

The April 22, 2002 work session of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit, and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.
- Region II: Martha Magee Block, Janet A. Stokes, and Robert A. Weber
- Region III: John S. Grispon, Ed Cummins, and Richard J. Schroeder
- Administrators: Dr. Genevieve D. Coale, Superintendent of Schools, and Timothy C. Anspach, Business Manager
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Representative: Amy March
- Clerk: Pat Dillon

Mr. Weber opened the meeting with the call of order, roll call, and Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. PRESENTATION**

**Mr. Will Cromley**, Interim Principal at Spring City Elementary, made a presentation, A Brief Overview of the Compass Virtual Classroom Program at Spring City Elementary.

Mr. Schroeder asked about the startup group of 30 parents. Mr. Cromley said the number is now 60. Mr. Schroeder asked if he tracked the frequency of use at the public library. No, said Mr. Cromley. Mr. Schroeder requested that he do so and provide a future report. Mrs. Block asked how long it takes to set up the system at the public library. Minimal, said Mr. Cromley. Mrs. Block asked if there are plans to install the software elsewhere. Mr. Cromley indicated no. Mrs. Block praised his presentation. Mr. Masciandaro asked about the response from other schools, especially the intermediate school. Dr. Coale said she would get back to him. Mrs. Block asked for the percentage of families who have internet access at home. Dr. Coale said the district completed such a survey a year and a half ago and promised to deliver the results. Mrs. Block asked if the software could be installed in other publicly accessible areas.

Mr. Weber praised Amy March, student representative, for her service this school year. Then he introduced Janine Herring, the student representative for 2002-03. Mrs. Block praised Amy March's role in the play *Annie*. Dr. Coale thanked Amy for her knowledge, ability and conveyance of information to other students. Amy said she will be attending Wheaton College in Massachusetts to study either political science or communications.

Dr. Coale and Tim Anspach presented the first draft of the preliminary budget for the 2002-03 school year. It is estimated that the real estate tax collected will be \$45,402,425. The increase is 18.1% or \$6,491,006. The total percentage increase is 11.28%; this time last year, it was an 8.95% increase from the prior year. The estimated budget is \$73,690,767, an increase of 10.74% from last year. Last year, our increase was 10.78% from the previous year.

The employers contribution to retirement increased to 5.64% from 1.09% and has added \$700,000 plus to the budget. Healthcare costs increased by 16.5% or \$530,516. If Spring Ford prepays its annual premium, we will receive a 3% discount. We've had a drop in basic state funding for basic education from 35.3% to 34%. Legislators are being pressured to provide relief but we don't think relief will come in time for the final June budget. Current state funding for special education is 49%. The governor's proposal drops funding to 47.1%. This year, we will be budgeting \$900,000 for cyber and charter schools. We have refused to pay Einstein due to a lack of certifications and materials and inappropriate amount of time that students are on the program. Dr. Coale provided the net employer costs and said we're looking closely at those costs.

Dr. Coale reviewed the budget history, tax collected, and revenue history. Almost 80% of the budget revenue comes from local sources within the district. Salaries are our largest expenditure. The next ones are benefits, debt payments with all three combined totaling 65% of the budget. Other strong expenditures are future debt payment, capital reserve, transportation, and maintenance costs.

Dr. Coale reviewed personnel needs. She said that the administration is hoping to present a lower increase in May. There are state mandated needs and classroom needs that must be addressed. Dr. Coale reviewed the retirement rate, which was 1.09% and was increased to 5.64% by the governor. The net increase in taxes is \$688,395. We may get this reduced if the governor agrees and the district could receive a net savings of \$666,108. We just received this information today. However, we will incorporate this data into the May budget figures as well as other areas.

Mrs. Block stated her vehement support for keeping the post of supervisor of curriculum and instruction to increase the district's test scores. She also stated support for a math support teacher.

(Ed Cummins arrived during the budget presentation.)

Mrs. Block asked in which schools the three additional elementary teachers would be teaching. Dr. Coale said Brooke and Royersford, but that may not be their final assignment. A discussion ensued as to exactly where they would teach. Mrs. Block asked if taxpayers are supporting Cool School and the camps. The answer was no.

Mr. Schroeder said he wanted the board to know that the percentage of the budget spent on instructional materials is decreasing and he didn't want to have to play catch up later. Mr. Grispon asked how teachers could be added to Brooke when it is officially closed. Dr. Coale explained they are adding three and subtracting one because the incoming fourth grade class is larger than the departing fourth grade class. Discussion ensued regarding use of the music room as a classroom at Brooke. If we were to fill special ed, enrollment is 811 or 822 said Dr. Coale. Mrs. Block said children in Limerick and Brooke are getting screwed. Children in Spring City are getting a superb education because they are in small class sizes similar to private school. She charged parents who don't want their children going to Spring City with socioeconomic bigotry and that the board should try to even out enrollment in the district. Mr. Pettit asked about 811. Dr. Coale said the number is not final. She said the enrollment is closed and the administration is still working through early intervention assignments. Mr. Schroeder said this was a review of the budget not the enrollment plan. Mr. Grispon asked about the math support teacher and said there weren't enough math support teachers. The teacher would be itinerant, there is not enough funding for more math support teachers, and the position might be cut said Dr. Coale. Mr. Schroeder asked whether it was definite that healthcare would be prepaid. Mr. Anspach said it was not definite and he would check interest rates. Mr. Rocchio asked about the assessed values and tax delinquency. Mr. Anspach said the tax delinquency factored in delinquent PECO funds. Mr. Anspach said the market and assessed values will be updated at the end of May. Mrs. Block asked about the playground assistant request and why there isn't a request for an assistant principal and additional clerical staff. Dr. Coale said there is a clerk who floats between two schools. When we hire a principal for Upper Providence, we hope to place that person over at Brooke to assist Dr. Leiderman. Then we will hire additional secretarial staff she added.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Weber called for public comment on the budget. There was none. Then he called for public comment on any agenda item. There was none.

### **AWARD**

Dr. Coale announced that Mr. Grispon received two awards from NSBA: the first for Boardmanship awarded for 48 school board points and the second for for Advanced Boardmanship awarded for 120 school board points. Dr. Coale and Mr. Weber announced a short break for ten minutes.

### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mrs. Block voting no.

- A. The board approved the March 18th work session minutes.

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item B. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mrs. Block voting no.

- B. The board approved the March 25th board meeting minutes.

### IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved **Patrick Nugent**, Gilbertsville, PA, for the Principal position at the High School replacing Michael Fabel who will be resigning due to retirement in June. Mr. Nugent is a graduate Slippery Rock University with Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master's of Science from Cabrini College in Educational Administration. Mr. Nugent has been an Assistant Principal at the High School since June 1999. Compensation will be set at \$102,100, plus benefits per the Administrative Plan, effective July 1, 2002.

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Items B – E. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- B. The board approved the resignation, with regret, of **George S. Desko**, head coach of the Girls' Tennis Team at the Senior High School, effective March 25, 2002.
- C. The board approved of **Patricia Bateman**, LA/Social Studies at the Intermediate School for a Sabbatical Leave of Absence for the 2002/2003 school year for medical reasons.
- D. The board approved of **Ann Dieter**, Learning Support Teacher at Limerick Elementary School for a Sabbatical Leave of Absence for the 2002/2003 school year for the purpose of further studies in her Master's program.
- E. The board approved of **James Williams**, custodian at the High School for an extended Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective April 10, 2002 until April 23, 2002.

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item F1-2. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- F. The board approved of the following **support staff**:
1. **Deborah L. Cavett**, Gilbertsville, PA, as an Instructional Assistant at the Senior High School replacing Robyn Ginter who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, plus \$.25 an hour for degree for a total of \$12.25 an hour, prorated, plus benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective April 23, 2002.
  2. **MaryAnn Warburton**, Oaks, PA, as a Media/Library Assistant at the Senior High School replacing Martin Seibert who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour, prorated, plus benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective April 23, 2002.

Mrs. Block asked if these positions were also listed on the new personnel list. Dr. Coale said yes and that they would be removed from that list if approved this evening. A discussion ensued regarding the timing of the need for the foreman and secretary. Mr. Grispon asked why it wasn't mentioned in the board property committee minutes. Mrs. Block said the committee minutes should be a better summary. Mr. Grispon asked for job descriptions and asked why the positions should be approved now instead of July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was requested by Mr. Cooper since he has the need now and it is under the construction funds said Dr. Coale. She and Mr. Anspach added that all personnel must be listed under new personnel and its funding is mentioned. Mr. Anspach added that Mr. Cooper was getting swamped with paperwork with the new construction project. A discussion ensued whether it was funded under the construction or general fund. Mr. Grispon maintained it was a regular personnel hiring. Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item F3. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Grispon voting no.

3. The board approved a part-time .6 (3 days a week) support staff **Secretary to the Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities** to assist with the K-4 and 5-7 building and any additional board approved construction/renovation projects. Compensation will be set at \$12.00 an hour as per the Secretarial plan with partial benefits effective April 23, 2002. Cost will be charged to the construction fund.

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to change the effective date to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Block seconded it. Mr. Schroeder said it was a general fund budgeted position and not a construction fund project position. This should be done in the normal budgetary time of year and doing this now would set a precedent, he said. Mrs. Block expressed agreement. A discussion ensued about the position being upgraded and not going through the usual personnel procedure. Mr. Masciandaro and others asked why it was being voted on now and not in the usual budget. Mr. Pettit asked about the benefits of voting now rather than July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cooper said he needed additional help with the construction projects. Mr. Weber called for a

vote on the amended motion. The board voted 6-3 to approve the amended motion. Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Rocchio, and Mr. Pettit voted no.

4. The board approved a full-time **Maintenance Foreman** position to the Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities to assist with the K-4 and 5-7 buildings and any additional board approved construction/renovation projects. Compensation will be set at \$20.25 an hour as per the Maintenance plan with benefits effective **JULY 1, 2002**. Cost will be charged to the construction fund.

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

- G. The board approved of the following **independent contracts**:
  1. **American Red Cross** to provide first aid training, and CPR as required by medical ACCESS for an additional 15 special education instructional assistants at a cost of \$75 per assistant, which includes textbooks and certification documents. The total cost will be approximately \$1125, which will be reimbursed by the Medical ACCESS Program.
  2. **Buxmont Academy –CSF**, Pipersville, PA, to provide Services for a newly enrolled special education student as per the student's IEP. The cost of the service will be \$94.19 per day for 63 days for a total cost of \$5,933.97 and will be in effect from March 12 through June 12, 2002. Funding will be from the Alternative Education Funds.
  3. **Kristen Callahan**, Moorestown, NJ, to provide four (4) days of direct instruction training for instructional and paraprofessional staff who work with special education students who receive special education services. The cost will be \$750 per day for 4 days not to exceed a total cost of \$3,000 and training will take place between April 22, 2002 and June 30, 2002. Topics will include reading mastery, corrective reading, language reasoning and writing and an overview on spelling mastery. Funding will be provided from funds placed in the 2001/2002 District Budget.
  4. **Invo-Health Care Associates**, Doylestown, PA, to provide Speech and Language Support Services as part of an Extended School Year program for a special education student who receives special education services as per the IEP. The contractor will provide a total of fifteen (15) hours of service at a rate of \$55.00 per hour for a total cost of \$825. Funding will be obtained from District funds not budgeted for the portion of the contract extending from 4/22/02 through 6/28/02 (\$275) and the balance will be reimbursed from the District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/16/02 (\$550).

5. **Invo-Health Care Associates**, Doylestown, PA, to provide Occupational and Physical Therapists for an Extended School Year Program for a special education student who receives special education services as per the IEP. The contractor will provide a total of forty-five (45) hours of service at a rate of \$52.00 per hour for a total cost not to exceed \$2,340. Funding will be obtained from District funds not budgeted for the portion of the contract extending from 4/22/02 through 6/28/02 (\$624) and the balance will be reimbursed from District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/16/02 (\$1716).
6. **Cheryl Marmer**, Havertown, PA, to provide instructional services as part of an Extended School Year Program for a special education student who receives special education services as per the student's IEP. The total cost of the contract will be \$1,850 for 37 hours of service. The funding will be obtained from District funds not budgeted for the portion of the contract extending from on or before 6/24/02 through 6/30/02 (\$250) and the balance will be reimbursed from the District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/31/02 (\$1600).
7. **Jeannetta Burpee Institute**, Blue Bell, PA, to provide sensory integration services as part of an Extended School Year Program for a special education student who receives special education services as the per the student's IEP. The contract will be in effect from 7/1/02 through 8/31/02. The cost of the services will be \$115 per hour for 25 hours not to exceed \$2,875. The service will include direct service, consultation, training, attendance at meetings and report writing. Funding will be reimbursed from the District IDEA Supplement.
8. **St. Edmond's Home**, Rosemont, PA to provide an eight (8) week program as part of an Extended School Year Program for a special education student who receives special education services as per the IEP. The cost of the service will be \$250.00 per week for 8 weeks for a total cost of \$2,000. Funding will be obtained from District Funds not budgeted for the portion of the contract extending from 6/24/02 through 6/28/02 (\$250) and the balance will be reimbursed from the District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/16/02 (\$1,750).
9. **Sue Parsons**, Media, PA, to provide instructional services for a as part of an Extended School Year Program for a special education student who receives special education services as per the student's IEP. The total cost of the contract will be \$4,950 for 99 hours of service. The funding will be obtained from District funds not budgeted for the portion of the contract extending from on or before 6/24/02 through 6/30/02 (\$1,000) and the balance will be reimbursed from the District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/31/02 (\$3,950).

10. **Hear This**, Inc., King of Prussia, PA, to provide twenty (20) hours of auditory rehabilitation therapy for a learning support student at \$60 per hour at a total cost of \$1,200.00 to be paid out of the 2001-2002 Special Education budget.
  11. **Main Line Rehabilitation Center**, Exton, PA for an additional twenty (20) hours (\$125 per hour) of cognitive rehabilitation therapy for a special needs student whose teacher and assistant have changed. These changes necessitate training of the new teacher and new assistant as well as additional training for the student. The total cost will be \$2,500, which will be paid from the 2001-2002 Special Education budget.
  12. **Main Line Rehabilitation Center**, Exton, PA for six (6) hours (\$125 per hour) of cognitive rehabilitation therapy as part of the extended school year 2002 program for a special needs student. The total cost will be \$750, which will be paid through the IDEA funds.
  13. **Camp Sesame Rockwood**, Blue Bell, PA to provide socialization skills to a special needs student as part of his Extended School Year Program 2002. The program will take place from 7/22/02 to 8/16/02 at a total cost of \$2,155.
  14. **Eric Paul**, Phoenixville, PA, to perform a Magic show entitled "I Love to Read" to the first grade at Spring City Elementary School on Wednesday, May 29, 2002. The total cost will not exceed \$175. Funding will be from the Spring City PTA.
  15. **New Life Youth and Family Services** to provide an Extended School Year program for a student who receives special education services as per the IEP. The Contractor will provide a total of forty-five days of service at a rate of \$110.00 per day. The total contract cost shall not exceed four thousand, nine hundred and fifty (\$4,950.00). Funding will be obtained from District funds not budgeted for the portion of the contact extending from 6/17/02 through 6/28/02 (\$1,100.00). Funding will be reimbursed from the District IDEA allocation from 7/1/02 through 8/23/02 (\$3,850.00).
  16. **Pamela Bastings**, West Chester, PA, to provide an assembly for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Blue Team to illustrate and discuss subject matter pertaining to the middle ages and renaissance in accordance with district curriculum. The total cost will not exceed \$85 and will be in effect on May 17, 2002. Funding will be from the Middle School Social Studies Curriculum Account.
- H. The board approved of the following **support staff substitutes**:
- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Helen M. Brennan<br>Royersford, PA | Instructional/Clerical Assistant |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

Deborah A. Brown Bally, PA	Instructional/Clerical Assistant Playground Assistant
Danielle Carrington Trooper, PA	Instructional Asst.
Donna L. DeLeo Collegeville, PA 19426	School Nurse Instructional/Clerical Assistant
Regina T. Golie Royersford, PA	Instructional Assistant Cafeteria Office Clerical/Secretary
Bernard J. Kunz Schwenksville, PA	Custodian/Maintenance

**VI. FINANCE**

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

A. 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:

1/.	<u>Checks Being Held for Board Approval</u> Check No. 85499-85585	\$54,855.55
2/.	<u>Athletic Fund</u> Check No. 293680-293769	\$20,095.33

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items B1 – 3. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved 8-1. Mr. Weber voted no.

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

**1. LIMERICK ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS**

Architectural Studio	Professional Services	\$	2,767.00
Canon Business	Fax Machine & 3 yr Maint Agrmt	\$	955.00
Flex-Y-Plan	Furniture-Receptionist Area	\$	506.10
Virco	20 Student Chairs-Guidance	\$	620.00
	TOTAL	\$	4,848.10

**2. OAKS ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS**

Berkshire Systems Inc. Wireless Microphone System	\$ 370.00
TOTAL	\$ 370.00

**3. BECHTEL PROPERTY – 5, 6, 7 SCHOOL**

Arro Consulting, Inc. Professional Services (3 Inv.)	\$ 22,040.61
*Fox Rothschild O’Brien Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 1,600.00
*R.M. Shoemaker Co. Applic. #4- General Contractor	\$1,234,813.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,258,453.61

Mrs. Block asked about the soil testing under B4. Mr. Cooper said it was not an environmental issue but a normal part of procedure that is required by local and state authorities. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item B4. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 7-2 with Mr. Weber and Mr. Cummins voting no.

**4. K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Upper Providence Twp. Professional Services	\$ 1,714.24
U.S. Engineering Lab. Soil Testing & Inspection	\$ 4,213.82
*Fox Rothschild O’Brien Professional Services	\$ 100.00
*U.S. Engineering Lab. Soil Testing & Inspection	\$ 3,437.81
*R.M. Shoemaker Co. Applic. #4- General Contractor	\$ 1,200,068.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,209,533.87

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items D – I. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 8-1. Mrs. Block voted against it.

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

Concession Stand/Storage Project

*Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. Misc. Plumbing Supplies (5 inv)	\$ 3,010.79
TOTAL	\$ 3,010.79

E. The board approved of the following exonerations from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

Limerick Township	No.
Royersford Borough	No.
Spring City Borough	No.
Upper Providence Township	No.

F. The board approved of the following additions/deletions from the per capita tax for 2001-2002:

Limerick Township Additions	No. 1- 51
Royersford Borough Additions	No. 91
Royersford Borough Deletions	No. 191-195
Upper Providence Township Additions	No. 233
Upper Providence Township Deletions	No. 470-502

- G. The board approved the following Treasurers' Reports:  
 Treasurer's Report – March 31, 2002  
 Money Market – March 31, 2002  
 Natatorium Fund – March 31, 2002  
 Checking Accounts – March 31, 2002  
 Payroll Account – March 31, 2002  
 Athletic Fund – March 31, 2002  
 Investment Schedule Capital Reserve – March 31, 2002  
 Investment Schedule General Fund – March 31, 2002  
 Note of 2000 – March 31, 2002  
 G.O.B. of 1997-99– March 31, 2002  
 G.O.B. of 1999 – March 31, 2002  
 Capital Reserve Fund – March 31, 2002  
 Tax Account – March 31, 2002  
 Series A 2001 – March 31, 2002  
 List of Bills – April 17, 2002  
 Revenue Budget Report – March 31, 2002  
 Summary Budget Report – March 31, 2002  
 Check Register – March 31, 2002
- H. The board approved the following reports:  
 Cafeteria Investment Schedule – March 31, 2002  
 Cafeteria Savings Schedule – March 31, 2002  
 Cafeteria Checking Account – March 31, 2002  
 Cafeteria Participation Report – March 31, 2002  
 Cafeteria Money Market – March 31, 2002  
 Cafeteria Money Market – February 28, 2002  
 Use of Facilities Report – April 22, 2002  
 List of Bills – March 22, 2002  
 Vendor Low Bid Recap Summary – April 19, 2002
- I. The board approved authorization for Ed Murray of Dolphin & Bradbury, Inc. to proceed with development of the Official Statement in order to borrow a bond in the amount of \$10,000,000 (bank qualified), after July 1, 2002. The additional \$10 million will meet financial obligations of the current building projects under construction (U.P Elementary School, new Intermediate School, and the addition of classrooms to U.P. Elementary School.)

## VII. PROPERTY

Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item A. Mrs. Block seconded it. It was VOTED DOWN by a vote of 4 – 5. Mr. Rocchio, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Masciandaro, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Weber voted no.

- A. THE BOARD VOTED AGAINST Spring-Ford Area School District to enter into a contract with Arthur Altemose Architects for the six classroom addition at Spring City Elementary School.

**VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Items A – J. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved the Summer Instrumental Program to be held at the Middle School. The program would run for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district summer school program, from Monday, June 24 through Friday, July 26, 2002. Weekly lessons would be offered to students on a tuition basis, and there would be no cost to the school district. The cost would be \$15.00 per half hour private lesson. All tuition money that is collected would be submitted to the Business Office and the teachers, (from the Spring-Ford music faculty), would be paid at the current summer school salary rate of \$28.00/hour. This has been a very worthwhile and well-attended program during the past years and we would like to continue it this summer.
- B. The board approved the 2002 Summer School Program at the Spring-Ford Senior High School. It is anticipated that there will be a need for teachers in English, Science, Mathematics, and Social Studies. The dates for this year's program will be Monday, June 17 - Friday, July 19, 2002 (no session July 4, Independence Day holiday) allowing for almost 50 hours of instruction. Class periods will be from 7:50 – 10:00 a.m. and 10:05 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Staff hours will total approximately 405 hours. Staff rate this year is \$28.00 per hour plus benefits. Tuition rates would be \$200.00 per one credit and \$400.00 per one credit for non-resident students. Summer school is fully funded by tuition payments.
- C. The board approved the 2002 Summer School Program at the Spring-Ford Middle School. Courses will be offered to students who failed to meet necessary course requirements. Students will be able to take up to a maximum of two courses. The dates for this year's program will be Monday, June 24 – Friday, July 26, 2002 (no session July 4, Independence Day holiday). Class periods will be from 8:00 – 9:50 a.m. and 10:00 – 11:50 a.m. Staff rate this year is \$28.00 per hour plus benefits. Tuition rates are \$200.00 per credit for resident students and \$400.00 per credit for non-resident students. Summer school is fully funded by tuition payments. The estimated total number of hours at the present time is 328, utilizing 3 instructors and 1 director, for approximately 50 students. Quantity of teachers is student-driven. The number generated is based on last year's student numbers. If more students require summer school, another teacher may need to be added.
- D. The board approved the Brooke Summer Library Program to run for six weeks. Tentative dates are June 25 through August 6, 2002, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day). The library program will operate from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours/day x 12 days = 48 hours). Cost is \$576 plus benefits for library assistant at \$12 per hour x 48 hours and will come from the library budget.

- E. The board approved the Limerick Summer Library Program to run for six weeks. Tentative dates are June 25 through August 6, 2002, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day). The library program will operate from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours/day x 12 days = 48 hours). Cost is \$576 plus benefits for library assistant at \$12 per hour x 48 hours and will come from the library budget.
- F. The board approved the Royersford Summer Library program to run for six weeks. Tentative dates are June 18 through July 30, 2002, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day). The library program will operate from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours/day x 12 days = 48 hours). Cost is \$576 plus benefits for library assistant at \$12 per hour x 48 hours and will come from the library budget.
- G. The board approved the Oaks Summer Library program to run for six weeks. Tentative dates are June 18 through July 30, 2002, on Tuesdays and Thursdays (closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence Day). The library program will operate from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (4 hours/day x 12 days = 48 hours). Cost is \$576 plus benefits for library assistant at \$12 per hour x 48 hours and will come from the library budget.
- H. The board approved the lease of approximately 820 desktop computers and 135 laptop computers to replace computers leased in the Summer of 1999. The value of the new Compaq computers is approximately \$1,274,000. The annual cost of the lease will be approximately \$436,300 for 3 years with a fair market value buyout in the fourth year (estimated to be in the neighborhood on \$152,000). Administration is still in the process of determining the lease provider with the best rate. The lease price is a change order to State Contract 5850-01 pricing to reduce the price. Compaq has agreed to a voluntary reduction below the 5850-01 pricing. Equipment in this lease includes all high school computers, one Middle School lab, all classroom computers in the Middle School and Intermediate School, and two computers in each third and fourth grade classroom. The lease also includes replacement of approximately 100 laptops and new laptops for Instructional Assistants for Technology and new staff. Approval of this item now will allow the necessary time to order the equipment for arrival in mid-June, maximizing the time available for imaging and installation. Funding will be from the Technology Fund and is an anticipated expenditure in the current budget.
- I. The board approved the Administration to extract the maximum residual value from replaced computer equipment from prior purchases and when leases are closed out.

- J. The board approved for Jackie Fox to conduct Everyday Math training at the Intermediate School for teachers in grades 5 and 6 on Tuesday, April 30, 2002. This training is the first in the implementation of the Everyday Math series for the 2002-2003 school year. Fee for the consultant is \$500 plus expenses and will come from the Curriculum budget.

#### IX. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Stokes asked to have her name deleted from Item A. Mrs. Block requested that Mr. Weber attend. He said he would be out of town. Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

The following individuals are recommended for attendance at the following conferences/workshops:

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

#### DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Martha Magee Block, Ed Cummins, John S. Grispon, Michael Masciandaro, Bernard Pettit, Raymond Rocchio, Jr., and Richard J. Schroeder**, Board Members, and **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend a *“Workshop on School Governance”* on May 15, 2002, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The cost of the workshop is \$45.00 from the 580 account.

Mr. Schroeder asked to be added to Item C. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the amended Item C – J. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- B. **Robert A. Weber**, President of the Board, **John S. Grispon**, Vice President of the Board, and **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend the *“Legislative Breakfast”* at the William Penn Inn, Gwynedd, PA on May 2, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$66.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **John S. Grispon**, Vice President of the Board, **Richard J. Schroeder**, Treasurer of the Board, and **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools to attend *“PSBA Region 11 Meeting – Region Update”* at Williamson Restaurant in Horsham, PA on May 22, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$80.00 from the 580 account.
- D. **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend *“Superintendent’s PSSA Workshop”* on June 19, 2002 in State College, PA. The total cost of the workshop is \$360.00 from the 580 account.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

- E. **Dr. Lucille F. Candeloro**, District Staff Development Coordinator, to attend, "*PSSA Reading Range-Finding Meeting*" in Harrisburg, PA on May 8, 9, and 10, 2002. Dr. Candeloro has been invited to participate in the process of examining students' PSSA performance task responses for the purpose of determining score ranges and anchor/exemplar papers. There is no cost to the District. No substitute is needed.

**ELEMENTARY**

- F. **Marion E. Polto**, instructional assistant, to attend Non-Violent Crisis Training at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on April 16 & 17, 2002. No registration fee, but mileage and lunch fees are applicable for a cost of \$50 for the two days from the 580 account.
- G. **Stephanie Cooper**, Teacher at **Limerick** Elementary School, to attend, "*Using Guided Reading to Help Your Students Become Better Readers*" on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at the Radisson Hotel in King of Prussia, PA. Total Cost of the conference is \$330 - \$185 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- H. **Ann Dieter**, Teacher at **Limerick** Elementary School, to attend "*Success for Struggling Readers*" at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, June 5, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$329 - \$184 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- I. **Susan Larimer**, Teacher at **Oaks** Elementary School, to attend, "*Using Literacy to Enhance Your Reading and Writing Program*" on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at the Radisson Hotel in King of Prussia, PA. Total cost of the conference is \$310 - \$165 from the 580 account and \$145 from the substitute account.
- J. **Christine Raichle**, Guidance Counselor at Spring City and School Psychologist at Limerick Elementary School, to attend "*Eating Disorders in Children and Teens*" at the M.C.I.U in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, May 7, 2002. The total cost for the workshop is \$30.00 – from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- A. The following policies were approved by the board:
1. **Policy #217** – Pupils: Graduation Requirements
  2. **Policy #802** – Operations: School Organization
  3. **Policy #804** – Operations: School Day
- B. The board approved entering into an agreement with the **Pennsylvania Economy League** (PEL) to provide a comprehensive update of the PEL December 1998 analysis of demographics and community growth patterns and generate revised projections of public school enrollment in the Spring in the amount of \$6,800. PEL would provide a preliminary report to the district during the summer of 2002 and a final report in the Fall of 2002 subsequent to the district's submission of its current enrollment to the PDE. PEL would not only utilize data, including live births, but would study and analyze demographics and community growth patterns.

Mrs. Block said she would vote in favor of Item C and said she was disappointed with board members who support adding capacity to Upper Providence but voted against adding classrooms to Spring City. She said this vote was due to socioeconomic prejudice. Mr. Cummins supported her statement and said he would vote for the motion too. He said if test scores drop, there should be accountability of those school board members who voted against adding capacity to Spring City. Mr. Schroeder said he was in favor of Item C and the eight classrooms was presented to the District-Wide Facilities Committee and all representatives from the community and administrative staff supported an option including an addition to Spring City. Mr. Weber said the public was not presented with an option for year round schools. He asked if the addition would add a need for an assistant principal. Dr. Coale said yes. Mrs. Block said the administration studied year round school and no other school board member supports year round school. Mr. Masciandaro said the discussion was for 2003 onward, not next year. He said it was a matter of timing. Mr. Pettit said it is not a socioeconomic issue. He said they failed to show a need at this time. Mr. Cummins countered by saying the capacity is needed now at Brooke. Mrs. Block accused board members of caving into parent demands regarding the bias against Spring City. She brought up lower class sizes at Oaks and Spring City. Mr. Rocchio said Dr. Coale didn't say that the district needed both additions. Mr. Grispon said he wanted the bar graph number on page 14 with no disaggregating of the

data. Discussion ensued. Mr. Grispon said that the district doesn't have enough classroom capacity. Mr. Schroeder asked Dr. Coale for the PDE projections for next year. Discussion ensued. Mr. Schroeder said his point was that overcrowding is an issue and that the Upper Providence addition helps but doesn't solve the problem. He said the most cost effective way to add permanent space is to add classroom space to Spring City. He said the present small size of the facility is not cost effective and the district should utilize it better. Mr. Schroeder said he wanted to make a motion to reconsider adding classroom space to Spring City. Mr. Weber said year round schools would be an efficient use of space. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item C. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It passed 7-2 with Mr. Weber and Mr. Grispon voting against it.

- C. The board approved submitting a mandate waiver seeking relief from Section 7-751 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 for the eight-room addition to the Upper Providence Elementary School project.

**XI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. The following new policies were submitted as a first reading this evening:
  - 1. **Policy #707** – Use of School Facilities
  - 2. **Policy #906.1** – Anonymous Communications

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A – D. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

**PERSONNEL**

- A. The board approved of the following **independent contract** for **Adventure Therapy Associates**, Pottstown, PA, to provide an assembly for the Middle School students to illustrate and discuss social communication skills, leadership, interpersonal problem solving, anger management, self-esteem, and life skills development. The total cost of the contract will be \$162.50 per hour for 4 hours not to exceed \$650 and will be in effect from March until May 2002. Funding will be from the Middle School Activity Account.

- B. The board approved of the following **Professional substitutes**:

Karen L. Bleakly Hatfield, PA	Mentally and or/Phys Handicapped West Chester University
Patricia G. Hyatt Boyertown, PA	Mentally Handicapped Immaculata College

Barbara Nichols  
Royersford, PA

Instructional/Clerical Assistant

- C. The board approved of an additional teacher of the autistic be hired and an additional instructional assistant for the 2002 Summer Extended School Year program to be held at Limerick Elementary School. The additional staff is needed because of two new students being added to the autistic program bringing the summer program number to ten, which is two above the maximum, permitted by Federal and State Laws. The funds for these positions will come from IDEA monies.
- D. The board approved of the **resignation-retirement**, with regret of **Sandra Francella**, Playground Assistant at Oaks Elementary School, effective May 2, 2002, for the purpose of furthering her education.

**FINANCE**

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

- A. Bids have been received and awarded to the highest successful bidders for the following Shop Equipment and Vehicles:

Oliver Table Saw	\$1,311.00
Powermatic Jointer	\$ 635.00
Yates American Machine Band Saw	\$ 478.00
Dewalt Radial Arm Saw	\$ 615.50
1989 Stake Body Truck	\$ 526.00
1998 Dodge ¾ Ton Pick-Up Truck	\$ 700.00
1988 Chevy Van	\$ 350.00
1983 Chevy Van	\$ 177.00

(Copy is available in Board Agenda Packets)

The board approved of Kades-Margolis who has been selected by the Executive Board of the Spring-Ford Education Association as one of the six (6) tax-deferred investment programs for all Spring-Ford employees. Kades-Margolis replaces the TSA Company of Mutual of New York (MONY) Company.

**IX. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A. It was seconded by Mr. Grispon. The board approved it 9-0.

The following individual was approved for attendance at the following conference/workshop:

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

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- A. **Denise Whitmore**, High School Head Custodian, to attend Facilities Management Clinic in Philadelphia from May 7 & 8, 2002. Denise will be attending a two-day conference on issues which affect custodial procedure and products. The total cost for the clinic is \$125 from the 580 account.

Mr. Weber reported that there was an unveiling of a mural by the art students in the hallway at 7 p.m. He thanked students involved for a job well done.

Mr. Weber announced that the board met in executive session on legal issues and the board will meet again in executive session on personnel after the board meeting.

**XIII. SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

There was none.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Mary D’Angelis**, Upper Providence

Since Brooke was closed in March at an enrollment of 767, how is it that enrollment is projected at over 800 for next year. Dr. Coale said it was not an accurate estimate and that the administration is still working with it. She mentioned a higher kindergarten enrollment and early intervention students affecting the numbers. It may be well under 800 until psychological evaluations and determinations are completed. Some special ed children might be assigned elsewhere, Dr. Coale said. Mrs. D’Angelis asked if the amended enrollment plan stands. Yes, said Dr. Coale. Mrs. D’Angelis asked board members why more Brooke students aren’t being bused to Spring City. She expressed support for Mr. Schroeder’s and Mrs. Block’s comments. The board approved the administration’s plan said Mr. Weber.

**Barbara Liounis** Upper Providence

Asked what the purpose is of the school board. To direct the administration as to what to do said Mr. Weber. She said that she wished

the board would remember their educational and fiscal responsibilities. Said her children attend Oaks Elementary and she hadn't seen numbers as low as 18 or 19 children per classroom. Said if room is at Spring City, then that's where children should go. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported Spring City scores were good, she said.

**Kathleen Bryant**, Upper Providence

Asked for the percentage of Upper Providence children attending the various elementary schools. Dr. Coale replied that all children attending Oaks are Upper Providence children; about 30-40% of the children attending Brooke; and 100 plus attend Royersford. Mrs. Bryant asked which of the school board members had children attending Oaks, then asked what those class sizes were. Mr. Masciandaro said 25. Mr. Rocchio said 22. These numbers included special education students. Mr. Rocchio said he had no choice and his children were redistricted. The solicitor said that Mrs. Bryant was not entitled to identify particular board members' children's classes. Dr. Coale invited Mrs. Bryant to submit her questions in writing to the District Office. Mrs. Bryant referred to Oaks as the last bastion of schools to be used for overflow and asked why. It is included in the plan said Dr. Coale. It was the last because of a recommendation from the Department of Transportation because of the distance said Dr. Coale. Mrs. Bryant inferred that the reason was because two board members' children attend the school. Mr. Weber said school board members do not influence which school is filled up last.

Mrs. Stokes said that her son is a first grader at Brooke and he is getting an excellent education in a classroom of 25 kids. She said parents have an option to send their children to Spring City. Mr. Masciandaro asked board members to view the videotape of the last board meeting. He added that the board needs to discuss the Winnies Property. Mr. Schroeder asked if the tape showed that the administration supported additional classrooms being placed at the Spring City site? Dr. Coale said she is not opposed to adding classrooms to Spring City but opposed that it was approved in the absence of three board members. She also said that she didn't think busing kids to a different school in October was desirable. The data should drive the decision making, she added. Mr. Schroeder asked if the administration would support the addition opening in August 2004. Dr. Coale said the only building that you can add an addition to is Spring City Elementary. If this doesn't happen, in 2005-06, overcrowding will occur. The issue is redistricting, not the addition to Spring City, said Dr. Coale. Mrs. Block said more classroom space was needed and that she was surprised that teachers weren't filing grievances and parents filing lawsuits. Mr. Pettit said that there is no reason not to redistrict now since capacity is at Spring City. Mr. Grispon said the district must do something better than relocatables. He added that his child received a better education back in 1988-94 than children do now.

**NEW MOTION**

Mr. Schroeder said that he wanted to make a **motion to reaffirm the mission statement by seeing that no art or music room in the district is used for anything than art or music to meet its mission of delivering quality education effective August 2002-03**. Mr. Cummins and Mrs. Block seconded it. Mr. Cummins said this motion was an exercise in futility. Debate and discussion ensued regarding using Spring City's capacity. Mr. Pettit asked the administration if it was possible not to use music or art rooms. Dr. Coale said no, the music room would be used as a classroom and the board should address beyond 2002. She added that 811 is not firm and that she hopes to keep it under 811. Mr. Grispon said the board determines whether art or music rooms are used as classrooms, not the administration. Mr. Masciandaro asked how many total art and music classrooms are being used now. Dr. Coale said that all art and music classes are using their own classrooms at all elementary schools except for Spring City, where the music classroom is used for special ed. Dr. Coale discussed current projections and concluded that there wouldn't be a need next year to use art or music rooms, outside of Brooke and Spring City. Debate and discussion ensued about the Spring City addition and whether it was better to do it sooner or later. Dr. Coale said that she didn't believe the new school could be built by 2005. She said the board should consider adding an addition to Spring City. In August, a new redistricting plan for August 2003 will be considered. Dr. Coale said the board should consider Spring City when redistricting in August 2003-04. She also said that all board members need to attend the next District-Wide Facilities Committee or have a special board meeting. She added that she mentioned the test scores to the facilities committee and its decisions being accountable to the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Schroeder announced that he would withdraw his motion if the administration says there is no adequate space to provide for music at Brooke. Mr. Grispon refused to withdraw his second. Therefore, the motion was still on the floor. The board voted on it and the motion was voted down 4-1-4 with Mr. Rocchio abstaining, and Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Petit, Mr. Masciandaro, and Mr. Weber voting no. Mr. Grispon said the board's plan was to cease use of relocatables at Brooke.

**NEW MOTION**

Mrs. Block made a motion that **for the 2002-03 school year that there be no student enrolled over 760 children at Brooke Elementary**. Mr. Grispon seconded the motion. Mrs. Block said that 760 is the number on the April 2002 enrollment report and the building was closed in March. The board voted against the motion 4-5. Mr. Pettit, Mr. Masciandaro, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Masciandaro, and Mr. Weber voted no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. The board adjourned at 11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael V. Masciandaro  
Board Secretary

Pat Dillon  
Recording Clerk