

On March 26, 2012 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
- Region II: Julie A. Mullin
- Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Joseph P. Ciresi
- Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello
- Asst. Superintendent: Allyn J. Roche
- Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

The following Board Members were absent: **Clara M. Gudolonis** and **Dawn R. Heine**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello reminded the community that the tennis courts located next to Coach McNelly Stadium are open to the public when school is not in session although lighting is not available. He invited high school students to attend the annual Spring College/Career Fair being held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28th in the high school's main gymnasium. Mr. DiBello announced that the Spring-Ford Educational Foundation will be hosting a free concert for the community featuring the U.S. Air Force Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 28th, in the auditorium at the Ninth Grade Center. The Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Spaghetti Supper along with a silent auction from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 30th at the 10-12 Grade Center. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$7 for adults, and children under 5 are free. The Spring-Ford Area Senior High School will present its spring musical, "Bye Bye Birdie" on Friday, March 30th and Saturday, March 31st at 7:30 p.m. at the 10-12 Grade Center. Tickets are \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$10 for adults. Mr. DiBello reminded everyone that the next Superintendent's/Parents' Advisory Council Meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12th in the Hurda Learning Center of the 10-12 Grade Center. For more information on any of these events please go to the district website.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

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 February 21, 2012 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the February 27, 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**Extracurricular****David Shafer****2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Shafer reported that the Extracurricular met on March 12th and discussed the High School National Honor Society. Mrs. Susan Miscavage is the faculty administrator for this club and she reported that at the time she took over this club in October they had a zero balance in their account but since that time they have been able to fundraise and now have about \$1,000 in their account. Mrs. Miscavage reported that on March 1st they inducted 76 new members which consisted of 74 juniors and 2 seniors. Mr. Shafer noted that each member is required to put in 30 hours of community service. Mr. McDaniel was present at the meeting and on behalf of the High School Athletic Department he presented on Senate Bill 200 which deals with the issue of managing concussions and traumatic brain injuries in student athletes. Mr. Shafer stated that this officially commences in July but at Spring-Ford the education and training on this has already begun. Mr. Shafer reported that the bill basically states that if a student athlete is removed from participating in a sport and has symptoms of a concussion they are not allowed to enter back into the sport unless they are cleared in writing by a medical professional. Mr. McDaniel also made a presentation on the student activity fee which is something new in the district and as of the end of February \$101,775 has been collected with the vast majority of the activity fee coming from the Athletic Department. Mr. Shafer commented that this seems to be working and working well. Mr. Shafer gave a brief summary on the winter sports which have wrapped up. Mr. Shafer next reported on the number of students who tried out for spring sports which he said revealed good healthy numbers from his perspective. Good healthy numbers from his perspective.

Mr. Dressler asked for an explanation on the activity fee and how it is broken down and whether it is the same for every sport. Mr. Shafer replied that it is one fee for the entire year. Mrs. Mullin added that it is \$100 for 9th grade up and \$75 for the middle school. Mr. Shafer reported that students wanting to participate in an activity, not just athletics, pay this activity fee. Mr. Dressler asked how our fee compared with other school districts and Mr. Shafer replied that we can secure another research project but when we were looking into this we were below average as far as the fee structure goes. Mr. Shafer commented that the Board made the decision to do this rather than lose programs. Mr. Shafer stated that he is thankful to the administration and the coaching staff for being the ones to communicate this to the parents and students. Mr. Shafer commented that from his perspective he feels that this has rolled out very well although he is not saying that it was well received by parents but then again who wants to pay additional fees. Mr. Shafer said this has worked out okay but it has been logistically very difficult as the process has been very manual and they are looking into adopting a system that would be outsourced to a company that facilitates this type of thing for school districts in order to help in the management of this. Mr. Dressler asked if most school districts have this type of fee and Mr. Shafer replied yes and he would be surprised if more do not follow. Mr. Shafer added that a vast majority of school districts employ this currently because looking at the option of trimming programming in this area is not something that many involved with public education want to do.

Mr. DiBello reported that there were schools that had eliminated 7th grade programs or combined 7th and 8th grade programs in lieu of introducing a pay to participate fee. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board looked at this for two years before deciding to move forward in order to make sure that the decisions being made were in line with other districts.

Mrs. Mullin commented that as a parent she has not heard any negative feedback on this.

Mr. Shafer added that most parents appreciate the importance of extracurricular activities. Mr. Shafer said the Extracurricular Committee is actually looking at ways to increase programming moving forward next year because of the importance it plays in a well rounded education.

Finance

Tom DiBello

2nd Tues. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Finance Committee met on March 21st and reviewed the executive level reports and everything seems to be in alignment. Mr. DiBello commented that the self-funded insurance is in alignment and actually ahead of projections. The Jani-King expenditures are still on target to save approximately \$1 million and that money was redirected back into education this year. The Committee next moved on to discussing the budget which they have been working on over the last 2-3 months. Mr. DiBello reported that back in February the budget was at \$127 - \$128 million and since that time additional expense reductions were made and the budget now sits at around \$126 million with an additional Finance Committee meeting to take place before it comes before the Board for a vote. Mr. DiBello stated that there is one concern and that is with the Upper Providence Tax Collection. The district has talked with its' solicitor and Mr. Anspach will be contacting the Montgomery County Controller to discuss the situation. Mr. DiBello stated that there is a large portion of money that either was or was not collected that the district has not received as of yet so this will have a direct impact on the budget. Mr. Anspach reported that they did have a meeting with the tax collector on Tuesday and she did bring in the reports that were delayed since December along with the January and February tax collector reports as well as the reconciliations. Mr. Anspach said they are in the process of going through the reconciliations to make sure that everything balances. Mr. DiBello commented that the Committee also discussed updating the five-year projections and we are going to review this at the next meeting as the goal is to always to have a rolling five years from a budgeting standpoint so that we are not just looking out at the next year but the next 3-5 years. The Committee also talked about the Town Hall meeting which they are planning for April.

Mrs. Mullin asked if the additional funding for the Wi-Fi was discussed and Mr. DiBello replied that this was discussed and it was felt that \$300,000 would do the 5-6 buildings that are mentioned on the agenda and it would require an additional \$200,000 to do the remaining district buildings. Mr. DiBello stated that the recommendation from the Finance Committee was to bring it before the whole Board to find out whether the desire is to move forward with it or not. Mr. DiBello stated that in speaking with Mr. Reynolds there is still some time to decide this as even if we approve the \$200,000 to do the rest of the buildings as part of his plan is not to put this in place until early next year. Mr. Reynolds commented that the original plan was to spend the \$300,000 initially to do the buildings listed on the agenda and then the remaining buildings after that next year but it really could go either way. Mr. DiBello stated that he thinks that everyone from the Board's perspective is in favor of putting wireless throughout the district but it is just how do we come up with the additional \$200,000 before we do that. Mr. DiBello said he would hope that by the next meeting this can be sorted out so that a recommendation can be made on where the additional \$200,000 would come from.

Mr. Pettit asked how much money was in the Capital Reserve Fund because he believes last week it was discussed using the Capital Reserve Fund for putting in Wi-Fi in the entire district at this time rather than delay it for another year. Mr. Anspach replied that there are unallocated funds in the Capital Reserve in the amount of approximately \$4 million which can be used however the Board wishes. Mr. Pettit asked why we could not take the \$500,000 now out of the \$4 million and Mr. Anspach stated this could be done but the issue that remains is that there is roughly about a \$600,000 balance in this year's funds for technology and the discussion

that occurred was to use at least \$300,000 of the 2011-2012 General Fund and the balance coming out of the Capital Reserve. Mr. Pettit commented that he has no problem with doing it this way but let's get it done. Mr. Pettit added that he really feels that rather than delay half of the district for a year if we have the opportunity we should do it all at once. Mr. Pettit stated that he is concerned that there are other districts where students are able to bring in their laptops and notebooks and unless we are geared for wireless that is going to be delayed and keep us from implementing it sooner rather than later.

Mr. DiBello said that they were in total agreement as it will not be delayed another year but only for a couple more weeks until it can be revisited at the Finance Committee meeting. Mr. DiBello added that one of the things he has talked about at the Finance Committee meeting is even with taking money out of the Capital Reserve we need to look at our strategy to make sure that we have money going back in as well. Mr. Pettit stated he is fine with that.

Mr. DiBello reported that a couple months Mr. Ciresi and himself had started to look at ways and talked with different companies about the Irish Exchange Program in order to figure out how to support this program long term. Mr. DiBello stated that there are students in the district who would like to participate but for whatever reason they are not able to come up with the money. Mr. DiBello said that they wanted to come up with a mechanism to be able to raise money and form partnerships and alliances with companies. The hope is that on an annual basis we will be able to bring money in and set up a program where we can offset the costs for the students or have a scholarship program. Mr. DiBello reported that they are also working with the Educational Foundation to bring the money in. Mr. DiBello asked Mr. Ciresi the amount that has been raised thus far and Mr. Ciresi replied \$4,500 as of right now and there is a couple thousand still outstanding.

Mr. Ciresi commented that some of the money that was raised will go to fund Dr. Goodin's trip. Mr. Ciresi stated that if the public remembers in 2007 when Dr. Hurda travelled to Ireland he was able to secure a grant from Exelon that helped fund the cost of her trip to Ireland. Mr. Ciresi said there were funds leftover from when they tried to bring the Mayor of Limerick, Ireland over who was ultimately unable to come and those leftover funds were able to be used to pay for Dr. Hurda's and Mr. Nugent's trip. Mr. Ciresi stated that Dr. Goodin's full trip will be funded through donations that we currently have and obviously he will not use the total amount that is in the fund so the money from the businesses that we are proud to say are partnering with us will go into an account that will be established to start a scholarship fund to offset the costs for our kids in the future. Mr. Ciresi added that we will be publicly thanking those businesses, but just to mention a few of them tonight, the district has received donations from Fox Rothschild, the Education Foundation, Communication Solutions, and Custer's Garage.

Mr. DiBello stated that the district is still waiting on Exelon but they had said they are very excited to be a part of this and we see with these efforts that we are going to be able to bring a whole new level in hopes that we can get more students to go over. Mr. DiBello said even though some of the hysteria that was pushed in the community by one or two individuals again this just goes to show that the district itself is moving forward. Mr. DiBello stated that there is a lot of excitement within the community about what they are trying to do here.

Mr. Ciresi commented that he thinks it needs to be said that this was going on prior to anything being mentioned at this meeting, especially the Exelon stuff which has been going on for a couple months. Mr. Ciresi said this was not moved forward because of it and if you do go back and look at the record Exelon did give us money in 2007.

Mrs. Mullin stated that unfortunately this probably won't be what goes out into the community but both Mr. DiBello and Mr. Ciresi should be thanked for going above and beyond and taking this on.

Property

Joseph Ciresi

2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Property Committee met on March 21st and discussed the Health and Wellness Center. They saw a small presentation and talked about the uses for the building which would be curriculum driven. Mr. Ciresi stated that the proposal that was looked at was for a two-story building but there is still a lot remaining to be looked at. Mr. Cooper is going to bring back preliminary costs to the Committee but right now it is anticipated that the building could run anywhere from \$2 million to \$3 million before it is equipped with the different things that are needed. Mr. Ciresi said that the Committee also discussed some capital projects that were in the hopper and approved over the last couple of months and Mr. Cooper and his team are moving diligently to try and complete them. Mr. Ciresi showed the preliminary sketch of the new high school sign and there is still some conversation on the color of the lettering but Mr. Cooper has assured him that when it does go on the brick you will be able to see the lettering. Mr. Ciresi reported that the sign will be funded by Lifetouch. Mr. Ciresi commented that the softball scoreboard and bleachers through the Title IX complaint are in the process of being ordered and the lights on the fields are going out to bid this month. There was a new playground at Royersford Elementary that was put in and the driveway and parking lot was expanded. The Committee looked at a sketch to change the entrance at Brooke Elementary. Mr. Ciresi indicated that the sketch looks really nice and he is happy to say that the staff at Brooke had full input on the project. The arboretum behind the 9th Grade Center which has been there for 40 or 50 years. Mr. Ciresi commented that the district is thankful that Gail Wellington from Three Peas in a Pod has taken this project on and is working with Mr. Cooper's staff and the students at the vocational center. The arboretum will be rededicated probably toward the end of the spring or early summer. The Committee also received information that the Limerick sound system was upgraded and there will be a new pumping station going in at the 9th Grade Center which will not cost the district anything as the Borough is handling this. We are waiting on appraisals for the old district office, a runner's gate with a reader card was discussed, 8th/9th Grade Center exterior batting cages have gone out to be installed, and district-wide cameras and upgrades were also on the agenda and that is moving forward. Mr. Ciresi reported that as of the meeting the district was looking at \$250,000 in savings for electric mostly due to Mr. Cooper, his staff and the district conserving and also due to the mild winter. The Committee discussed a gate being installed on Old Mill Road to keep vandals and traffic out. Also discussed was going out and looking at an RFP for cleaning services as Jani-King was a two-year deal with an option to evaluate after the first year.

Mr. DiBello said last year when he voted to move forward with Jani-King, because he saw the importance of the savings that we were going to be able to redirect back into education, it was also discussed to reevaluate this after one year. Mr. DiBello said he is assuming that the Property Committee will be carving a path out because if we want to execute that option the decision has to be made relatively soon if we want to go in a different direction.

Mr. Ciresi said at the April Property Committee meeting he believes Mr. Cooper will come back with a presentation on the different options that we have. Mr. Cooper reported that they are working on three or four different options one of which is doing more with our own people and a little bit less with outside firms while keeping the same savings. Mr. Cooper said his goal is to keep the same savings or more because he does not want to put anything back into the budget.

Mr. Ciresi reported that he has heard a rumor that the Board is letting go all of the custodians and this has never been discussed. Mr. Ciresi stated that is a rumor that continues to go out so that people can get their little saying in SoundOff but it is a rumor. Mr. Ciresi invited the public to come to the Property Committee meeting in April to hear what the proposal is.

Mrs. Mullin asked if we are still on target for the \$1 million in savings and Mr. Ciresi replied yes, possibly a little bit over. Mr. DiBello stated that the one thing we have learned through all of this is that there are things that we can do more efficiently. Mr. DiBello stated that the target is to try to work a little bit more with our own staff and still realize the savings. Mr. DiBello said even though there was some heartache that was pushed or promoted within the community by a small group of individuals, it was still based on where we were at last year and the financial difficulties we were facing, the right decision.

Mr. Dressler asked what the thinking is on the disposition of the old administration building since we are getting estimates on its value and Mr. Ciresi replied that we need to get a value on it to decide what we want to do with it. Mr. Ciresi. Mr. Ciresi stated that if we find out it is worth \$100,000 then we may just want to sit on the land and take the building down and the land back to acreage. Mr. Ciresi said we need to know what it is worth before moving forward. Mr. DiBello commented that we were required by the state to get two appraisals.

Mr. Davis clarified that the school code indicates that if you present a petition to court to sell it through a private sale you must present two opinions of value by people familiar with real estate. Mr. Davis stated that it does not have to be a formal appraisal so there is a number on the agenda for approval and you should be able to come in under this number without too much trouble when obtaining the two opinions.

Mr. Dehnert asked about if there was any thought by the Committee on how the Health and Wellness Center would be paid for and Mr. Ciresi replied no and he did bring up that one of the ideas was to see if we could go out for funding through private donations. Mr. Ciresi stated that they want to see the plan before they move forward in order to see how much they need and what kind of involvement they can get. Mr. Ciresi added that this is a great opportunity for sponsorship in district. Mr. Ciresi said they also want to look at how the building can be used for the community.

Assistant Supt. Report Allyn Roche

Mr. Roche showed the monthly Spring-Ford video which this month focused on "N" for Noble. Mr. Roche said he is pleased to announce that starting in August Spring-Ford will be offering the Spring-Ford Virtual Academy as an alternative for students currently enrolled in cyber charter and traditional brick and mortar charter schools. Mr. Roche stated that the Spring-Ford Virtual Academy has been several years in the making and was developed in partnership with Spring-Ford teachers, administrators, and VLN partners. The Virtual Academy is available to any student who lives in the Spring-Ford School District and is currently enrolled in cyber charter and traditional brick and mortar charter schools. The Virtual Academy offers students the opportunity to engage in personalized education with the added benefit that student enrolled

will be eligible to participate in Spring-Ford activities including prom and graduation. Invitations to the April 19th, 7PM, Virtual Academy Open House will be mailed to all current Spring-Ford students enrolled in charter schools. For more information parents are encouraged to look on

the district website. Mr. Roche updated the Board on Health Services saying that each Spring-Ford School continues to work towards the goal of 100% immunization compliance by April 30th. Mr. Roche reported that as of March 22nd the district is at 92.4% compliant, leaving a total of 594 students in danger of being excluded from school on May 1st. Mr. Roche stated that grades K-6 are over 97% complaint and Upper Providence is 100% complaint and each of the remaining elementary schools are in the single digits. Mr. Roche reported that for those students still in need of immunizations, Spring-Ford is working on a partnership with the Montgomery County Health Department to host a community vaccination clinic is scheduled on Thursday, April 19th, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at the 9th Grade Center offering free vaccinations to school aged children in an effort to bring all students into compliance with the immunization regulations. Informational letters and the registration form will be mailed to families of students not in compliance and questions or concerns should be directed to the school nurse. Mr. Roche pointed out that this is a county-wide clinic so there may be people from outside of Spring-Ford. There will also be other clinics that they can attend if they are unable to attend this one. Mr. Roche commented that PSSA testing make-up week is this week for math and reading. All math and reading PSSA testing materials will be shipped out this week. Mr. Roche thanked all the students, parents, teachers, instructional assistants, counselors, secretaries and administrators for their efforts and professionalism during the state testing process. Mr. Roche reported that everyone is looking forward to the short break from the PSSA's over the two weeks and starting April 16th the PSSA writing tests are scheduled for grades 5, 8, and 11. The PSSA science assessment is scheduled to begin on April 23rd for grades 4, 8 and 11.

Mr. DiBello asked about the immunization compliance report wondering if we had identified the remaining students who are out of compliance and if we had sent targeted letters home. Mr. Roche responded yes that the principals and nurses have been working on a monthly basis with those students and letters will go out next week. Mr. DiBello questioned what would happen on May 1st for those students that have complied and Mr. Roche replied that the goal is to not have anyone on the non-compliant list. Mr. Roche stated that we will be working with the administrators in terms of the individual situations that are going on. Mr. Roche cautioned not to worry that we will not be locking doors and not letting people in and we will work on this in the next couple of weeks and have those last minute conversations with the families. Mr. Roche stated that everyone is working extremely hard to try and get the paperwork as a lot of it is not the fact that the student does not have the vaccine as it is just a matter of the actual paperwork being conveyed over.

Mr. Dressler asked what the motivation was for creating the virtual academy and Mr. Roche said it is two-fold as it is an opportunity for students who are out in cyber schools or charter schools and not attending Spring-Ford to bring them "home" to be a part of the district. Mr. Roche further explained that it will also give students more experiences in the district with some extra-curriculars and things like prom and graduation as well as a Spring-Ford diploma. Mr. Roche stated that the work of the team prior to his arrival here has been tremendous in terms of developing the courses. The courses have been written by Spring-Ford teachers based upon our curriculum and there are a couple courses that are tied directly to VLN and hopefully over time we will be able to build those courses to be more of our own but the core courses are ours. Mr. Dressler asked how many charter school students we have and Mr. Roche said for next year current grade 6-11 we have 98 students which is split between cyber which is about 45 and charter about 43.

Mr. Ciresi stated that this is great and he is glad that it is finally moving forward. He thanked Mr. Roche and the team that put this together and stated that this could save the district a lot of money. The students will have an education that we are all proud of, is a part of Spring-Ford, and we will know the education they are getting. Mr. Ciresi again thanked Mr. Roche, the team and all of the teachers.

IV. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. **Deborah A. Brown**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, tentatively June 14, 2012.
2. **Marilyn S. Herczeg**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, tentatively June 14, 2012.
3. **Susanne S. Slaton**, 9th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, tentatively June 14, 2012.
4. **Adam Swavely**, 8th Grade Baseball Coach, effective February 27, 2012.

New Resignation:

5. **Melissa Tripp**, High School; Instructional Assistant, effective March 30, 2012.
6. **Stacey A. Bogus**, High School; Softball Coach, effective March 9, 2012.
7. **Arlene Major**, 7th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, tentatively June 14, 2012.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Laura DiBattista**, High School; Social Studies Teacher, per Board Policy, effective February 7, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Susan Eisenhauer**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective January 18, 2012 for an Unpaid Leave of Absence until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
3. **Megan M. McCloskey**, 7th Grade Center; Mathematics Teacher, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 21, 2012 for the 1st marking period of the 2012/2013 school year.
4. **Susan Strawley**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, per Board policy, effective tentatively March 23, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

New Leaves of Absence:

5. **Kathleen DiBenedetto**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively March 30, 2012 until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
6. **Laurie Exeter**, 7th Grade Center; English Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 4, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Professional Staff Substitutes:

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|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shannon Barthelmess | Elementary Education/Special Education |
| 2. Joanne Birely | Art |
| 3. Cynthia Heffernan | Music |
| 4. Kierstin N. Levan | Music |
| 5. Nicolas Kolodziej | Health/Physical Education |
| 6. Dawn Wertman | Elementary Education |

D. Support Staff Substitutes:

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| 1. Laura Mohn | Custodian |
| 2. Joanne Scott | Registered Nurse |

New Support Staff Substitute:

- | | |
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| 3. Alan Schultz | Custodian |
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E. Personnel Information Items

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

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| 1. Linda K. Valloor | English |
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NEW PERSONNEL

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7th Grade Center

1. Samantha Alexander, Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach, \$2,772

G. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

1. Stacey Bogus, Softball Head Coach, \$2,772
2. Eric Houck, Baseball Coach, \$2,772

H. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 9th Grade Center

1. Matthew Cappelletti, Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach, \$3,186

V. FINANCE

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

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

A. 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**

Checks held for Board approval

*Check No. 32641 - 32653 \$ 90,689.11

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

C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

February

Check No. 145450 – 145506 \$ 117,955.02

ACH 111200292 – 111200295 \$ 631.95

March

Check No. 145507 – 145622 \$1,139,625.59

ACH 111200296 – 111200306 \$ 1,732.53

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

*Check No. 145665 – 145721 \$ 771,112.46

*ACH 111200346 – 111200355 \$ 982.10

3. Board Checks held for approval

*Check No. 145623 – 145664 \$ 72,942.32

*ACH 111200307 – 111200345 \$ 16,898.53

4. Athletic Fund

February

Check No. 304394 – 304435 \$ 24,515.86

D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Melmark School – Berwyn PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for sixty (60) educational days at a rate of three hundred sixty-four dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$364.28) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed twenty-one thousand eight hundred fifty-six dollars and eighty cents (\$21,856.80).

2. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide direct and supervision of Applied Behavioral Analysis for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct Services will be provided for up to eight (8) hours per week for fifteen (15) weeks at a rate of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour for a total of three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600.00). Supervision services will be provided for up to two (2) hours per week for fifteen (15) weeks at a rate of ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per hour for a total of two thousand eight hundred fifty dollars (\$2,850.00). Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$6,450.00).
3. **Gateway Employment Resources – Limerick, PA.** Provide Community Based Transition Work Assessment services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for up to sixty-five (65) hours at a rate of fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed three thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$3,575.00).
4. **Indian Creek Foundation – Souderton, PA.** Provide transition and pre-employment services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for sixty (60) days at a rate of ninety-eight dollars and sixty-four cents (\$98.64) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed five thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars and forty cents (\$5,918.40).
5. **Variety Club Camp – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for two (2) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a cost of seven thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$7,250.00). Twenty-four (24) sessions of related services (18 speech and language, 6 occupational therapy) will be provided at a cost of two thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$2,160.00). Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 IDEA Funds and shall not exceed nine thousand four hundred ten dollars (\$9,410.00) for both students.
6. **Variety Club Camp – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for one (1) special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for eight (8) weeks at a cost of four thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$4,875.00). Eight (8) sessions of speech and language services will be provided at a cost of seven hundred twenty dollars (\$720.00). A one to one assistant will be provided at a rate of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour for a total of three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600.00). Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 IDEA Funds and shall not exceed a total nine thousand one hundred ninety-five dollars (\$9,195.00).
7. **Dr. Judy Sauer - Main Line Pediatric Therapy Center – Bryn Mawr, PA.** Conduct an occupational therapy evaluation including testing, scoring, and a written report for a special needs student as per the IEP. The purpose of this contract is to increase the time on a previously approved contract for an additional three (3) hours. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed five hundred thirty-six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$536.25).
8. **Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital – Malvern, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled "Cruisin' Not Boozin" for students at the 7th Grade Center. There is no charge to the school district for this assembly as all fees are being paid by The Phoenixville Community Health Foundation.

9. **Thom Stecher & Associates – Malvern, PA.** Provide a Professional Development workshop entitled “Fostering Resilience in the Classroom” for teachers and instructional assistants at Upper Providence Elementary School on April 4, 2012, an in-service day. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Assembly Account and shall not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).
10. **Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc. – Norristown, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Cyber-Bullying” at the 7th Grade Center. There is no cost to the school district for this assembly as all fees are being paid by the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County.
11. **Steven Courtney & the Suitcase Musicians – Manheim, PA.** Provide a “Positive Skills Concert” for students at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Royersford Elementary PTO and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS:

12. **TheraPlay, Inc. – West Chester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Twelve (12) sessions of Speech Therapy and six (6) sessions of Physical Therapy will be provided at a rate of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per session. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 IDEA Funds and shall not exceed one thousand six hundred twenty dollars (\$1,620.00).
13. **Art’s Alive – Spring City, PA.** Provide an “Artist in Residence Program” at the 7th Grade Center. The student body along with Mitch Lyons, a professional artist in residence, will design and create a mosaic wall mural as part of a permanent artwork collection to be displayed in a location that will offer maximum visibility by students, parents and the community. The total cost of this project is four thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$4,450.00) and will be paid by the Middle School Home and School Association (\$2,225.00) and the 7th Grade Center Activities Account (\$2,250.00).

NEW FINANCE

E. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – February 2012
- PSDLAF – February 2012
- PSDMAX – February 2012
- Checking Account – February 2012
- PLGIT Account – February 2012
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - February 2012
- Payroll Account – February 2012
- Tax Account – February 2012

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – February 2012
- 7th Grade Activity – February 2012
- 8th Grade Activity – February 2012

- High School Activity – February 2012
 - Athletic Account – February 2012
- Bond Funds
- Note of 2007A – February 2012
- Other Funds
- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – February 2012
 - Debt Service Fund – February 2012
 - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – February 2012
- Cafeteria Fund
- Cafeteria Money Market – February 2012
 - Cafeteria Checking Account – February 2012
 - Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – February 2012
 - Investment Account – February 2012

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

FEBRUARY

Check No. 10597 - 10626

\$ 253,180.43

VII. PROPERTY

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

- A. Administration recommends approval for **Schiller and Hersh Associates, Inc.** to prepare the plans and specifications to bid the duct cleaning of Spring-Ford High School, Sections B & D and the second floor with the Intermediate/Middle School HRU #2 as an alternate bid. Funding will come from the General Fund – Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for the engineering fees.

NEW PROPERTY

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item B and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert commented that based on what Mr. Davis said we should make this one appraisal instead of two. Mr. Pettit stated that you may not need any appraisals from what he heard. Mr. Davis responded that at this point if you do not have a buyer, in order to get the valuation unless you want to have two opinions for comparison, you would be fine with one at this point. Mr. Pettit asked what entities you would utilize to get the valuation and Mr. Davis said you might want to get a realtor that is familiar with commercial real estate or you could go to a certified appraiser but suggest to them that you do not need a full appraisal but just an opinion on the value. Mr. Dehnert said he would be interested to see what the appraisal value would be for an idea on what we should sell it for and what would be a good offer because if we do not have that then we are really not going to know.

Mr. Ciresi withdrew his original motion. Mrs. Mullin withdrew her second.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to get one appraisal and cut the dollar amount in half to \$3,500. Mr. Pettit stated that he believes we should be able to get a much better price for someone to provide an opinion of value and this should come in significantly less than the \$3,500. Mr. Davis agreed and said the motion would be not to exceed but it could come in much less.

Mr. Dehnert said he would leave the not to exceed amount of \$3,500 and then let Mr. Cooper figure out how he can get a cheaper appraisal rather than a full blown one.

Mr. DiBello stated that to do this correctly we need to vote on amending the motion.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to change Item B as written to read one appraisal with an amount not to exceed \$3,500. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve the amended motion and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. The Board approved obtaining one appraisal for the property located at 199 Bechtel Road, Collegeville, PA. Funding will come from the 2011-2012 General Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00).
- C. 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) rate for gas usage for the 2012-2013 school year.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The Board approved purchasing equipment to add wireless access to the Senior High School 10-12 Grade Center, 9th Grade Center, 7th Grade Center, 5/6 Grade Center and Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2011-12 Technology Budget and shall not exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00).
- B. 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. 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.
- C. The Board approved the following **new textbooks** for the new AP History course for 2012-2013. The total amount shall not exceed \$5,300.00.

Course	Textbook	Publisher
1. AP European History	<i>The Western Heritage Since 1300 AP Edition</i> (2011)	Pearson Prentice Hall
	<i>Aspects of Western Civilization</i> (Source Book) (2011)	Pearson Prentice Hall
	<i>World History 1</i> <i>World History 2</i> <i>World History 3</i> (Resource books)	The Center for Learning

NEW PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

- D. The Board approved the Summer Instrumental Program for grades 4-12, under the direction of Mr. James Westlake, to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district's summer school program, from Monday, June 18 through Friday, July 20, 2012 (no classes Wednesday, July 4, 2012). Weekly lessons will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$18.00 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.
- E. The Board approved the Summer Strings Program to be held at the Intermediate 5/6 Center for grades 4-10. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district summer school program, from Monday, June 18 through Friday, July 20, 2012 (no classes Wednesday, July 4, 2012). Weekly lessons will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$18.00 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.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-K and Mr. Pettit 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. **Mary Quintrell**, Bookkeeper, **Sarah Sacks**, Software Specialist, **Melody Hendricks**, and **Susan Saylor**, Administrative Assistants, to attend "*Skyward 2012 Keystone State User Group Meeting*" in Harrisburg, PA on April 25 and April 26, 2012. The total cost of the conference is \$759.04 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

- B. **Doug Landis**, Social Studies Teacher, to attend "*Lewes AP Summer Institute – European History*" at Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes, Delaware from July 17, 2012 through July 20, 2012. This College Board approved training is necessary in order to teach the newly approved European History AP Course. The total cost of this training is \$1,502.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Mary Palladino**, Math Department Chairperson, to attend "*The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics National Conference*" in Philadelphia, PA on April 26 and April 27, 2012. The total cost to the district is \$705.00 (\$405.00 from the 580 account and \$300.00 from the substitute account).

- D. **Elaine Ruppert**, Teacher, to attend “*AP Biology Workshop – Transitioning to Inquiry Based Labs*” at Robbinsville High School in Robbinsville, NJ on March 3, 2012. The total cost of this workshop is \$223.29 from the 580 account. No substitute was needed.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- E. **Dr. Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to attend “*Brain STEPS – Smart but Scattered: Home & School Executive Dysfunction After Brain Injury*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on May 1, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this workshop and no substitute is needed.
- F. **Victoria Jeffers**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend “*Supporting Young Adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder*” at Immaculata University on March 30, 2012. The cost for this conference is \$80.00 for registration and \$150.00 for a substitute for a total cost of \$230.00 from the Ice for Autism Funds.

5/6TH GRADE CENTER

- G. **Jen Smith**, Speech Clinician, to attend “*Communication Matrix and Intervention Strategies*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on May 7, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference and no substitute is needed.

NEW CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS:

- H. **Dr. Keith Floyd**, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, **Stephen Reynolds**, Director of Technology, **Mitch Edmunds**, Principal Limerick/Spring City Elementary, **Deborah Eaton** and **Janet Rudinsky**, Teachers, to attend “*Hybrid Learning Seminar*” at the Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13 on Thursday, April 12, 2012. There is no cost for this seminar other than \$300.00 from the substitute account.
- I. **Laura McNeil**, Certified School Nurse, to attend “*Skyward 2012 Keystone State User Group – Health Module Update*” in Harrisburg, PA on April 25, 2012. The total cost of the conference is \$234.95 (\$84.95 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account).
- J. **Michael Francis**, HVAC Mechanic, to attend “*Belimo University and Industrial Controls: Belimo 101*” at Industrial Controls in Lester, PA on Tuesday, April 24, 2012. The total cost for this training is \$50.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- K. **Janette Pymer**, Autistic Support Teacher, and **Caren Yucha**, Speech Therapist, to attend “*Behavior Analysis in Language Development Programs for Students with Autism*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on April 17, 2012. The only cost for this conference is \$150.00 for a substitute for Janette Pymer.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A, C, D, E, F and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #113 – PROGRAMS: Special Education
2. Policy #113.1 – PROGRAMS: Discipline of Students with Disabilities
3. Policy #113.2 – PROGRAMS: Behavior Support
4. Policy #113.3 – PROGRAMS: Screening and Evaluations for Students with Disabilities
5. Policy #113.4 – PROGRAMS: Confidentiality of Special Education Student Information
6. Policy #209 – PUPILS: Health Examinations/Screenings
7. Policy #246 – PUPILS: Student Wellness

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

1. Policy # 116 – PROGRAMS: Tutorial Instruction
2. Policy # 137 – PROGRAMS: Home Education Programs
3. Policy # 221 – PUPILS: Dress and Grooming

C. The Board acknowledged the acceptance of the donation of \$23,436.00 by the Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association for the purchase of equipment and the installation of nine (9) SmartBoards and projectors in the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms at Oaks Elementary School.

D. The Board approved the revised student calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. The original calendar reflected 184 student days and 195 teacher days. To date the district has not found it necessary to cancel school due to inclement weather. The final calendar now contains 181 student days. The last student day will be Friday, June 8, 2012; the last teacher day will be Monday, June 11, 2012. The approval is based upon the district not requiring the use of any snow or emergency days between the date of approval and the last student day. Should snow or emergency day(s) occur, the calendar will be revised to reflect 180 student days.

E. The Board approved for the Spring-Ford Area School District Graduation Commencement to be set for the evening of Thursday, June 7, 2012 in Coach McNelly Stadium. The rain date for graduation will be Friday, June 8, 2012.

Mr. DiBello pointed out that with regards to Letter F, the Board is still finalizing one or two days on the school calendar for next year but wanted to at least let it be known that the first day of school for teachers will be August 21st and the first day for students will be August 27th.

F. The Board approved for the first teacher day of the 2012-2013 school year to be Tuesday, August 21, 2012 and the first student day to be Monday, August 27, 2012.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, asked Mr. DiBello to clarify comment that he made earlier this evening regarding the funding of the trip for the superintendent to Ireland. She stated that at the February 27th meeting you approved the amount of \$769.20 for airfare plus lodging and meals but you did not set a cap for that amount. Mrs. Bryant reference Mr. DiBello's comments earlier this evening and asked if these funds were to pay for the superintendent's trip and are they in fact district funds or are they through the Spring-Ford Educational Foundation. Mr. DiBello replied that the motion originally was to pay for the trip through district funds while they were raising the money and recently at the Educational Foundation meeting there was an agreement by the foundation to pay for Dr. Goodin's trip because we have additional money coming in and the money previously was brought through the Educational Foundation. Mrs. Bryant asked if Dr. Goodin's expenses would come through the Spring-Ford Education Foundation and Mr. DiBello replied that his expenses would come through the Educational Foundation utilizing the money that is brought in through donations. Ms. Bryant said she has a question regarding that because tonight she happens to have a copy of the by-laws of the Educational Foundation and they actually prohibit the use of that money for those purposes. Ms. Bryant said for student scholarships, special programs, and services for senior citizens and the community that is perfectly applicable but not for funding for the Superintendent of Schools, based on your own Spring-Ford Educational Foundation guidelines. Ms. Bryant asked if Mr. DiBello had bothered to look at those.

Mr. Ciresi stated that the Board is not the Educational Foundation, with all due respect. Ms. Bryant replied that you do sit on it. Mr. Ciresi commented that Mr. DiBello has just started to sit on the Educational Foundation but the foundation decided of their own free will to give this money to Dr. Goodin because they feel that this is an educational program that they want to fund to help the program grow for our children. Mr. Ciresi said Ms. Bryant is more than welcome to the foundation's president and board members who may not be here and ask them about that by-law. Ms. Bryant stated that it is not a by-law of the by-laws which she in fact has with her. Mr. Ciresi said he may have misspoken and he apologized for that but he welcomed her to reach out to them. Mr. Ciresi stated that he wanted to make something clear that Dr. Goodin is not going to frolic through the hills of Ireland on a vacation that is funded by the community as he is going to Ireland on a program that was established here and are we are very proud of. He is going to see how we can expand this and expand the opportunities to the 8,000 children that are here in the district. Mr. Ciresi said he knows there are issues about the funding mechanism which has already been discussed but he thinks that some of the public perception has been sold that our superintendent is taking a vacation to Ireland and that is nowhere near the truth of what he is going to Ireland for. Ms. Bryant stated that just to be clear the funding mechanism through the Spring-Ford Education Foundation is not in accordance with the way that foundation was set up or the by-laws which you currently have online so perhaps you may want to take a look at that.

Mr. Anspach stated that he is a member of the Educational Foundation and it was brought up as a vote by the members of the Educational Foundation. Mr. Anspach said that the Educational Foundation is a separate entity from the school district and the Board has no say on the Educational Foundation. Mrs. Bryant said there are School Board members that sit on that Board. Mr. Anspach clarified that there is one Board Member as well as himself and some other administrators but for the most part it is members of the community so it is a separate entity which must be clear that it is separate from this entity and they voted on this. Ms. Bryant commented that they voted on it but what they voted on is against what their published guidelines say number one and number two.....

Mr. Shafer interrupted saying he happens to be on the Educational Foundation going on five years now and the meetings are typically the same night as the public Board meeting. Mr. Shafer stated that the meeting is at 6:00 and he encouraged Ms. Bryant to attend and added that her interest in the district would be so welcome there because the vast majorities are parents and life-time community residents. Mr. Shafer stated that one of the proudest things that the Educational Foundation does for the community is to oversee, because of its' financial structure, the SNAP Program, and the Alumni Association also runs through here. Mr. Shafer

said there may be by-laws that have been dormant for a while and could use a freshening and having attended these meetings it is not something that typically is on the agenda. Mr. Shafer said the heart of the matter he believes from the Educational Foundation is, because of its structure, it is a way for corporations to receive some taxable benefit for donations. Ms. Bryant said she is aware of this. Mr. Shafer stated that it is something that the district should be very grateful to have and it is something that is a way to engage corporations in our community. Mr. Shafer stated that there are scholarships that go on every year. The two major components aside from putting on free concerts for the community are having the ability for all of the donations that come in through SNAP, which is upwards of \$30,000 per year, for companies that make donations to be able to receive taxable benefit. The second major component is that the Alumni Association, which again is a relatively new entity for the district, is set up so that monies can be run through there where the donors are able to receive some portion of a taxable contribution. Mr. Shafer stated that with all due respect he is certain that the by-laws have not been reviewed and they may appreciate her attention in coming to a meeting. Ms. Bryant said her comments are in no way to denigrate the work of the Education Foundation but her point was that the purpose of the foundation is to do funding for the benefits of students, the community at large and senior citizens, period, that was the purpose of the foundation.

Mr. DiBello stated that the reason why Dr. Goodin is going to Ireland is to foster the relationship between us and Ireland through this exchange program. Ireland's School System had no problem sending their senior level staff here to spend two weeks with the district promoting the whole program. Mr. DiBello said it seems to him that she is the only one who keeps standing up and having a problem because after so many years we are sending our superintendent to Ireland to help foster this relationship. Mr. DiBello stated that there are several meetings that are set for the superintendent to work with not only the school system but within the government and corporations. Mr. DiBello added that he thinks it is going to be a very beneficial trip but once again meeting after meeting she stands up and has a problem because a couple thousand dollars are going to be spent because we are sending our superintendent to reciprocate what has occurred here, late last year, when they came here.

Ms. Bryant commented that also reported tonight you have taken \$110,000 of participation fees from families in the district and her point all along has been that the new superintendent is the highest paid individual in the school district and surely he could have funded his own trip. Mr. DiBello responded saying that he wants to be clear about something and that is first, that our superintendent has come into the district substantially below where the last superintendent was at. Second, we have taken \$110,000 from our community to pay to participate because when we were cutting programs last year everyone agreed that we needed to make some changes and some cuts in extracurriculars and this is what was recommended by the Administration. Mr. DiBello said we came up with a way that is no different from any other school and once again the only concern about the fee we have been collecting this year which is going back to the students because that is what the money is

being used for but the only person who stood up and had a problem with it is you. Mrs. Mullin said “a person who does not have to pay it”.

Mrs. Mullin stated that she sits on the bleachers with the parents and not only has she not heard one complaint but parents have volunteered to pay more money to save these programs. Mrs. Mullin said they have gotten no other complaints about this program. Ms. Bryant stated that perhaps Ms. Mullin should listen to a wider group of people than the people on the bleachers she sits with.

Mr. DiBello said he probably talks to more people in this district than she does so she shouldn't stand there and say that she has been talking with all of this community.

Ms. Bryant asked if the Spring–Ford School Board had approved seeking an RFP for a new Spring-Ford School District solicitor yes or no. Mr. DiBello replied that we are in the process of evaluating and putting out an RFP. Ms. Bryant asked if the RFP has gone out already or been formally approved. Mr. DiBello said he is not sure if it was actually sent out yet or not. Ms. Bryant asked, “you're not sure”? A Member of the Board clarified that it had gone out. Mr. DiBello apologized saying he is sorry he does not know everything that is going on in the district. Ms. Bryant commented that the school district solicitor is something he might want to pay attention to as this is a huge thing. Ms. Bryant asked if this was done in an executive session or at an advertised public meeting.

Mr. Ciresi stated, “you have an answer to something that was done in an executive session Ms. Bryant so where did you get the information from”? Ms. Bryant said, “I am asking, wait you are admitting that you”.....Mrs. Mullin interjected, “probably from the same place that she thought to bring the by-laws tonight for the Education Association”. Mr. Ciresi asked, “if this was done in an executive session where did this information come from”? Ms. Bryant stated, “that is what I am asking you”. Mr. Ciresi said, “this is personnel and until we go out for anything there is nothing to be discussed so where would you get the information from? Where would you get the information from”? Ms. Bryant asked if they believed that going out for a new school district solicitor should be done behind closed doors or before the public in the open. Ms. Bryant stated that she is a believer in the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and Mr. DiBello said, “that is a good thing because again we had not taken any action on replacing or staying with our current solicitor so if the RFP did go out”, I was not aware of it”.

Mr. DiBello further stated that “if and when an RFP is sent out, when we get the proposals back, any decision we make like everything else we have done, although you are sitting here and accusing us again with no evidence”....Ms. Bryant interrupted saying she is “simply asking” him...Mr. DiBello interrupted and stated that she is “making accusations first off and second off this Board has not done anything behind closed doors”. Ms. Bryant stated that she is “simply asking”. Mr. DiBello said, “no, no, month after month you come here, you stand up and make accusations against this Board because you are just trying to make us look bad. This is your whole responsibility. Where were you when kids were caught in the ceiling at this high school? Where were you then? Did you stand up and raise concern?” Ms. Bryant responded, “Mr. DiBello you are walking a very narrow line right now”. Mr. DiBello replied, “no, I am not”. Ms. Bryant said, “actually you are”. Mr. DiBello said, “I am asking a question”.

Mrs. Mullin stated that she has been gavelled for a three minute rule more than enough times by now and questioned if this is a selective rule and if we only gavel people who follow the rules. Mr. DiBello said he is trying to be somewhat courteous and Mrs. Mullin said I know you are. Mr. DiBello said month after month she gets up and makes the accusations. Ms. Bryant stated that she was asking questions and Mr. DiBello is awfully uncomfortable with questions. Mr. DiBello said he is not uncomfortable with questions. Ms. Bryant said, "have a nice evening".

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary