion so in the meantime the administration posted the position to see what kind of interest there could be but the Board would have to act on this before anything could be done with the position.

Mr. Pettit asked if the motion could be made now to approve the position and Mr. DiBello stated that a motion could be made at any time. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the position of an Assistant to the Head of Curriculum and Mrs. Mullin seconded the motion.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he is not in favor of adding administrators at this time as we have a tough budget years coming ahead and he does not think we should be increasing administration staff.

Mr. Ciresi said he thinks this is a great position to add and we should have added it years ago. Mr. Ciresi stated that we are not adding something that is not for the educational value of the district. Mr. Ciresi further commented that in a district of this size we cannot have just one curriculum director, who is getting burnt out fast. Mr. Ciresi added that Dr. Floyd is extremely qualified for the position but even the previous administration had recommended that we have two curriculum directors and the Board never had the opportunity to move forward with it. Mr. Ciresi stated that he applauds the administration and while he is not for spending money there are times where you have to look to spend money wisely and be educated on how to spend it. Mr. Ciresi stated that he respects the opinion of anyone who disagrees but he thinks we would be foolish not to add this position.

Mr. DiBello commented that when you look at the total size of our budget and the number of students in the district as the district has grown and what we are talking about adding is for value of the students, Mr. DiBello stated that as several people have stated in the past, one of the Board of Education's sole purpose is to educate our students. Mr. DiBello added that Dr. Keith Floyd has done an unbelievable job of keeping the ship moving

forward and we have gotten to the point where we have to add help in that area in order to keep providing the best educational experience for our students. Mr. DiBello stated that if it is going to cost some additional expense then it is well worth it. Mr. DiBello said he is sure that with some of the fiscal planning the Board has taken over the past couple of years then he is sure we will be fine with paying for that much needed position.

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested that the floor be opened up for public comment since this motion was added after the public comment section of the agenda had passed.

Mr. Pettit commented that there is nothing more important in the district than curriculum and Dr. Floyd has done a fantastic job in a short period of time. Mr. Pettit added that the district's curriculum has improved dramatically in that short period of time. Mr. Pettit stated that if we are a district where we can hire assistant wrestling coaches, assistant basketball coaches, etc., then we certainly need to have an assistant to curriculum.

Dr. Goodin reminded the Members of the Board that administration was cognizant of the fact that a motion had not been put before the Board to create the position and they understood that from last month's meeting there seemed to be an openness to entertaining this concept. Dr. Goodin stated that in the interest of not losing any time and being prepared for a possible hire they felt that there was no harm in advertising the position. Dr. Goodin stated that they did this as there are applications waiting for Board direction in this matter.

The floor was opened up for public comment and no comments were received.

The motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no. The Board approved the hiring of an Assistant to the Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

Finance

Tom DiBello

2nd Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Finance Committee met on March 20th and reviewed the monthly executive reports. Mr. DiBello stated that we are still within our projections and we seem to be on target with the numbers budgeted. Mr. DiBello reported that they are still closely monitoring the cafeteria fund as previously were on a fast track to lose large sums of money due to the changes imposed by the federal government but since those mandates were pulled back our losses have slowed and currently we are at a \$58,000 deficit. Mr. DiBello stated that the good news is that we have slowed/stopped our losses and we should begin to start cutting into that deficit over the next couple of months. Mr. DiBello reported that the committee also looked at the annual savings for custodial services compared to where we would have been if we had not made the decision to outsource a couple of years ago and the numbers show we are still on target to realize \$1.1 - \$1.2 million swing in expenses and this money has been redirected to the educational side of the budget. Mr. DiBello commented that there seems to be this propaganda that is always being put out there to the public that the savings realized is being consumed by overtime by the custodial staff. Mr. DiBello stated that this is something we do watch and year to date or total overtime is \$34,000 and our substitute expenses are down \$89,000 which means right now we are at a net savings of \$55,000. Mrs. Mullin commented that she thinks the Finance Committee should be commended for the planning they have done on the budget. Mr. DiBello reported that Mr. Reynolds came in and presented to the committee information on what it would take to put SMARTBoards into the classrooms beyond what the existing budget accounts for. Mr. DiBello stated that Mr. Reynolds did a great job of mapping all of this out and said if we want to start trying to get SMARTBoards into all of

the classrooms then we need to have a plan in place. Mr. Reynolds, through the recommendation of the Curriculum/Technology Committee proposed adding an additional \$250,000 to the budget for 2013-2014. Mr. DiBello stated that this additional money was added to the proposed budget. Mr. DiBello added that this is not approved but we are just working our way through the steps for preparing the budget. Mr. DiBello reported that Mr. Roche has been working very closely with the building administrators as they prepare their budgets. He has been able to keep the school building budgets flat when compared with last year. Mr. DiBello added that Mr. Roche did ask that an additional \$25,000 be added to the budget and indicated that he would be responsible for overseeing these funds and distributing them if the need should arise. Mr. DiBello reported on the budget saying that the preliminary budget that was sent to Harrisburg was 2.97% which was the index plus the 1 exception we were allowed to take. Mr. DiBello stated that based on where we are looking at the revenue growth we will be below this number and will probably come in somewhere just around the index. Mr. DiBello acknowledged Mr. Roche and said that the comments he has heard have been that the building administrators know more about their budgets now than they have ever known in the past and not only Mr. Roche but the administrators should be commended for taking such drive and interest in understanding the budget.

Mr. Ciresi questioned if the extra money for Mr. Reynolds, the money to hire an Assistant Curriculum Director and the \$25,000 Mr. Roche requested for building funds was all included in the number given for the budget and Mr. DiBello replied yes. Mr. Ciresi asked whether we were still around the index and the response was yes. Mr. Ciresi stated that with the assessment appeals we have seen a huge shift in real estate money and to be able to still run the district at the caliber we are is definitely a massive plus to the Finance Committee, the Business Office and all of our staff. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mr. Anspach and his staff for the time they put in. He also thanked Dr. Goodin, Mr. Roche and all of the staff throughout the district as everyone deserves a lot of credit.

MCIU

Tom DiBello

4th Weds. 7:45 p.m.

Mr. DiBello stated that there is nothing new to report from the MCIU as it is business as usual. Mr. DiBello said the main thing that is going on in Harrisburg are different bills which are being floated that deal with the concept of property tax reform. The big bill over the last week is in regards to the sale of the state liquor stores. This bill has moved and is moving onto the Senate. Mr. DiBello stated that when the Governor started this a significant amount of the sales were going to education but for some reason all of the aspects of education have been pulled out of the bill. The bill was originally sold as a great thing for education but once it got momentum in Harrisburg then the education piece was pulled out. Mr. DiBello said he believes at this point that unfortunately the bill will fly through for signature.

Policy

Julie Mullin

2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Policy Committee met on March 11th and she thanked Mr. Roche for locating things in the policy manual that we reference that do not exist. She also thanked Mrs. Zelle for always being on top of this and helping them get upright again. Mrs. Mullin stated that specifically this month it was the Community Volunteer Policy that referenced a TB checklist or form that we did not have. Mrs. Mullin reported that this has now been taken care of. The committee revisited Policy 204 regarding attendance and they discussed student records as well.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin announced that the District Facebook account has surpassed 500 likes so this is growing in popularity. Dr. Goodin notified the Board and the public that in appreciation for our participation in the Teacher Education Program Ursinus College will provide one \$500 scholarship for each student teacher placed in the district. Dr. Goodin stated that as a result 9 student scholarships are available to graduating seniors who elect to attend Ursinus and these scholarships are for 4 years. Dr. Goodin announced that the Spring-Ford High School Vocal Ensemble was selected to perform at the Kennedy Center Performance Concert Series Festival of Gold being held on April 15th. He congratulated them for being selected as the district's representative. Dr. Goodin congratulated the Winter Guard for finishing in 1st place at the Kingsway Regional Cavalcade and he announced that as a result of this performance they have been promoted to a higher division for the upcoming season. Dr. Goodin congratulated the Girls' Basketball Team for a stellar performance this season which culminated in winning the state championship. Dr. Goodin recognized the coaching staff, the students who participated on the team and their families. Dr. Goodin stated that last week we had a presentation by the Spring-Ford Youth Football League concerning the addition of a building at the field behind the 7th Grade Center. Dr. Goodin reported that last week he held a meeting with Mrs. Nuneviller and 2 representatives from the football league to iron out the details on the use of the field and the placement of the building. Dr. Goodin advised the board that he included the addendum to the license agreement in their weekly board memo last week along with the addendum to the Spring City American Legion Baseball League. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that they may want to vet these addendums at the Property Committee meeting just to make sure that we have included everything on our end before sharing it with the outside groups. Dr. Goodin indicated that this would be done.

IV. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations

1. **Susan Sparhawk**, PT Food Service, Evans Elementary School. Effective: March 15, 2013.
2. **Lisa Tomarelli**, PT Food Service, 5/6/7th Grade Center. Effective: March 8, 2013.
3. **Rosie Ward**, Volleyball Intramural-Grade 7. Effective: January 31, 2013.

B. Leaves Of Absence

1. **Jennifer A. Bowyer**, Learning Support Teacher; 8th Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: February 11, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Patricia Bateman**, 4th Grade Teacher; Spring City Elementary School, Sabbatical per Board Policy. Effective: March 12, 2013 through the end of the 2012/2013 school year.
3. **Kimberly A. Green**, English Teacher; 9th Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: March 20, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

4. **Stephanie Hahn**, Elementary Teacher; 5/6 Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: April 20, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Carrie A. Kuklinski**, Speech Teacher; Brooke Elementary School, per Board Policy. Effective: March 6, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
6. **Ronald L. Moser**, Custodian; 7th Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: January 21, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
7. **Alynn L. Purdy**, Learning Support Teacher; 9th Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: March 10, 2013 for maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
8. **Mary T. Roberts**, Learning Support Teacher; Oaks Elementary School, per Board Policy. Effective: May 22, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
9. **Dana M. Starkey**, Learning Support Teacher; 5/6 Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: March 11, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
10. **Adam H. Swavely**, Science Teacher; 9th Grade Center, per Board Policy. Effective: February 7, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

NEW LEAVE OF ABSENCE

11. **Sheri Parsons**, Instructional Assistant; Brooke Elementary, per Board Policy. Effective: March 2, 2013 for a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Support Staff Employee

1. **Michele A. Benek**, change of status from PT Food Service, Senior High School to District Office Receptionist, replacing Maria Stieber who retired. Compensation will be set at \$14.50 per hour with benefits as per the Secretaries' Plan. Effective: March 4, 2013.

D. Extra-Curricular Contracts

1. Tara Bologna	Volleyball Intramural-Grade 7	\$ 402.00
2. Bryan Capone	Assistant Lacrosse Coach-Boys-HS	\$3,991.00
3. Jason Hall	Assistant Indoor Color Guard Instructor	\$2,215.00
4. Michael Hoinowski	Band Director-5 th Grade	\$2,215.00
5. Michael Hoinowski	Band Director-6 th Grade	\$2,215.00
6. Susan Koss	Chorus-6 th Grade	\$1,471.00
7. Bevin Seislove	Chorus-5 th Grade	\$1,471.00
8. Ryan Souder	Baseball Intramural-HS	\$ 678.00

New Extra-Curricular Contracts

9. Jason Anspach	Assistant Wrestling Coach-8/9 th Grade	\$2,540.40
10. Rose Ward	Head Lacrosse Coach-7 th Grade	\$2,772.00

E. Professional Staff Substitute

1. **Michele N. Cheney** Certifications: Elementary, Special Education

New Professional Staff Substitute

2. **Sarah Pinard** Certifications: Special Education N-12, Reading Specialist K-12

F. Support Staff Substitute

1. **Liane L. Wedemeyer** Food Service

NEW PERSONNEL MOTION

- G. The Board approved the 2013 Early Retirement Incentive Plan for eligible Professional and Administrative employees, effective July 1, 2013.

V. FINANCE

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

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

A. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

February

Check No. 148969 – 149027	\$ 294,258.51
ACH 121300361 – 121300370	\$ 1,940.77

March

Check No. 149028 – 149156	\$1,052,205.47
ACH 121300371 – 121300378	\$ 487.49

2. Athletic Fund

February

Check No. 305554 – 305575	\$ 11,993.23
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3. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

*Check No. 149157 - 149225	\$ 330,531.74
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4. Board Checks held for approval

*Check No. 149226 – 149274	\$ 48,373.30
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*Ach 121300379 - 121300421	\$ 14,964.43
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- B. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **MARCH** in connection with the **SERIES A of G.O.B. 2007:**

1. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

*Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval

*Check No. 32776 – 32781	\$ 25,942.74
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- C. The Board approved payment 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.
- D. The Board approved the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Special Education Cost Plan** for the 2013-2014 school year for the Spring-Ford Area School District in the amount of \$870,142.28.
- E. The Board approved the materials for PlanCon Part K, Project Refinancing, for the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2012, to Refund General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2006 (Lease Number 061611). These materials have been reviewed and approved by the Division of School Facilities, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, Pennsylvania Department of Education. (Attachment).
- F. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
 1. **Pediatric Therapy Services (PTS) – Conshohocken, PA.** Provide Psychological Services to assist the district with staying in compliance with state regulations for special education evaluations. Services will be provide for 185 hours at a rate of \$68.50 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$12,672.50.
 2. **Devereaux Foundation – Villanova, PA.** Provide Transition/Employment Services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$11,680.00.
 3. **Joy Brewster and Associates – LeGrangeville, NY.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis Training in the home for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct intervention services will be provided for 192 hours at \$35.00 per hour and up to 12 hours per month of consult services at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$11,280.00.
 4. **Kristin Herzel – Media, PA.** Conduct Neuropsychological Testing and provide an educational report on a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,800.00.
 5. **The Martin Luther School – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 90 days at a rate of \$224.00 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$20,160.00.
 6. **Kaleidoscope Family Solutions, Inc. – Bryn Mawr, PA.** Provide direct Speech and Language Therapy for special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for 7 hours per day for 50 days at a rate of \$80.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$28,000.00.
 7. **Edward Luterio – Boyertown, PA.** Provide an Artist in Residence Program for high school for students from the Art Enrichment Group to design and create a mural derived from students' original ideas. Funding will be paid from the High School Building Budget and shall not exceed \$1,800.00.

8. **Art's Alive – Spring City, PA.** Provide an Artist in Residence Program for students at Royersford Elementary to design and create a mosaic tile mural. Funding shall not exceed \$4,450.00 and will be paid from EITC Funds \$2,600 and the Royersford Elementary Building Budget \$1,850.00.
9. **Benmor Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Dino Dig” for the second grade students at Royersford Elementary. Funding will be paid from the Royersford Elementary Building Budget and shall not exceed \$525.00.

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

10. **Nancy Viau – Mullica Hill, NJ.** Provide two assemblies for students at Brooke Elementary School in conjunction with “Author Day”. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$600.00.
11. **Susan V. Burghart-Orr – Spring City, PA.** Provide specialized reading instruction for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 6 hours per week for 12 weeks at a rate of \$125.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$9,000.00.
12. **Melissa Yonchuk – Collegeville, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis observation and consultation in the school environment for special needs student as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for 50 hours at a rate of \$65.00 per hour during the District’s ESY Program. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,250.00.
13. **Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre – Swarthmore, PA.** Provide professional sign language interpretation for meetings and events within the school as per the IEP. Services will be provided for a total of 12 hours at a rate of \$54.00 per hour. The district will also reimburse the contractor for mileage at the IRS rate of \$.555 per mile for a maximum of 200 miles. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$759.00 (\$648.00 for services and \$111.00 for mileage).

NEW FINANCE

G. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – February 2013
- PSDLAF – February 2013
- PSDMAX – February 2013
- Checking Account – February 2013
- PLGIT Account – February 2013
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - February 2013
- Payroll Account – February 2013
- Tax Account – February 2013

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – February 2013
- 7th Grade Activity – February 2013
- 8th Grade Activity – February 2013
- High School Activity – February 2013

- Athletic Account – February 2013
- Bond Funds
- Note of 2007A – February 2013
- Other Funds
- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – February 2013
 - Debt Service Fund – February 2013
 - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – February 2013
- Cafeteria Fund
- Cafeteria Money Market – February 2013
 - Cafeteria Checking Account – February 2013
 - Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – February 2013
 - Investment Account – February 2013

H. The Board approved **Resolution 2013-06** calling for reform of the Commonwealth's Charter and Cyber School Charter School Funding Formula.

I. The Board approved the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:

FEBRUARY

Check No. 11100- 11133

\$ 240,268.28

VI. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

A. The Board approved the **Cool School Program**. This program will be held at Upper Providence Elementary School and is open to all elementary students. Approximately 40 teachers will instruct the courses and their reimbursement will be at the contract-established rate of \$30.00 per hour plus benefits. A stipend of \$5,000.00 will be paid to **Karen Davis** as the Coordinator of the Cool School Program. There will be no cost to the district as all expenses will be covered by the student tuition fees.

B. The Board approved the **Summer Instrumental Program** for grades 4-12, under the direction of Mr. James Westlake, to be held at the 5/6 Grade Center. The program will run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district's summer school program. Lessons will be held Monday through Thursday in accordance with district policy. The program will run from Monday, June 24 through Thursday, July 25, 2013 (no classes Thursday, July 4, 2013). Weekly lessons will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$19.00 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 per hour plus benefits.

C. The Board approved the **Summer Strings Program** to be held at the 5/6 Grade Center for grades 4-10. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district summer school program, Monday, June 24 through Thursday, July 25, 2013 (no classes Thursday, July 4, 2013). Weekly lessons will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$19.00 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 per hour plus benefits.

- D. The Board approved an agreement with ePlus Group, Inc. for the lease of laptop computers to be refreshed during the spring and summer 2013. The lease will include approximately 300 teacher and staff laptop computers. The total equipment value of approximately \$330,000.00 will be divided into four annual lease payments of approximately \$85,057.00 and will be funded by the 2013-14 Technology Budget.
- E. The Board approved a contract between the Spring-Ford Area School District and SRC-Solution, Inc. for the provision of the Registration Gateway Program to facilitate the electronic registration of new students. This electronic registration system will dramatically reduce the time required to register new students and will eliminate the majority of hardcopy paperwork that is generated by this process. The year one (1) cost of this solution is \$29,050.00 to be followed in year two (2) at a cost of \$26,725.00. The cost for this program will be funded by the 2013-14 Technology Budget.

VII. PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved receiving Requests for Proposals and entering into an agreement which would offer the school district the best MMBTU (Million Metric British Thermal Units) rates for gas usage for the 2013-2014 school year.

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Sue Gallagher**, Manager of Technology Operations, to attend *“Essentials of Project Management”* and online training program that will run from April 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013. The total cost for this online training program is \$1,980.00 for registration costs from the Technology Budget. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Lora Sanderson**, Director of Transportation, to attend *“Elements of Transportation”* at the Holiday Inn located in Kulpsville, PA on April 16, 2013. The total cost for this conference is \$185.00 for registration from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- C. **Edward Nugent** and **Ken Rhodenbaugh**, Maintenance Employees, to attend "*Ingersoll Rand – Training Seminars*" at the Hilton in Philadelphia, PA on March 28, 2013. There is no cost for this training and no substitutes are needed.
- D. **Paul Nessor** and **Joseph Nugent**, Maintenance Employees, to attend "*Industrial Controls – Pneumatic HVAC Controls Training*" in Lester, PA on April 17 and April 18, 2013. The total cost for this training is \$1,200.00 for registration costs from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- E. **Kenneth Hettrick** and **Denise Whitmore**, Maintenance Employees, to attend "*Philip Rosenau Cleaning University*" in Warminster, PA on April 23, 2013. The total cost for this conference is \$150.00 for registration fees from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- F. **Kristin Beideman**, Guidance Counselor, **Carol Ganister** and **Maryann Lorenzo**, Executive Secretaries, **Mary Quintrell**, Bookkeeper, and **Sarah Sacks**, Information Systems Analyst, to attend "*Skyward-Keystone User Group State Conference*" in Harrisburg, PA on April 24 and April 25, 2013. Staff members will be attending on different days during this 2 day conference. The total cost of this conference is \$845.00 for registration costs, mileage, lodging and meals from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- G. **Julie Catterson**, Home and School Visitor, to attend "*Mindfulness for Youth: Tools for Clinical Practice and Education*" in Warrington, PA for a ½ day session on April 10, 2013. The total cost of this conference is \$75.81 for registration costs and mileage from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- H. **Seth Jones**, Band Director, to attend "*PMEA All-State In-Service*" in Erie, PA from April 17 through April 20, 2013. Mr. Jones in addition to attending the in-service will be accompanying those band and orchestra students who advanced to the state level. The total cost for this conference is \$487.00 for registration costs and lodging from the 580 account.
- I. **Paula Love**, AP Spanish Teacher, to attend "*Spanish Language for Advanced Placement Program Teachers*" at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA from July 22 through July 26, 2013. Due to the major changes taking place on the AP Spanish Exam it is necessary for Mrs. Love to attend this course. The total cost for this course is \$1,822.00 for registration costs and mileage from the 580 account.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- J. **Jen Smith**, Speech Therapist, to attend "*Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment & Placement Program*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on April 23, 2013. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.

NEW CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

- K. **Mark Matthews**, Emotional Support Teacher, and **Michele Fonte**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend *“PaTTAN Planning Meeting – Teacher Evaluation Rubrics”* in Harrisburg, PA on either April 4, 2013 (exact date to be determined). Mr. Matthews and Ms. Fonte have been invited to attend to help develop the PA Teacher Evaluation rubrics for learning support and emotional support teachers. There is no cost to the district for this meeting other than \$300.00 for substitutes.
- L. **Edward Dressler**, Board Member, and **Dr. David R. Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend the *“MCIU Legislative Breakfast”* at the William Penn Inn on Friday, April 26, 2013. The total cost of this Legislative Breakfast is \$48.00 from the 580 account.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item C be separated. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #345 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES: Staff-Student Communication/Relations
2. Policy #445 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Staff-Student Communication/Relations
3. Policy #545 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES: Staff-Student Communication/Relations

B. 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.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item C and Mrs. Heine seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert stated that in looking at the schedule one of the biggest threats we have for evenings in the summer in June are thunderstorms. Mr. Dehnert suggested that rather than have two consecutive nights where we could have two thunderstorms in a row why not consider having Friday as the date scheduled and then if necessary do it on Saturday morning where there would be less likelihood of a thunderstorm. Mrs. Mullin questioned who says so and Mr. Dehnert replied weather statistics. Dr. Goodin commented that at this point now if we had graduation on Thursday evening and a rain date on Friday evening and we had rain on both nights then on Friday night the ceremony would be moved indoors. Dr. Goodin indicated that he has concerns with holding graduation on a Saturday morning that we may not get the participation from the staff. Mr. Dehnert spoke about his niece's graduation from Garnet Valley and stated that it was held on a Sunday at the University of Delaware and they had no problem with getting people to attend. Mr. Roche commented that many schools who cannot host their own graduation ceremonies on campus are forced to hold them at a university but those dates are reserved years in advance and the ceremony is held regardless of the weather. Mr. Dehnert stated that he is not suggesting we go to another facility but weather patterns in the summer are for evening thunderstorms and having it during the day would mitigate that risk as we rarely have thunderstorms in the morning.

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Mr. Roche stated that Dr. Goodin's point about staff participation is a huge piece and the graduation runs extremely smooth and we have about 50 staff members who help out with it. Mr. Roche said he shares Dr. Goodin's concerns with having it on a Saturday morning and getting everyone there so tying the ceremony to the end of the school day helps control that as well.

Mrs. Mullin commented that we have had this date published for a long time so we may already have people who are already booked to fly out or leave for wherever they are going on Saturday so by bumping it forward instead of backwards you are not messing up those plans. Mr. Dehnert stated you may have issues with those people who planned on Friday.

Mrs. Heine commented that it was published as Friday previously and we just moved it back to Thursday instead of moving it further into the calendar year on Saturday. She added that by moving it to Saturday you would prohibit people from leaving for scheduled vacations on Saturday.

Mr. Dehnert stated that people who had planned to come on Friday now must come on Thursday. Dr. Goodin commented that last week was the first time in public that a commencement date was mentioned and it was said that graduation was originally proposed for the 14th which was Friday evening come rain or shine. Dr. Goodin stated that in meeting with the high school principal this was discussed and it was felt that if they could put a cushion in there then it gives a better opportunity to have the commencement exercises outside where it is more convenient with a rain date in place. Dr. Goodin commented that most people would agree that having commencement inside is not the best venue but if we have to we can do it.

Mr. Dehnert questioned if we could really hold graduation in the gym with almost 600 kids graduating and Dr. Goodin replied that it would have to be broken up between the cafeteria, the gym and the auditorium. Mr. Dehnert stated that he was questioning all the students fitting on the floor because back in 2005 those students barely fit and that graduating class was roughly 430. Dr. Goodin said they have already discussed this and the possibility of having to trim back the number of band members who are present for the ceremony. Dr. Goodin said by putting in a rain date it gives us some sort of cushion to avoid that kind of Scenario but if we have to do it we will find a way to do it.

Mr. DiBello stated that we could have this conversation for an hour and most times the weathermen do not get the forecast right and he understands what Mr. Dehnert is saying as typically we do not have morning thunderstorms but on the flipside there are many mornings where it is pouring. Mr. DiBello said this is probably something we can evaluate for next year and possibly make as an option so that we can give teachers advanced notice. Mr. DiBello stated that we are rolling the dice no matter what day you plan for graduation. Mr. DiBello said it would be a very tough task to pull graduation inside as a lot of people would be disappointed.

The motion passed 7-0.

- C. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Graduation Commencement to be set for the evening of Thursday, June 13, 2013 in Coach McNelly Stadium. The rain date for graduation will be Friday, June 14, 2013.

D. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #705.1: PROPERTY: School Police Officer(s)
2. Policy #707.2: PROPERTY: Use of All-Weather Track by District Residents

New Other Business

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

Mrs. Mullin asked if they could have clarification of which calendar was being recommended.

Mr. DiBello stated that there were 3 recommendations from administration as reviewed last week and they were labeled A, B and C. Administration recommended A and the main difference between them was with conferences and where they were held in conjunction with November. Option A had conferences the same week they had always been which was the week of Thanksgiving. The other options had the conferences the first two days of November. Dr. Goodin explained that Option B and C were similar except Draft B has 2 in-service days at the end of the school year where Draft C has them embedded in the school year.

Mr. Ciresi asked what Dr. Goodin's recommendation was and Dr. Goodin explained Option A as the first marking period grades would be complete so parents and teachers would have these on-hand when meeting for their conferences.

Mrs. Mullin asked if it was ever determined how many parents were taking advantage of the conferences the week of Thanksgiving and Dr. Goodin said when he first came into the district it was reported that having 3 days of conferences the week of Thanksgiving showed that not many parents came in during the Tuesday and Wednesday as many families chose to travel during these days for the holiday. Dr. Goodin and Mr. Roche explained that they worked with the teacher's association to put in two days of conferences in the evenings the week prior along with a full day of conferences on Monday and Monday evening followed by an in-service day on Tuesday and then just the morning of Wednesday.

Mr. Pettit asked if the bottom line was that administration is recommended Option A be adopted and Dr. Goodin replied yes. Mr. Pettit made a motion to amend the motion to show the recommendation by administration for Option A of the calendar and Mr. Dehnert seconded it.

Mrs. Heine stated that she was a little bit opposed to Calendar A because of the full week off at Thanksgiving. She reported that she did a poll herself and found out from representatives of the community that they also were in favor of this option. Mrs. Heine stated that the rationale on the grades really does not buy her much because even after the number of days the students have been with the teachers, they know what they are doing so the grades are not a much of a hindering factor. Mrs. Heine said in the emails she received back from her poll most people wanted to know what calendar would be approved just so that they could schedule their vacation for that week which she found disheartening. Mrs. Heine stated that much to her surprise the public is very much in support of Calendar A.

The motion passed 7-0.

E. The Board approved Option A of the 2013-2014 school calendar as recommended by administration.

X. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Nicolina Strmac commented that her son is a senior and this is the first board meeting she has attended and she feels the district is doing a great job. She stated that since the Board is all about the facts and wants to get the facts out there she would like to know what the Board is doing to rid the school of drugs. Dr. Goodin replied that whenever a student is found to be in possession of drugs they are dealt with to the full extent of what the school can do legally. Dr. Goodin stated that the district also has a SADD Group in place and an annual assembly where driving under the influence is discouraged, talked about and activities are planned. Dr. Goodin added that they are aware as most high schools are that there are going to be students smoking marijuana and drinking and they do not turn a blind eye to these activities. Dr. Goodin assured her that once they become aware of these things they take matters as seriously as they possibly can. Mrs. Strmac reported that two years ago her son was jumped by another student because the day before he had turned in someone for having drug paraphernalia and marijuana and she questioned Dr. Kollar on whether they bring in drug sniffing dogs. Mr. Fitzgerald cautioned that if this is a student related issue he would have some concerns relating to privacy for her son as well as any students who may have been involved in the incident. Mr. Fitzgerald suggested that since this is a very public gathering that questions she may have be brought privately to the Superintendent for the privacy of everybody involved and he will address any concerns she may have. Mrs. Strmac stated that she is not giving any names and she gave her name because she was asked to. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that he understands that and law suggests that you can give facts about something without giving a name and you may be disclosing confidences on student record related issues. Mr. Fitzgerald cautioned against this. Mrs. Strmac asked again why they do not bring in drug sniffing dog and Dr. Goodin replied that he is a proponent of running drug dogs through the school. Mrs. Strmac commented that the reason she was told that drug sniffing dogs are not brought in is because if the dog smells something and gets excited and scratch a girl's purse or rip a backpack then the school is liable and could be sued. Dr. Goodin responded that was not true and if a dog was brought in the students are in lock-down and the dogs go along the lockers. If a dog hits on a locker then they note that and the dog is not present when the locker is searched. Mr. DiBello pointed out that the district has brought in drug sniffing dogs in the past and will do so in the future. The information on when this will occur is not disclosed for obvious reasons. Mrs. Strmac asked if this had been done in the past three or four years and Dr. Goodin replied again that he can only speak for the time he has been here in the district and he is a proponent of this. Dr. Goodin added that he can definitely say that it is not announced and the Board does not know when it will occur. Mrs. Strmac stated that she does not need to know when only that it is going to happen because this district is bad on drugs; the school is bad on drugs. Mr. DiBello cautioned that we must be careful that the district is doing everything it can within the law to prevent the drugs from coming into the school and as soon as a situation occurs it is handled quickly and precisely. Mr. DiBello said he does not think we can sit here and say that this district has a drug problem as that is a dangerous statement to make.

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Mrs. Mullin reported that she spoke with Mr. McDaniel and Dr. Goodin today that State Representative Vereb was in touch after the game on Friday night and he is going to work with State Representative Hennessey and Painter to get the Girls' Basketball Team and Coaches out to Harrisburg on the Assembly Floor to issue citations for the fantastic season they just ended.

Mr. DiBello commented that they have been contacted by various representatives and state legislators and the plan is to try to organize something so that most of this can occur in one venue. Mr. DiBello stated that going to Harrisburg for the ceremony Mr. Vereb is scheduling is a great honor not only for the girls but for the district as well.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary