

On March 29, 2005, the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Bernard F. Pettit and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.
Region II: Ammon Morgan, Jr., Janet A. Stokes,
and Donna Williams
Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi, Ed Cummins, and Richard J. Schroeder
Presiding Officer: Michael V. Masciandaro
Solicitor: Bonnie Sheehan, Esq.

Mr. Masciandaro called the meeting to order and announced there was an executive session on personnel. Mr. Masciandaro invited the public to tomorrow night's and Thursday evening's community forum on the superintendent search.

I. DISTRICT GOALS

He asked whether there were any updates to the district goals from board members and heard none.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Joe Petrowski

Thanked the board for sending a letter to the remaining 300 petitioners who did not get copied the first time. He presented the board with an article from *The Mercury*, which he said showed how the Upper Perkiomen school board postponed building a new school after residents complained. Regarding the high school of the future and withdrawal from the WCTS, referred to the \$4 million that Spring-Ford is seeking from the other school districts and suggested doing more homework regarding the chances of getting that money back. Asked about scenarios if low numbers of students sign up for technical and vocational classes. Asked about courses not being offered, such as horticulture.

Dr. Coale said that horticulture is not popular. The 17 courses offered were chosen based on a student survey and their alignment with WCTS courses. The top five to ten courses will fill, she said. Over 400 students have registered for these courses in the past. The courses chosen were also technical in nature. The addition to the high school includes nine additional classrooms, which are not solely for the technical-career classes. The addition will be studied fully at the facilities committee meeting on Thursday and she recommended that he attend that meeting. He asked again about critical mass for enrollment. Dr. Coale said options could include accepting students from other districts or providing other services. The WCTS is the catchment area and Spring-Ford will ask for admission to WCTS and if denied, Spring-Ford will send them to CAT-Pickering.

Gale Wellington

Regarding Item K in Finance, video conferencing equipment, asked if consideration has been given to offer advanced classes such as classes that MontCo Community College that offers in videoconferencing. Dr. Coale said there have been discussions with MCIU and Pottsgrove on distance learning. Mrs. Wellington asked if purchase is premature since this is still in discussion. Dr. Coale said discussions with Pottsgrove and MontCo Community College are underway. Mrs. Wellington asked whether there is a potential that the withdrawal from WCTS will be long and drawn-out. Mr. Schroeder said that the other two districts may oppose the withdrawal and he said that he expected Spring-Ford will meet with them. Mrs. Wellington asked for a review of the costs of going and staying. She asked if the costs of building a program at the high school are similar to the 67% of Spring-Ford's share of renovation. Mr. Masciandaro confirmed that and said that it does not include the \$4 million reimbursement. He added that there would be the additional benefits of having three grades in a technical career program and having nine additional academic classrooms.

Dan Regan, Limerick

Said that he noted that class sizes are getting larger and that people in his neighborhood wonder what is in the way of building a new school. Asked what the options are to building a new school. Mr. Masciandaro said that if construction of a new school doesn't happen, the district will face a situation similar to five years ago when there were portable units and larger class sizes. Mr. Regan said that his daughter came from a class size of 17 from another district and the class was one month ahead of her class of 22 at Upper Providence, which has the same math curriculum. Mr. Schroeder said that the board's intention was to preserve the present class size of 22, not to decrease it to 17 because of the cost would be prohibitive.

III. PRESENTATION

- A. Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, will present the proposed 2005/06 MCIU budgets.

Dr. Shiveley emphasized that the IU is attempting to work closer with school districts to save money. He reviewed the IU's services and distributed the annual report and brochure to board members. Alan Clark presented the IU's financial data and information about the budget approval process. He emphasized that the IU is attempting to maintain present programming and is not bringing on new programs or new personnel. Board members asked how Act 72 will affect the IU and Mr. Clark said that it will dramatically advance the timeline for budget completion – almost by a year. Data gathered will have to be completed much earlier. Dr. Shiveley said that 17 out of 18 school districts that he has surveyed will opt out of Act 72. Dr. Shiveley added that Dr. Coale has been great to work with.

Bern Pettit arrived.

- B. Video Presentation – Hand-held Computer Pilot Program, Grade 4, Upper Providence Elementary School 2004-05. Dr. Hurda introduced an 8-minute video utilizing the expertise of Steve Bonetz describing the hand-held computer pilot program headed by lead teacher David Pence. He and teacher David Mountz and staff developer for technology Judy Kuhn described the positive impact the hand-held computers have on student learning.

Mr. Morgan said that his fourth grader has helped him with his Powerpoint presentation. Mr. Schroeder commented on how totally engaged and on-task the students in the video appeared. He asked about assessment. Mr. Pence said that the average spelling grade in his class was 94 and he has seen improvement in math and other areas. Mr. Schroeder asked whether adjustments can be made for the visually impaired. Mr. Pence said the fonts can be made bigger. Mrs. Kuhn said it is not difficult to set up technically. Mr. Ciresi asked that this 8-minute video be broadcast on PCTV and Mr. Masciandaro said yes. Mrs. Williams asked if the program would be expanded. Dr. Hurda said it is a pilot program and is investigating expanding it to other fourth grades. One idea was to have a set in the media center for teachers to check out. She publicly acknowledged David Pence and David Mountz's initiative for launching the program. Mr. Masciandaro said that full-sized computers take up a lot of space and the portability was useful. Dr. Coale said that there is \$120,000 in the budget to expand the program to 4th grade throughout the district. Mr. Spohn said that money would give comparable service to one third to one half of all 4th graders in the district. Dr. Coale congratulated the team for expanding the initiative and that it serves multisensory learning and having immediate feedback.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved of the February 16, 2005 public forum on Act 72 minutes.
- B. The board approved of the February 22, 2005 work session minutes.
- C. The board approved of the March 8, 2005 board meeting minutes.

Mr. Masciandaro announced that the board reports would be given after the voting portion of the meeting was completed.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-G. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved of the following **resignations**:
1. **Paul Karwoski**, Learning Support Teacher at the Middle School, 7th Grade Center, effective May 6, 2005.
 2. **Diane Bearde**, Administrative Assistant in the Business Office, District Office, effective March 18, 2005.
 3. **Charlene Cappuccio**, Spring Musicale/Choreographer, effective March 9, 2005.
 4. **David Nicol**, Orchestra Musical Director, effective March 11, 2005.
- B. The board approved of the following **Leave(s) of absence**:
1. **Carrie Dixon**, English Teacher at the High School for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 3, 2005 until the end of the 2004/2005 school year.
 2. **Erin Elton**, Math/Science Teacher at the Intermediate School, 5/6th Grade Center for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively May 17, 2005 until the end of the 2004/2005 school year.
- C. The board approved of **Amber Cornwall**, Harleysville, PA, as a Long Term Substitute for the Learning Support position at the 7th Grade Center replacing Paula Briggs who retired. Ms. Cornwall is a graduate of Gwynedd-Mercy College with certification in Elementary Education and Special Education. Ms. Cornwall is currently a per diem substitute with the District. Compensation will be set at \$35,750, BS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective retroactive to January 18, 2005.
- D. The board approved of the following **Extra-Curricular Contracts** at the **High School**:
1. **James M. Mack**, Asst. Boys' Lacrosse Coach, \$2,576, Code F
 2. **Concepcion Mulvany**, Asst. Girls' Lacrosse Coach, \$2,576, Code F
 3. **Susan Miscavage**, Musicale Choreographer, \$890, Code K
(*Replacing Charlene Cappuccio who resigned from the position*)
- E. The board approved of the following **Extra-Curricular Contracts** at the **Middle School, 8th Grade Center**:
1. **Josiah Platchek**, 8th Grade Baseball Coach, \$1,784, Code H
 2. **Rick Pizzico**, 7/8th Grade Asst. Baseball Coach, \$1,784, Code H

- 3. **Mark Morgan**, 7/8th Grade Asst. Track Coach, \$1,508, Code I
(replacing *Katie Horning* who resigned from the position)

F. The board approved of the following **Professional Staff Substitutes**:

- 1. **Leah Leneweaver**, Collegeville, PA, Elementary Education
- 2. **Jonathan Smith**, Gilbertsville, PA Music
- 3. **Melissa Reese**, West Chester, PA Special Education
- 4. **James Mack**, Limerick, PA Social Studies

G. The board approved of the following **Support Staff Substitutes**:

- 1. **Kathleen Boyer**, Royersford, PA Instructional Assistant
Library Assistant
Playground Assistant
Lunchroom Assistant
- 2. **Michael Lattanze**, Phoenixville, PA Custodian
- 3. **Diane Obenshine**, Royersford, PA Secretary
Instructional Assistant
- 4. **John Watkins**, Gilbertsville, PA Custodian

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve H. Mr. Morgan seconded it.

H. The Spring-Ford board of school directors recognizes that Dr. Marsha R. Hurda has been given a transition plan involving additional responsibilities as such the board of directors makes a motion to award Dr. Hurda a monthly stipend of \$1,500 each month for the months of April, May, and June 2005.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Since H was not on the agenda)

There was no comment. The board approved Item H by 9-0.

VI. FINANCE

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve all items except Items A1, D3, and K. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 9-0. Mrs. Stokes asked if the Potential Land Purchase be relabeled Greenstein Condemnation. Mr. Anspach agreed and offered to change Professional Services to Greenstein Condemnation.

- A. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **MARCH**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2002:**

2.INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

Emedco	Signage (3 Inv.)	\$	7,569.30
Follett Library	Library Books	\$	256.52
Fox Rothschild	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	16,077.73
Gale Group Publish.	Library Books (7 Inv.)	\$	7,535.00
Power & Commun.	Data, Phone Catv Cabling	\$	34,747.34
U. Providence Twp.	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	<u>876.68</u>
	TOTAL	\$	67,062.57

3.UPPER PROVIDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fox Rothschild	Professional Services	\$	60.00
U. Providence Twp.	Professional Services	\$	<u>392.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	452.00

4.MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

J&L Building Mater.	4 RL 24" White Coil (Flashing)	\$	253.67
Martin Stone Quarry	Stone (2 Inv.)	\$	2,433.68
Perkins/T.P. Trailers	6 Storage Container/Rental	\$	450.00
U.S. Engineering Lab	Construction/Material Testing & Inspection Services	\$	5,990.87
*Adams-Bickel Assoc	Applic. #7- General Contractor	\$	<u>2,242,545.62</u>
	TOTAL	\$	2,251,673.84

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

Potential Land Purchase

Fox Rothschild	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	<u>1,439.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$	1,439.00

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

- D. Checks:

1. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
Check No. 102485-102722	\$763,048.14
2. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
Check No. 102723-102875	\$94,480.87
4. <u>Athletic Fund- February</u>	
Check No. 296936-296968	\$11,714.33

E. The board approved of of the following **additions/ deletions** from the per capita tax for 2004-2005:

1.	Limerick Township Additions	No. 212 - 259
2.	Limerick Township Deletions	No. 911 - 1784
3.	Royersford Borough Additions	No. 58 - 144
4.	Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 229 - 433
5.	Spring City Borough Deletions	No. 174 - 213
6.	Upper Providence Township Additions	No. 699 - 900
7.	Upper Providence Township Deletions	No. 585 - 692

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

Checks #5540-5578	\$180,415.41
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G. The board approved of the following Treasurers' Reports:

- General Fund – February 28, 2005
- Payroll Account – February 28, 2005
- PLGIT – February 28, 2005
- PSDLAF – February 28, 2005
- PSDMAX – February 28, 2005
- Investments – Flex CD – February 28, 2005
- Tax Account – February 28, 2005
- Money Market – February 28, 2005
- Disbursement – February 28, 2005
- Investments- Flex CD – February 28, 2005
- Investment Schedule – February 28, 2005
- Athletic Fund – February 28, 2005
- HS Activity Acct – February 28, 2005
- MS Activity Acct – February 28, 2005
- MS 7th Gr Activity Acct – February 28, 2005
- Treasurers Report – February 28, 2005
- Capital Reserve – February 28, 2005
- Capital Reserve – February 28, 2005
- Note of 2002 – February 28, 2005
- Note of 2003 – February 28, 2005
- Note of 2004 – February 28, 2005
- Debt Service Fund Acct – February 28, 2005
- Alumni Association – February 28, 2005
- Cafeteria M/M Account – February 28, 2005
- Cafeteria Checking Account – February 28, 2005

H. The board approved of following reports:

- Cafeteria Savings Schedule
- Cafeteria Investment Schedule
- Cafeteria Profit and Loss Statement
- Cafeteria List of Bills

- I. The board approved of the purchase of Cisco network core switching equipment in the amount of approximately \$36,813 from ePlus Technology. The new equipment, to be installed in the Senior High School WAN Hub, will allow for full use of the district fiber network at Gigabit speed, make more effective use of network security protocols, allow for reliable video conferencing/Internet II activities/video streaming, improve data speeds during period of high traffic, and allow for district wide HVAC/Security VLANs. The cost of the equipment represents a voluntary reduction by Cisco below the contract cost on PEPPM (Pennsylvania Educational Purchasing Program for Microcomputers). The purchase supports goals of the Technology Plan (Goals 2 & 3, Section 5 – Page 2 or 7, and Goal 3, Section 5 – Page 5 of 7). Funding is provided by the Technology Fund.
- L. The board approved of purchase equipment for the 9th Grade Center by bidding; receiving quotes; buying from IU Contracts; buying from State Contracts; and purchasing from PEPPM, that meets the school code requirements. PlanCon G has \$1,000,000.00 allocated for equipment.
- M. The board approved of the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Jack Bracale, DMD**, 404 North Lewis Road, Royersford, PA 19468, to perform State mandated dental screenings for students in grades 3 and 7. Cost will be four (\$4.00) dollars per student screening. Funding will be provided from the 2004-2005 Dental Services Budget.
 2. **Laurie Morris Betts, M.D.**, 2 Helen Circle, Royersford, PA 19468, to coordinate grant-related Healthy Choices activities. Compensation for Dr. Betts will be fifty (\$50.00) dollars per hour for a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) hours. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed nine thousand (\$9,000.00) dollars and shall be effective March 30, 2005 and completed by December 31, 2005. Funding will be provided by a grant from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation.
 3. **Jackie Fox**, 2021 Northbrook Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601, to provide a two-hour training session of substitute teachers on the Everyday Math Program on Wednesday, April 6, 2005. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed four hundred forty-five dollars and twenty-six cents (\$445.26). Funding will be provided from the 2004-2005 Staff Development Budget.
 4. **New Life Youth & Family Services**, Freeman School Road, P.O. Box 203, Harleysville, PA 19438, for provision of educational services for two (2) students who will be receiving special education services. Services will be provided at the cost of one hundred five (\$105.00) dollars per day per student slot, not to exceed two (2) slots. Contract shall be in effect from March 15, 2005 to June 30, 2005. Total cost of the contract shall not exceed twelve thousand six hundred (\$12,600.00)

dollars. Funding will be provided from dollars budgeted in the 2004-2005 Alternative Education Fund.

5. **Jonathan Sprout, PO Box 188 – Morrisville, PA 19067 –** Present an assembly program on American Heroes. Performance not to exceed (\$700.00) Seven Hundred Dollars. Effective date: May 25th, 2005. Funding source the Limerick Elementary School – Account number: 11-2120-610-000-0000-00-19-02.
6. **Hip Hop Appearance – 3601 South Broad St. – Philadelphia, PA 19426 –** Effective Friday April 15th, 2005 - Spring-Ford Middle Schools will present “Family Night”. This program is open to the community members. We hope this evening will enhance positive motivation, team work and instill community support of the students and families of the Spring-ford Area School District. Hip Hop (76’ers) Performance not to exceed (\$750.00) Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars. Funding source from the 7th Grade and 8th Grade Activity Accounts.
7. **Bridgeworks Theater – 113 ½ East Lincoln Ave. Goshen, Indiana 46528 –** Assembly program on Conflict Resolution. Effective March 22, 2005 – Performance not to exceed (\$650.00) Six Hundred Fifty Dollars. Funding through the Limerick Elementary School.
8. **Victim Services Center’s “Keeping Touches Safe and Healthy” presentations. –** Twenty 45-minute presentations to Grades 1-4 on the topic of “Keeping Touches Safe and Healthy” Performance not to exceed (\$700.00) Seven Hundred Dollars. Effective date: March 1-4, 2005. Funding source the Royersford PTO.
9. **Benmore Enterprises – 1234 Pine Ridge, Bushkill, PA 18324 –** There will be three Dino Dig assembly presentations for 2nd grade student on May 10, 2005. Benmore Enterprises will present the exhibit, DINO DIG. The exhibit will include viewing a Triceratops skull, lessons on the dinosaur, visual materials and digging for dinosaur bones. Performance not to exceed (\$500.00) Five Hundred Dollars. Funding source is Oaks PTA.
10. **Box of Light/Learning Tomorrow – 288 Mill Street – Danville, PA 17821 –** There will be two (2) assembly programs entitled “Fractured Fairytales”. 9:30Am and 1:30PM. A fun storytelling show with audience involvement of familiar fairy tales that are turned on their heads. This presentation will not exceed (\$650.00) Six Hundred Fifty Dollars. Effective date: May 4, 2005, and is funded through the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A1. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 7-2 with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Morgan voting no.

- A. The board approved of payment for the following invoices for the month of **MARCH**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2002:**

1. WINNIES PROJECT

Bursich Assoc. Inc.	Professional Services	\$	141.25
DLR Group	Professional Services	\$	859.60
Fox Rothschild	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	3,464.00
Limerick Twp MA	Sewer Plan-Escrow Agreement	\$	<u>2,942.08</u>
	TOTAL	\$	7,406.93

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item D3. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 8-0-1 with Mr. Schroeder abstaining.

- D. Checks:

3. <u>Plotts Checks</u>	
Check No. 102876	\$2,214.92

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item K. Mr. Cummins seconded it. It was approved 8-0 with Mr. Rocchio voting no.

- K. The board approved of the purchase of two-way interactive video conferencing equipment for use in the Senior High School in the amount of \$5921.39 from ePlus Technology. The purchase will be made under the PA 5850-01 Statewide Networking/Peripheral/Audio-Visual Contract. The equipment will be used to access interactive Internet II video conferencing sessions made available through our fiber connection to Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The equipment supports the Technology Plan (Goal 3, Section 5 – Page 2 of 7). Funding is provided by the Technology Fund.

VII. PROPERTY

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Items A-C. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved of going out to bid, receive and award to the lowest responsible bidder the installation of security gates installed at Brooke E S, 8th G C and the High School. Funds were allotted in the 2004 - 2005 general maintenance fund budget.
- B. The board approved of going out to bid for the Brooke E S Roof and have this completed over the summer of 2005 and the summer of 2006 to lessen the interference in the education process over a two year period.
- C. The board approved of having an Eagle Scout complete a project at the RAM's Stadium for installation of a flag pole at no cost to the school district.

VIII. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve Items A-T. Mr. Rocchio seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend "*PA Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 82nd Annual Meeting*" in Lancaster, PA on Friday, April 8, 2005. Dr. Hurda is being presented with the 2005 Friend of Family and Consumer Sciences Award at the meeting. There is no cost to the district.
- B. **Dr. Leticia M. Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*PASPA Spring Workshop- The Objective Pre-Employment Interview*" at the Capital Area IU in Harrisburg, PA on Monday, May 16, 2005 and Tuesday, May 17, 2005. The workshop will focus on learning the skills needed to get who and what for the job. The total cost of the workshop is \$523.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **Dr. Lucille F. Candeloro**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend "*Pennsylvania Department of Education's PSSA Performance Level Descriptor Operational Rangefinding*" in Harrisburg, PA from Tuesday, April 26, 2005 through Friday, April 29, 2005. This conference will focus on what students in a given grade and subject are expected to know and be able to do as well as review student responses to the 2005 PSSA. There is no cost to the district as the conference is by invitation only.
- D. **Robert Cywinski**, Senior Field Technician, to attend "*Avaya IP Telephony Solutions*" in Basking Ridge, NJ on Tuesday, April 5, 2005. This workshop will provide information on the technology, application and implementation of IP Telephony for future communication needs of the school district. The total cost of this workshop is \$50.00 from the 580 account.
- E. **Judy Kuhns**, Technology Integration Specialist, to attend "*National Educational Computing Conference*" at the PA Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA from Tuesday, June 28, 2005 through Thursday, June 30, 2005. This national conference will offer workshops and events designed to keep technology educators up-to-date as well as the opportunity be a presenter at a session on the District's Handheld project. The total cost of this conference is \$902.00 from the 580 account.
- F. **Susan G. McCandless**, Software Field Technician, to attend "*Project 2000-Level 1*" in Philadelphia, PA on Monday, April 11, 2005 and Tuesday, April 12, 2005. This workshop will provide skills that are

necessary to use Microsoft Project 2000 that will be used in the planning and management of the summer technology project. The total cost of the workshop is \$75.00 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

- G. **Katie Davis and Kathryn Donohue** Learning Support Teachers, to attend "*Trainer of Trainers – Progress Monitoring Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, May 18, 2005. Attendance at this conference will give Katie the information she needs in order to train staff in progress monitoring for the next school year. The total cost of this conference is \$260.00 - \$10.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- H. **Katie Davis**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*Wilson Reading Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, April 18 and Tuesday, April 19, 2005. This conference will give Katie information which is needed to instruct students needing the Wilson Reading Program. The total cost for this conference is \$381.60 - \$131.60 from the Special Education Budget and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- I. **Elizabeth Comport**, Teacher, to attend "*2004 and Beyond: New Update on SAP Laws, Regulations, and Procedures*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, May 24, 2005. This conference will help the Elizabeth learn about new laws and procedures in order to run the SAP Team properly in her building. There is no cost for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- J. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend "*PA School Librarian's Conference*" in Hershey, PA on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29, 2005. Maria has been asked to give a presentation on the National Board Certification Process. This conference also gives Maria the opportunity to gather new ideas and observe current materials. The total cost for this conference is \$667.00 - \$542.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- K. **Marilyn Erb**, Teacher, to attend "*Life and Death in Ancient China & Ancient Egypt*" at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19, 2005. This conference will provide Marilyn with an in-depth comparison of life in ancient China and ancient Egypt by twenty leading international scholars. The total cost of this conference is \$293.25 - \$230.75 from the 580 account and \$62.50 from the substitute account.

- L. **Anne Marie Spohn**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Leaving No Child Behind*" at Penn State in University Park on Thursday, May 19 and Friday, May 20, 2005. This conference will provide Anne Marie with valuable information with which to balance the demands of IDEA and "least restrictive environment". The total cost of this conference is \$703.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

5TH / 6TH GRADE CENTER

- M. **Yvonne Kirby**, Media Specialist, to attend "*Follett Library Resources Workshop*" at the Valley Forge Scanticon Hotel in Valley Forge, PA on Thursday, April 14, 2005. This conference will allow Yvonne to preview media materials that will supplement our curriculum. Small group information sessions are also offered on TitleWave, TitleWise and TitleCheck. The total cost of this conference is \$145.00 - \$20.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- N. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Pathologist, to attend "*Assistive Technology Core Team Update*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, Pa on Thursday, April 7, 2005. This mandated training will show Jenifer new products and findings in the area of assistive technology. The total cost of this conference is \$140.00 - \$15.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- O. **Beth Happ**, Certified School Nurse, to attend "*SAP Training*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, April 25, Tuesday, April 26, Tuesday, May 3 and Wednesday, May 4, 2005. This is mandatory training for anyone wishing to participate in the SAP team. The total cost of this conference is \$850.00 - \$350.00 from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant and \$500.00 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK

- P. **Nancy Saul**, Speech Pathologist, to attend "*Counseling Parents of Children who have Speech and Language Difficulties*" at PATTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, April 1, 2005. This workshop will help Nancy assist parents of students with speech disorders come to terms with their children's difficulties thereby improving the outcome of treatment. There is no cost to the district for this conference.

OAKS

- Q. **Elise Reiter**, Speech Therapist, to attend "*Current, Best Strategies to Help Speech-Language Pathologists Better Meet Student Needs*" in Frazer, PA on Thursday, April 14, 2005. This conference will show Elise new, innovative and effective strategies to work on and meet IEP goals of all the various students with speech and language impairments. The total cost of this conference is \$324.00 - \$199.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

SPRING CITY

- R. **April Reitnauer**, Media Specialist, to attend *“Read! Read! Read! – Motivating Students to Read More”* in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, April 13, 2005. This conference will discuss topics such as increasing students’ interest in reading, strategies to motivate reluctant readers, ideas on how to transition students from picture books to chapter books and effective ways to use incentive programs. The total cost of this conference is \$300.00 - \$175.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- S. **Gina Lasky**, Speech Therapist, to attend *“SETT Training”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, April 7, 2005. This mandated training will review the SETT process along with new material coming out and give the opportunity to discuss issues with other team members. The total cost of this conference is \$143.00 - \$18.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- T. **Dr. Reesa Wurtz**, Psychologist, to attend *“Neuro-developmental Perspective on Differences in Learning”* in Lancaster, PA on Friday, April 8, 2005. This conference will update Reesa on learning differences and strategies to be used in the classroom. There is no cost to the district for this conference.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Cummins made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. The board voted to approve it 7-2 with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Morgan voting no. Mrs. Williams asked whether the calendar involved having a day off for polling. Mr. Masciandaro said it wouldn’t affect this year’s calendar. He said that he met with Voter Services today and would meet with them again. A possible option for the board is to schedule an inservice on Election Day but not at this point, he added. Mrs. Stokes said that alternate sites being discussed include the faculty lunchroom at the 5-6-7 school, which has a separate entrance/exit. Mr. Morgan suggested waiting another month. Mr. Masciandro and Mr. Pettit said the board needs to set the graduation date now since constituents have been calling about it.

- A. The board approved of Option 1 revised student calendar for the 2004-05 school year. The calendar contains 180 student days. The last student day is Friday, June 10, 2005. The approval is based on no more snow or emergency days occurring between the date of approval and the last student day. Should snow emergency day(s) occur, the calendar will be revised to reflect 180 or 181 student days.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- B. The board approved of the Spring-Ford Area School District Graduation Commencement to be set for the evening of Friday, June 10, 2005 in McNelly Stadium

Mr. Morgan asked whether cosmetology would be included in the high school of the future and Dr. Coale said it would be included. He asked about other courses and Dr. Coale said that childcare, horticulture, and commercial art would not be included. Allied health may be added later. Mr. Ciresi said that commercial art was offered in the high school. Mr. Morgan added that he was uncomfortable withdrawing from the WCTS because of the legal process that would ensue with the other schools. He asked if every avenue has been examined. Mr. Cummins said 40-40-30 had been rejected many times. Mr. Schroeder said other scenarios had been reviewed and the cost analysis was favorable of having the high school of the 21st century including nine additional classrooms. Mr. Morgan maintained that the legal fight would take money away from education. Mr. Schroeder said he hoped that the districts could have a dialogue to have a smooth transition to avoid unnecessary legal costs. Mrs. Williams asked how the cost figures were arrived at for the addition for the high school of the 21st century, which were slightly lower than Spring-Ford's present contribution to the WTCS. Dr. Coale said those figures were gotten from the architects who included contingency costs. Mr. Cooper expressed confidence in the architect's costs since they had completed other vocational schools. Mrs. Williams asked whether the \$15 million included construction, furniture and equipment and Dr. Coale confirmed that with a completion date of August 2007. Mrs. Williams said that she wanted to echo Mr. Morgan's concerns that the districts try to discuss the issue one more time. She added that she is concerned that the figure of \$15 million will really become \$30 million. Mr. Ciresi requested a roll call vote. The board voted 7-2 in favor of Item C with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Morgan voting no.

- C. The board approved of the Spring-Ford Area School District to authorize our special counsel for Western Center for Technical Studies (WCTS) issues (Sweet & Tucker) in conjunction with the Board President and Secretary to initiate the process of withdrawal from WCTS.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item D. Mr. Ciresi seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mrs. Williams voting no. Mr. Morgan said having a 10th grade component was imperative for students to get a lifetime career and that he was excited about the opportunities the program offered students. Mr. Cummins said that he was passionate about this program and thanked the joint operating committee members on the Spring-Ford board for "getting beat up" at the JOC meetings. He expressed support for the program that offered opportunities to all Spring-Ford students for the next 30 years. Mr. Pettit credited Dr. Coale for changing the high school of the 21st century from a concept to a reality. Mr. Schroeder invited the other school districts to settle the issue without litigation. Mr. Masciandaro said that the meeting regarding the high school of the 21st century was a thorough and excellent presentation. Mr. Ciresi said that the WCTS will not be an abandoned building, the other two districts will remain and they will move forward with programming that they feel is appropriate.

- D. The board approved of Spring-Ford Area School District retaining Architecture Furst PC for the construction project known as Addition to the High School (High School of the 21st Century), subject to approval of the contract in accordance with their conceptual plans dated November 19, 2005.

XI. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

XII. NEW PERSONNEL

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve New Personnel, New Finance, and New Property. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0. Mr. Masciandro instructed board members to fill out and sign their ballots and return them to the secretary.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the resignation for **Tamara L. Fry**, Playground Assistant at Limerick Elementary School, effective April 8, 2005

XIII. NEW FINANCE

- A. The board approved of **Resolution 2005-4** regarding the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit budget** for the general administrative services budget, curriculum and staff development services budget, State and Federal legislative services budget, and instructional materials services budget of the Intermediate Unit for the fiscal year July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006.
- B. The board approved of Ed Cummins as **representative to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit**. Mr. Cummins is the current representative and he needs to be nominated by the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors.

XIV. NEW PROPERTY

- A. The board granted permission to obtain bids for **filters for indoor air quality**, to be used throughout the school district, and award to the lowest responsible bidder. Funds are from the 2005/2006 General Fund Budget.

XV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Polling places – Request from Voter Services – Mr. Masciandro said he met with Voter Services and discussed having polling at the faculty lunchroom since it is separate from the rest of the building, has parking, and restrooms. The superintendent has recommended this location previously but Voter Services felt there was not enough time to implement. Other sites will also be discussed.
2. Consideration for the naming of the Winnies school – This item was delegated to the Community Relations Committee said Mr. Masciandro.

3. Update on the last required permit from DEP – The architect must submit a letter that he has all the approvals before it is possible to go out to bid said Dr. Coale. It may be possible to go out to bid by the next board meeting, Mr. Cooper said.

XVI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Sheehan said that Mr. Rocchio requested samples of other schools districts' agendas. Mr. Rocchio said that he intended to revise the board agenda.

Contract Grievance Committee: Mr. Schroeder said that the committee met with professional employees

Community Relations Committee: Mr. Ciresi said the committee discussed the brochure and there are 300 members in the Alumni Association. The next meeting will cover National Penn Bank's commitment to the district.

Curriculum Committee: Mr. Rocchio had no report.

Extracurricular Committee: Mr. Cummins said the committee discussed the number of fields and the indoor color guard.

District-Wide Facilities Committee: Dr. Coale said the last meeting reviewed PEL projections combined with Pennsylvania Department of Education projections. The next meeting will focus on grades 9-12 and what is needed for the future.

Finance Committee: Mr. Masciandaro said the committee met on March 12 and looked at the capital reserve plan. The governor's budget is offering a very small increase in educational subsidies. Act 72 can adversely affect bond ratings and the committee discussed its effect on the district's credit rating. The committee agreed about having fund balance guidelines rather than changing them to a policy. There is an aggressive schedule of meetings for the budget. It will be tough to open a new school and have new personnel and have a budget that is easy to pass.

Policy Committee: Mr. Pettit had no report.

Property Committee: Mrs. Stokes reported that the committee met on March 11. The architect recommended doing the update on Brooke's roof over two summers since a changeout of the HVAC system is involved and this approach would have a lower impact on students and staff. The Vantage Group's proposal is being looked at again and the committee recommended three items: Vantage provide three bids based on drawings approved by the district. Prior to renovating, Vantage would provide a copy of the lease. Thirdly, all preconstruction costs, such as zoning changes, architectural drawings, permits, and legal fees, would be the responsibility of the Vantage Group.

Technology Committee: Mr. Masciandaro said there was no meeting.

WCTS: Mr. Schroeder said the WCTS is reviewing the budget and he hopes to come back with a preliminary budget to present to the board.

MCIU Legislative: There was no report.

MCIU Board: Mr. Cummins said there was no report.

PSBA: Mr. Rocchio said there was no report.

Healthy Choice Committee: Dr. Hurda said there was no report.

Liaison to PDE: Mr. Schroeder had no report.

Student Representative – Ms. Quinn congratulated Kiley Moore as the next student representative. Mrs. Williams asked about the senior trip. Ms. Quinn said classes would be held as normal and departure is April 21st and the amount of students needed was met.

XVII. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Contract-Grievance	Richard Schroeder	As needed
Community Relations	Joe Ciresi	1 st Wed. 7 p.m.
Curriculum	Ray Rocchio, Jr.	1 st Tues., 7 p.m.
Extracurricular	Ed Cummins	1 st Thurs. 7 p.m.
Facilities		March 31, 2005
Finance	Mike Masciandaro	2 nd Thurs., 7 p.m.
Policy	Bern Pettit	2 nd Mon., 7 p.m.
Property	Janet Stokes	2 nd Wed., 7 p.m.
Technology		As needed
WCTS	Schroeder, Ciresi Stokes	1 st Mon., 7:30 p.m.
MCIU-Legislative	Joe Ciresi Richard Schroeder, Alternate	3 rd Wed., 7:30 p.m.
MCIU Board	Ed Cummins	4 th Wed., 7:45 p.m.
PSBA	Ray Rocchio, Jr.	
Healthy Choices	Dr. Marsha Hurda	
Liaison for PDE	Rick Schroeder	
Student Representative Report	Danielle Quinn	

XVIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There was initially some argument whether members of the public who were not residents of Spring-Ford had the right to speak at a Spring-Ford Area District board meeting. The solicitor recommended letting all members of the public being impacted having a say. Mr. Masciandaro asked for consensus and appeared to get it from Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Ciresi, and Mrs. Williams.

Gordon Whitlock

Said he was Chair of the Joint Operating Committee and board member of Pottsgrove. Said your \$15 million just went up; there will be litigation. Said his board would not negotiate since Spring Ford did not negotiate. He questioned whether staff was included in the \$15 million.

William Scott

Said he was member of the Joint Operating Committee and an Upper Perk board member. Asked for the date of withdrawal from the WCTS. Mr. Masciandaro said there is not date at the point. Mr. Scott and Mr. Masciandaro continued to discuss with Mr. Masciandaro saying that it should not take six months. Mr. Schroeder suggested getting counsel's opinion by Monday. Mr. Scott said there was a lack of negotiation previously and that he would in no way negotiate with this school board.

Bruce Cooper, spoke as member of public and vocational school graduate. Expressed support for a three-year votech program, which he credited as putting him where he is today. A two-year program is poor preparation for the trades, he said. He said the Spring-Ford program would give graduates of the program a trade to make a good living that would allow them to live in this area. In spite of the legal trouble, he said, in the long run, it will be worth it.

XIX. ACTION REVIEW

There was none.

XX. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cummins seconded it. The board adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Spring-Ford Goals May 14, 2004

Actions from last meeting:

1. Each committee assigned will begin working their goal and report progress at the board work session.
2. We gave a piece of goal 5 to the Community Relations committee, see below.
3. The Board made a request to the administration to begin creating baselines, especially for goal 5. We are looking for this to be completed in May.
4. Reaffirmed that the original goals should be used as reference.

Process for working goals:

1. Define goals clearly. A good goal is a measurable result. The Board articulates the desired result or end, not the means.
2. The goals are given to the administration for execution. The following are the steps the administration is responsible for:
 - Establishing the baseline or current state
 - Formulating plans for goal achievement
 - Costs or other resource requirements
 - Recommendations on intermediate steps in goal achievement.
3. Board approval is obtained
4. The administration reports progress toward the goal in the district report card.

Goal Action Proposals:

1. Reduce class sizes (Original Goal #1)
Assignment: Property and Facilities Committees
2. Perform Feasibility Study on creation of "in house" alternative educational program (Original Goal #3)
Assignment: Curriculum Committee
3. Student Health and Safety - Reduce drug usage. (Original Goal #2)

Assignment - Extra Curricular Committee

4. Improve public perceptions of the district, Local industry as a district partner and alternative funding. Non-Monetary Employee Incentive: (Original Goals #4, 5, 16)
Assignment: Community Relations Committee
5. Key Measures: (Original Goals #6, 7, 8, 9,12)
Graduation rate increase, Increase percent of graduates going to post secondary school, Establish a listing of our graduates continuing education school placement, Increase scholarships achieved by our students. Graduate acceptance at top universities and colleges
Assignment: Full Board.
Tracking graduates to see how we are doing.
Assignment: Community Relations
6. School Media centers / libraries open weekends, evenings and summer. Create continuing education programs. (Original Goals #10, 11)
Assignment: Curriculum Committee
7. Reduce Childhood obesity:(Original Goal #13)
Assignment: Healthy Choices Committee
8. Increase PSSA and Terra Nova Test Scores: (Original Goal #14)
Assignment: Full Board
9. Plan for District wide Construction needs: (Original Goal #15)
Assignment: Facilities Committee
10. Establish a Blue Ribbon School (Original Goal #17)
Assignment: Curriculum Committee
11. Develop and implement a Five Year Financial Plan (Original Goal #18)
Assignment: Finance Committee
12. District Office replacement (Original Goal #19)
Assignment: Full Board

Referenced below are the original goals:

Spring-ford goals Feb 24, 2004 Version 2

Proposals:

1. Reduce class sizes

- Establish and maintain smaller class sizes K - 6 to lower levels than present that would be in keeping with the desires of the community as established as a goal, of the Districts' Strategic Plan.

- Class Size: establish a standard of smaller class size through out the district. Begin with K-6 and move into the middle and high school.

2. Reduce drug usage

Formally Establish a beefed up Drug prevention program that will both quantify and qualify the types of drugs that are prevalent in the SF School district. Include alcohol, inhalants, and over the counter drugs along with all illicit drugs. Formulate a plan that will address these findings, thru awareness programs, counseling programs, possibly integrated with community based programs. Also provide strong prevention and intervention measures. All results to be reported publicly to the Board twice a year.

3. Reduce costs and provide more services for alternative education.

- Establish a program for alternative Education within the district. Feature career based programs. programs should be of high quality with approved articulation agreements with Technical institutes and various colleges. DO NOT OVERLAP Programs that are available at WCTS. It is important to keep 'OUR STUDENTS' interested in their future. Any program must be flexible, It should offer Flex hours, day care, internships, intense counseling, and ultimately job placement components. We should stop sending our difficult students out of the district, and along with them hundreds of thousands of our communities tax dollars with them. It is time to treat this issue with respect and dignity and be accountable for all of our students.

- Determine the feasibility of operating our own alternative school.

- Special needs Children: Would like to see a study on what the district spends on these children and if possible for the district to bring these children back into the district and instruct them in a district building. With the state cutting its share of funding every year, and tuition going up we need to look at this matter and maybe set up a five-year goal

4. Improve public perceptions of the district

- Drastically Improve public relations getting positive as well as (possible negative) information to the immediate community expeditiously.

5. Local industry as a district partner

- Establish a program that beseeches large local industry to be part of District initiatives. This will create an environment that brings fresh ideas (from industry leaders) as well as possible project funding (such as help with technical initiatives, adult evening courses, co-ops etc.

- Alternative Funding: Interview companies that deals exclusively in marketing and sponsorship/grants to help the district target possible sources of revenue i.e. Merck, Peco, GM , etc., to help advance programming opportunities in the district.

6. Graduation rate increase
7. Increase percent of graduates going to post secondary school
 - Establish a listing of our graduates continuing education school placement.Create diversity guidelines.
8. Increase scholarships achieved by our students
9. Tracking graduates to see how we are doing:
 - Create a graduate report, where are they 10, 20 and 30 years later
 - Track graduates to see where and what careers they pursue.
10. School Media centers / libraries open weekends, evenings and summer.
Establish a timeline of Fall 2006 for Lifelong Learning.
11. Create continuing education programs
 - Renew Spring-Ford's commitment to Life-Long Learning by commissioning an Adult Ed Board responsible for oversight and operation of said adult education separate from the operations and involvement of the SFASD Board and Administration, similar to the model currently in use for many successful years in Owen J. Roberts SD.
12. Graduate acceptance at top universities and colleges:
 - Improve the prospects for Spring-Ford students being accepted at top universities and colleges.
13. Reduce Childhood obesity:
 - Promote healthy lifestyles to combat the growing epidemic of childhood obesity.
14. Increase PSSA and Terra Nova Test Scores:
 - Alarming number of test scores in the below average category in the 9th grade of the terra nova test scores in reading and mathematics. I would like to see these numbers brought into the single digits. The same holds true for the 11th grade PSSA test in mathematics. These numbers also need to be brought up into the single percentages also
15. Plan for District wide Construction needs:
 - I would like for this board to sit down together and come up with a plan for future needs based on actual numbers. Keep in mind that the state is still looking at some kind of education reform. We do not know what future state funding will be and we may possibly loose the ability to direct the portion of taxes that we collect
16. Non-Monetary Employee Incentive:
 - Work with local business to establish a discount or a special rate for example on mortgage and car loans for our staff. This will help in the bargaining process and help to retain good employees.
17. Establish a Blue Ribbon School

18. Financial Plan:

- Develop and implement a Five Year Financial Plan indicating not only debt service and capital reserve, but also projecting future operating costs and additional personnel costs as impacted by the opening of new buildings and renovation of current buildings. As part of this five-year plan, use the information to project future budget and tax increases.

19. District Office:

- Commit to a plan, with a time line of no longer than 18 to 24 months (start to finish), to move district office operations to the Bechtel Road site. If this site is unsuitable, find another. Review this topic in August 2005 (six months from February 2005).

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Dillon
Board Secretary