

On April 23, 2012 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
- Region II: Clara M. Gudolonis, Dawn R. Heine and Julie A. Mullin
- Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi and Mark P. Dehnert
- Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello
- Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
- Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

The following Board Members were absent: **Edward T. Dressler** and **David R. Shafer**

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Goodin stated that the Girls' Basketball Team had quite a season this year setting numerous school records and going further in the state playoffs than any other basketball team in Spring-Ford history. Dr. Goodin reported that not only did they have a good year on the court but they also participated in numerous community events such as Limerick Days, the Buddy Program at the high school, the elementary mentoring program, they attended youth league basketball games, they worked with a couple of youth basketball teams in their practices and more importantly the girls are strong academically. Dr. Goodin stated that some of the season highlights include the most wins in a season for boys or girls with 30 wins, they had the highest winning percentage with 91% and 30 wins and 3 losses, they had the most wins in a row for boys or girls with 26, they had the lowest total points in a game scored against with 13, first District I Basketball title for boys or girls when they beat North Penn by a score of 46-33, first team boys or girls to reach the PIAA State Semi-Final game, they won their 4th PAC 10 Title which ties the conference record, and they ranked 10th in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Dr. Goodin commented that the girls had a phenomenal year and for anyone who got out to see the games it was very exciting and well worth watching. Dr. Goodin introduced each player individually starting with the Junior Varsity Team and then proceeded to the Varsity Team. He gave a brief synopsis of each player's contributions on the court. Dr. Goodin next introduced the coaches of the Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams.

Coach Rinehimer thanked his staff saying if he is recognized for any accomplishments it is because of the staff that he has who are outstanding, hardworking and the best. Coach Rinehimer stated that it was a special year and he pointed out the saying on the girl's shirts which said "Together". Coach Rinehimer commented that when you have a saying that means something then you see the power of it. Coach Rinehimer thanked the community for coming together and parents for coming together and getting behind the team. Coach Rinehimer added that the team has taken what the School Board has given them and they have taken full advantage of it academically and athletically. He stated that the girls are very grateful for the facilities they have and the best education they could receive. Coach Rinehimer thanked the girls for the memories they gave him this year.

Mr. DiBello presented Resolution 2012-13 to the coaching staff saying in recognition of their successful season on behalf of the Board he would like to present them with this resolution. Mr. DiBello expressed how proud the district and the Board are of the coaching staff and the girls. He commended them on their season, thanked them and said that everyone looks forward to next year.

Representatives of the team stated that they wanted to thank everyone in the community for tonight and for the whole season as they really supported them and it was that support that got them where they were and how they ended the season. They also recognized one of their biggest fan who was with them throughout the entire season. They presented McKenna Little with a poster that was signed by every member of the team. McKenna's mom thanked the girls and stated that they were wonderful role models for her daughter.

Mr. McDaniel stated that if anyone went back and read through the comments from this seasons games you would see that these girls had more class than some of the coaches they played against. He said they are phenomenal and it is not just a show but it is real. Mr. McDaniel stated that just as the coaches are proud so should Spring-Ford be proud of what is being produced here at Spring-Ford High School and in the Spring-Ford School District.

Mr. Ciresi addressed Mr. McDaniel saying congratulations and stated that he believes that this year we have some of the best kids we have ever seen. He stated that he has been at games watched how our kids react compared to some of the other team's kids and he thinks every parent and every resident should know how well our children represent our community. Mr. Ciresi commented that it is a great tribute to our coaching staff, our teaching staff, our principals, administrators and to Mr. McDaniel. Mr. Ciresi stated that he may not know a lot about sports but he does know about kids who are respectful and represent the community well. Mr. Ciresi said that he cannot be any prouder of any of the kids here tonight and the kids who went to Ireland and how we were represented as a community. Mr. Ciresi stated that this comes from the parents at home and what the students are learning in our buildings. Mr. Ciresi commented that Mr. McDaniel is the shining example out of the many people he knows in the district and he thanked Mr. McDaniel for being an inspiration to everyone one of the kids here tonight.

Mr. DiBello commented that in listening to the stats and watching the girls play this year, he pities the opponents next year as he believes our girls will be out for blood. Mr. DiBello stated that it is a well-coached team with a lot of talent and he looks forward to the season next year. Mr. DiBello said not only are these students athletes but academically they are also shining within our district and that makes us proud as a community and a district. Mr. DiBello stated that it is not just about sports but it is about teamwork, education, togetherness, and striving

for success so there are a lot of things built into our program through our administration and our coaching staff. Mr. DiBello thanked the parents for providing us with these students because without them we would have a very boring agenda this evening. Mr. DiBello congratulated the girls on a great job this year and stated that everyone is looking forward to next year. He asked how many seniors the team would be losing and the response was 3. Mr. DiBello stated that we have almost a full team next year ready to come back and possibly take it to the next level.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution 2012-13** in recognition of the Spring-Ford Girls' Basketball Team, Coach Jeffrey Rinehimer, and his Assistant Coaches Mickey McDaniel, Jeff Mast, Geoff Kahler and volunteer coach Randy Doaty, for winning the 2011 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship and District One Championship.

The Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange presentation was postponed until the end of the meeting.

- B. Presentation on the Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange Program.

III. **NEW APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Ciresi made a motion and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

- A. The Board approved the March 19, 2012 Work Session Minutes.
- B. The Board approved the March 26, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes.

IV. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Student Rep. Report Elizabeth Brady

Elizabeth reported that April is an eventful month and that students took the writing PSSA last week and this week they are taking the science PSSA. The sophomores had a Holocaust speaker come in and speak to them about his experiences. Elizabeth reported that he did a fantastic job, and after he was done speaking the seniors in student council, as well as Mr. Roach and herself, had the opportunity to have lunch with him. She stated that his experience was traumatic, but that she learned a lot because of having this opportunity to meet him. Elizabeth next reported that April is also always a fun month around school as there is prom to look forward to but especially post-prom. The SADD Club helped to put together and present a mock crash assembly that highlighted the dangers of drinking and driving. The assembly seemed to resonate with the students so it was a good assembly to have right before prom night. Elizabeth commented that this year was the first year that Spring-Ford was not able to use The Valley Forge Convention Center as their venue, so Drexelbrook was chosen instead. Elizabeth reported that it was a very nice venue and the students seemed to be pretty impressed with it. She added that the wait service was very friendly and the food was good. The venue was big enough to accommodate all of the students who attended and provided lovely scenery. All of the students had a great time. Elizabeth next reported that post prom was amazing. This year's theme was "A Night in the Big Apple" and even though the event lasted for five hours, she never ran out of things to do. The moon bounce room was a big hit with the students. There were many obstacle courses where students could race their friends and she even saw some of the Board Members get in on the action. The henna tattoo artists were another big attraction along with the airbrush tattoo artists. The whole cafeteria was set up like Coney Island and it was filled with food and carnival games like skeet ball. Elizabeth commented that Mr. DiBello and Mr. Ciresi were serving Rita's water ice all night and

they stayed until the very end. There was also a live band playing in the auditorium and a magic show in the Hurda Learning Center and many, many more activities. Elizabeth stated that there were awesome prizes for students to win such as an iPad, a Kindle, a \$250 gift card to Tiffany and Co., and much more. She added that the whole night was incredibly fun and she is already excited for next year's festivities. Elizabeth concluded by saying all in all, April was very exciting month and it is flying by very quickly. She stated that it is hard to believe that school is going to be out in less than two months. Elizabeth showed a video presentation along with pictures taken at the prom and post prom.

Mr. Ciresi announced that this was his 6th post prom and every year it gets better and better. Mr. Ciresi stated that the kids always have a great time and there has never been an incident which goes back to what was mentioned before about having a great bunch of kids. Mr. Ciresi thanked the SNAP Committee. Mr. Ciresi commented that the SNAP Committee fundraises all year long and they are asking for volunteers with a few more odd jobs yet to be done this year. Mr. Ciresi stated that he first got involved when his son was in kindergarten and he now has six more years before his son will graduate and he urged everyone to get involved whether they have kids in the district, kids who have graduated or kids who are coming up the ranks because it is an absolutely wonderful night.

Curriculum/Technology Julie Mullin 1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Curriculum Committee met on April 3rd where Mr. Reynolds updated the Committee on the ongoing technology refresh and he also reviewed the results of the classroom computer projector audit. Mrs. Mullin thanked Mr. Reynolds for taking all of this on proactively and supplying them with the real information necessary for decisions to be made. Dr. Floyd presented an overview of the Hybrid Learning implementation plans for the 2012-13 school year over at Spring City Elementary. Dr. Floyd also did an informational presentation on Common Core State Standards which the Committee agreed would probably be a presentation down the road for the entire Board. Mrs. Mullin stated that this is something that would impact many of the decisions that they would be making. Discussion on the copyright law was pushed back and will be added to the May meeting.

Personnel Bernard Pettit

Mr. Pettit reported that the Personnel Committee met on two separate occasions this past week. The Committee met with the RN's on the 17th to discuss the upcoming agreements and the proposals from the representatives which were received and acknowledged and will be the basis for further discussion with the full Board. Mr. Pettit reported that on the same evening they met with Steve Reynolds to discuss some possible changes in technical systems in order to improve the technical support for the entire district. Mr. Pettit stated that this too will be an ongoing discussion. Mr. Pettit reported that the Personnel Committee also met with Bruce Cooper to discuss the current status of maintenance and custodial duties. Mr. Pettit stated that on April 19th the Personnel Committee met with food service representatives, custodian and maintenance representatives, to discuss upcoming agreements which will be presented to the full Board. Mr. Pettit added that there is another meeting scheduled for the secretaries, instructional assistants and the Act 93 group. Once all meetings take place then the entire Board will meet in order to discuss this completely and then get back to the individual groups.

Policy**Julie Mullin****2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Mullin reported that the Policy Committee met on April 11th and Mrs. Zelle presented on new Policy #822, regarding automated external defibrillators. Mrs. Sanderson presented a much needed update to Policy 810 on transportation. Mrs. Mullin thanked both ladies and Mr. Roche for helping clean up and identify policies that either did not exist or needed desperate updating. The Committee discussed the district's nepotism policy and as per Mr. Shafer's request, Mrs. Leiss has been asked to attend the next Policy Committee meeting in order to wrap up the fate of this policy. The Committee also discussed the Use of Facilities Policy #707 and there are some wording questions for the solicitor which will help them clean up the policy.

Mr. DiBello commented that he was watching the Today Show recently and they were doing a report on policies that school districts were implementing and one of those policies pertains to teachers friending students on social networks. Mr. DiBello commented that the policies state no teacher or administrator should friend a student on a social network. Mr. DiBello said he found this interesting and possibly it is something we may want to look at during an upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

Mrs. Mullin asked if Mr. Roche could check surrounding districts for that so that it can be added to the May meeting agenda. Mr. Roche replied that he would do this and often it is attached to an acceptable use policy in terms of the district and it is one of those things that is better to be proactive rather than reactive. Mr. DiBello added that it may not relate to any teachers in our district but one of the main concerns is that people who have Facebook accounts or whatever have at times put up pictures of parties that have taken place over a weekend showing adult activities and if a student is a friend of a teacher then they would have access to those pictures. Mr. DiBello stated that this is something we could look at to be proactive.

Property**Joseph Ciresi****2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Property Committee met on April 10th. He stated that the new high school digital sign has been ordered and we are currently waiting for that to come in. The Committee discussed the cleaning of the district buildings and looking at some different options for next year. Mr. Ciresi reported that the runner's gate has been ordered for the track at the high school and the 8th and 9th grade batting cages have been ordered. Mr. Ciresi stated that as of the date of this report the district has saved \$275,000 from last year on our electric usage. Mr. Ciresi added that the drawings to change the configuration of the entrance and the office at Brooke Elementary School are done and this work will begin at the close of the school year. The playground and parking lot expansion project at Royersford Elementary has been done and the reconfiguration of the lobby is also underway. The high school softball scoreboard and bleachers have been ordered and we are currently waiting on them to come in. The finalization on the bids for the lights is scheduled for the 25th. The Committee discussed the idea of the Health and Wellness Center, one proposal was to build it over by the baseball stadium, and a rough estimate on just the building of a 2 story structure before furnishing it was somewhere in the range of \$3.5 to \$4 million so ongoing conversations will take place on this. Mrs. Wellington was present to make a presentation along with Daniel a student from the Western Center on the arboretum which sits behind the 9th Grade Center. Mr. Ciresi stated that he missed the portion of last week's Work Session meeting where a proposal was put forth from the floor to fund the arboretum to be restored back to where it can be and should be. Mr. Ciresi added that Mrs. Wellington has also been going out and trying to find donations and the one thing she asked is that the project would not exceed \$30,000; the students from the Western Center would do the work so we would not have to pay labor costs so it would only

be the cost of the expenses. Mr. Ciresi stated that he knows the motion failed last week but he would like to re-propose the motion tonight. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to fund the restoration of the arboretum that sits behind the 9th Grade Center not to exceed \$30,000 less any donations that come in over the course of the next couple of years. The funding would come from some of the funds left over from the High School Construction Project Bond. Mr. Pettit seconded the motion.

Mr. Dehnert questioned why the motion is coming from the table and why the motion did not go on the agenda like all the other items that the Board is going to consider. He questioned why we are doing this differently. Mr. Dehnert also asked what kind of procurement pools will be in place if the school district is going to fund this and does it need to go out to bid since it is \$30,000 for the materials we are going to buy. Mr. Davis replied that the new limit is \$18,000 but he would infer that there would be multiple vendors under this as long as you do not break it up for the purpose of evading the law. Mr. Davis stated that as long as we do not exceed the bid limit we will be okay, we may need to get quotations, but the procurement laws will be followed as we would for any other item.

Mr. Dehnert asked how will handle accepting donations and is there a process for this. Mr. Davis replied that he does not know what Mr. Dehnert had in mind but it would be pretty straightforward so if someone earmarked money and donated it to the district for that particular use then Tim will earmark it and reimburse the district for what they have spent. Mr. Dehnert commented that what he stated last week was that this project is \$30,000 and he likes the idea of the arboretum but he does not like the idea of using taxpayer money to build it. Mr. Dehnert suggested that we go out first and try to get donations particularly since this project is not going to be started until next fall.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mrs. Wellington to talk about some donations that she has received already. Mrs. Wellington commented that she has been in touch with Mr. Anspach and the money will be run through the Education Foundation and the funds will be sent in with an annotation that the money is to be used for the Arboretum Project. Mrs. Wellington reported that she has a promise of a check but she is not sure of the amount yet. She also has a promise of the donation of all of the mum plants which amounts to approximately 30 plants at \$8.00 each and this promise will be fulfilled by Miller's Greenhouse in Parkerford. Dewey Tree has also offered to give topsoil, mulch, grass seed and fertilizer to redo the grassy parts so the project is off and running. Mrs. Wellington stated that the purpose of the \$30,000 is because it will take time to raise the money and they would like to at least be able to do the planting in the fall so knowing that they have the money they can get started while the checks and pledges are still coming in. Mrs. Wellington reported that they have an aggressive schedule and they also plan on looking for grants for the bigger pieces such as the stream and the deck. Mrs. Wellington added that they are working on someone who may be able to donate the hard-scaping material. Mrs. Wellington said if all of these things come in then hopefully it will not cost the district anything and they will be able to do this very ambitious project. Mrs. Wellington reported that the project area is 265ft. X 100ft. so it is a big area but she is confident that they will get it done.

Mr. DiBello commented that he originally made this motion last week because he sees that there are many things we do in the district and we always question the educational value. Mr. DiBello stated that this is one of those projects where we are tying in multiple classes not only from the Spring-Ford standpoint but also from the other sending school districts at the Western Center. There are multiple shops that will participate in the project and by the district providing the seed money knowing Mrs. Wellington as he does if she sets out to raise

the money, he is not going to task her with raising all of it, but he knows she will come darn close to it and he has no problem with this. Mr. DiBello said he sees the district as providing the seed money to keep the project moving forward. This is something that the district put in several years ago and for whatever reasons stopped investing into the project and let it grow back to the state that it is in now. Mr. DiBello stated that it is a shame that the district in the past has let it get to the state that it is currently in and what is being proposed in working with all of the groups involved we are going to build something that will last and be part of this community for many years to come.

The motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no.

The Board approved for the district to fund the restoration of the arboretum that sits behind the 9th Grade Center not to exceed \$30,000 less any donations that come in over the course of the next couple of years.

PSBA Liaison

Edward Dressler

No report.

Superintendent's Rpt.

Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin introduced the next video in the series of videos using the letters of the district's name. This month's video focused on the letter "G" which stands for "Goal Oriented". The video was shown. Dr. Goodin stated that just as Elizabeth had mentioned he also wanted to take a moment to recognize the SNAP Program. Dr. Goodin stated that with being new to the district he was not able to wrap his arms around what this program was but when he went to the post prom this past Saturday he was extremely pleased to see that kind of program for the students. Dr. Goodin spoke about the diversity, the activities, the time and the effort that went into the event. Dr. Goodin stated that he knows that Diane Posner and Karyn Canning were the chairs of this year's SNAP Program and they did an exceptional job as well as all of the other volunteers that helped make this possible. Dr. Goodin commented that all of the fundraising that goes on has a worthy purpose and he knows that both he and his wife had a great time. Dr. Goodin spoke about the behavior of the students at this year's prom saying that they acted completely like ladies and gentlemen and he was very impressed. Dr. Goodin congratulated Mr. Nugent, the high school administrators and the teacher advisors on their efforts putting the prom together for the students. Dr. Goodin stated that it was a wonderful evening that went off without a hitch.

V. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

A. Resignations:

1. **Cathy Campbell**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, June 11, 2012.
2. **Elizabeth Genter**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Administrative Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2012.
3. **Margaret H. Shiley**, Spring City Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last school day, June 11, 2012.

NEW RESIGNATIONS:

4. **Steven Anspach**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Spring, effective January 21, 2012.
5. **Francis Guber**, High School: Part-time Food Service Employee, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 5, 2012.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Stephanie Breccia**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, per Board Policy, effective April 11, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Katherine Daniels**, High School; Athletic Trainer, per Board Policy, effective April 5, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
3. **Gwendolyn Ellison**, Limerick Elementary School; Music Teacher, per Board Policy, effective March 15, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
4. **Lucinda Iezzi**, Oaks Elementary School; Health & Physical Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective April 24, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Beverly Reimund**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective March 4, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
6. **Shonna Schulz**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective for the 2012/2013 school year.
7. **Kenneth Sell**, High School; Custodian, per Board Policy, effective March 12, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
8. **Deanne Snelling**, 7th Grade Center; Mid-Level Mathematics, per Board Policy, effective March 23, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

NEW LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

9. **Daniel C. Currie**, District Office, Supervisor of Special Education, per Board Policy, effective April 3, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
10. **Mary Jane Yost**, Brooke Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, per Board Policy, effective April 5, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. Long Term Substitute:

1. **Jessica A. Williams**, High School; Mathematics Teacher, replacing John Holsinger. Compensation will be set at \$43,200, BS, Step 1, prorated with benefits, effective retroactive January 23, 2012.

D. Professional Staff Substitutes:

1. **Steven Anspach** Social Studies
2. **Julie Bell** Elementary Education
3. **Suzanne Del Sordo** Elementary Education, Early Childhood, ESL, K-12 Language

- E. **Support Staff Substitutes:**
 - 1. **John Caperilla** Custodian
 - 2. **Garnetta Rusinski** Custodian
 - 3. **Pietro Tamaro** Custodian

- NEW SUPPORT STAFF SUBSTITUTE:**
 - 4. **Charles Bickel** Custodian

NEW PERSONNEL ITEMS

F. The Board approved the plan to reorganize the district's Technology Department. The plan involves updating several existing job descriptions and the creation of new positions to include Systems Administrator, Manager of Technology Operations, Technology Infrastructure Administrator, Systems Technician, Software Specialist, Field Technology Specialist and Assistant TV Studio Specialist. The positions will be posted internally in order to fill from existing staff members where appropriate. The Technology Team staffing budget will not be increased as a result of this reorganization plan.

G. **Extra-Curricular Contracts:** High School

- 1. **Daniel Miscavage**, Assistant Softball Coach, \$3,991
- 2. **Chad Strickler**, Fitness Room Supervisor- Spring, \$679

VI. FINANCE

Mr. DiBello asked for a motion to approve Items A-H including the addendum Letter I. He read the addendum and stated that he would like to see the district reach out to Upper Providence Township and Montgomery County to try and offset some of the costs. Mr. DiBello stated that as everyone might remember he and Mr. Anspach spoke about some of the struggles the district has been having with the tax collection for Upper Providence Township and we are at the point now where we need to move forward with performing this audit.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the district had any grounds to go back to the tax collector if it is shown that there have been improprieties and Mr. Davis replied that at this point we have to bear the cost as it is our request to perform the audit. Mr. Davis stated that the bonding company will be asked to step into this but they do not have to do it but it might behoove them to do it. Mr. Davis added that if in the end there is a defalcation then we can look to the tax collector and/or the bonding company possibly.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A – H including the addendum Letter I and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-0.

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

A. The Board approved the payment for the following invoices for the month of APRIL in connection with the **SERIES A of G.O.B. 2007:**

- 1. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**
 - Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval
 - *Check No. 32654 – 32663 \$ 605,604.18

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

C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

MARCH

Check No. 145722 – 145780 \$ 109,322.59

ACH 111200356 – 111200359 \$ 217.44

APRIL

Check No. 145781 – 145837 \$ 279,084.33

ACH 111200360 – 111200363 \$ 230.85

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

*Check No. 145871 – 145945 \$1,016,596.10

*ACH 111200399 – 111200407 \$ 478.98

3. Board Checks held for approval

*Check No. 145838 – 145870 \$ 36,676.62

*ACH 111200364 – 111200398 \$ 11,890.00

4. Athletic Fund

March

Check No. 304436 – 304542 \$ 35,841.16

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

1. **Lyndi Puleo – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide psychological services for students requiring initial psychoeducational evaluations and/or reevaluations. Services will be provided for six (6) hours per week for ten (10) weeks at a rate of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00).
2. **Richard Weidner – Telford, PA.** Provide a Spring-Ford Transitional Employment Program (S.T.E.P.) for special needs students as per their IEPs. S.T.E.P. services will be provided for eight (8) students at a cost of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00). Individual transition employment services will be provided for seven (7) students at a cost of eleven thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$11,666.67). Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed twenty thousand six hundred sixty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$20,666.67).
3. **Indian Creek Foundation – Souderton, PA.** Provide transition and pre-employment services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for seven (7) days at a rate of ninety-eight dollars and sixty-four cents (\$98.64) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six hundred ninety dollars and forty-eight cents (\$690.48).

4. **Teamwork Wins – Pennsburg, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for two (2) weeks at a rate of three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) per week. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 IDEA Funds and shall not exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00).

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

5. **Art's Alive – Robyn Burckhardt - Spring City, PA** – An Artist in Residence Project for September 2012 to design and create a series of mosaic “tiles” to hang in the outdoor classroom to be worked on by the fourth grade students of Brooke Elementary School, Ms. DiGuiseppe , art teacher, Jessica Gorlin-Liddell, professional artist, and Robyn Burckhardt. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Assoc. with an estimated cost of four thousand three hundred eighty dollars (\$4,380.00).
 6. **Quiver Farms – Traveling Farm – Pennsburg, PA** – Provide a “Traveling Farm” to students at Upper Providence Elementary School for two (2) days, June 5 and 6, 2012. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Assoc. and shall not exceed one thousand sixty five dollars (\$1,065.00).
 7. **Quiver Farms – Wilber and Friends – Pennsburg, PA** – Provide twelve (12) assemblies over two (2) days entitled, “Wilber and Friends” for the students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Assoc. and shall not exceed one thousand eight hundred thirty eight dollars (\$1,838.00).
 8. **Ray Owen – Gettysburg, PA** – Provide two (2) assemblies entitled, “Animal Odyssey and Chicken Karaoke” for the students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Assoc. and shall not exceed six hundred seventy five dollars (\$675.00).
 9. **Sam Sandler – Spring Mount, PA** – Provide an assembly for the students at Spring City Elementary School entitled, “The Hilarious Magic of Sam Sandler”, a deaf illusionist. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Home and School Assoc. and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).
 10. **Academic Entertainment – Canadensis, PA** – Provide two (2) assemblies entitled, “The Brain Show” for students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Assembly Account and shall not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00).
 11. **Academic Entertainment – Washington, DC** – Provide two (2) assemblies entitled, “The Magic is Real” for students at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed one thousand ninety-five dollars (\$1,095.00).
- E. The Board approved the **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Special Education Cost Plan** for the 2012-2013 school year for the Spring-Ford Area School District in the amount of \$696,273.67.

- F. The Board approved the submission of PlanCon K – Project Refinancing – General Obligation Bonds Series of 2012 to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the refinancing of the General Obligation Bonds Series of 2003 and 2004. The district benefited with the financing due to lower bond rates which generated a one time savings of approximately \$1.4 million.

NEW FINANCE

- G. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:

General Fund

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

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – March 2012
- 7th Grade Activity – March 2012
- 8th Grade Activity – March 2012
- High School Activity – March 2012
- Athletic Account – March 2012

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – March 2012

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – March 2012
- Debt Service Fund – March 2012
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – March 2012

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – March 2012
- Cafeteria Checking Account – March 2012
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – March 2012
- Investment Account – March 2012

- H. The Board approved the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:

MARCH

Check No. 10627 - 10652

\$ 265,395.25

ADDENDUM

- I. The Board approved the Audit Engagement Contract with Maillie, Falconiero & Company, LLP in the amount of \$10,000. The audit scope would include reconciling Upper Providence tax records and identifying any findings/recommendations for the School District, Montgomery County, and Upper Providence Township.

VII. NEW PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved awarding the trash and recycle bid to **Waste Management of PA** Bristol, PA in the amount of \$47,200.00, **A J Blosenski** for the Compactor Closed Top Roll-Off in the amount of \$200 per haul, \$62 per ton with rental of \$100 per month, and **G & C Waste Service** for the Open Top Roll-Off in the amount of \$160 per haul, \$61 per ton for the school year July 1, 2012-July 1, 2013 pending all paperwork. The District has the option to continue the contracts for two additional years if service is satisfactory. Funding will come from the 2012-2013 Maintenance Budget.

VIII. NEW PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The Board approved the 2012-2013 student-funded exchange program with the Coláiste Chiaráin High School in Limerick, Ireland. This exchange would provide a 2 week opportunity between students at Spring-Ford High School and students at Coláiste Chiaráin High School. Dates to be determined. (Thanksgiving/Spring Vacation).

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

Mr. Dehnert stated that he believes we should wait until we actually have a curriculum need for Item B. Mr. Dehnert commented that right now the plan for next year is that we will not have the wireless devices in place as they are not being refreshed next year. Mr. Dehnert said because of the way technology moves, things get better and usually cheaper, we might make out better by waiting a year and having a newer technology and maybe a cheaper cost. Mr. Dehnert stated that we really do not need this for next year.

Mrs. Mullin responded that the Technology Committee has had extensive conversation about this and Mr. Reynolds has put a huge amount of time in making everyone understand it. Mrs. Mullin added that Mr. Dehnert was not at those meetings and as the chair of the Curriculum and Technology Committee she thinks it would be crazy to not do this right now. Mrs. Mullin stated that we are supposed to be depending on the recommendations of our administration and Mr. Reynolds went above and beyond the call of duty to be proactive with this technology stuff which we have not done for years so she thinks we are already behind when it comes to technology and she does not know why we would hold off another year.

Mr. Dehnert stated that since he was not at the meeting maybe Mrs. Mullin could explain for him what the benefit is and Mrs. Mullin replied that as she has run all of her meetings she had the expert in that area do that. She asked Mr. Reynolds to give an explanation again of why the district should be doing this now instead of waiting.

Mr. DiBello said we need to be clear of one thing and that is that we are not going out and spending the money tomorrow. He stated that the bigger issue is because of where we are with the budget this year and where we are with the Capital Reserve we wanted to more or less through Mr. Pettit's recommendation earmark \$200,000 that could be spent over the next several months. Mr. DiBello added that it is up to \$200,000 so if technology for wireless networking does decrease in the next 6-7 months when Mr. Reynolds is preparing to bring

this technology in house then it is for sure that he will take advantage of the savings and not go out and spend the money just to spend it.

Mrs. Mullin commented that in the time she has sat here the Technology Committee has been reactive as opposed to proactive and we are trying to switch that and be proactive now instead of waiting until everything is out of date to replace it.

Mr. Reynolds reported that during the Technology Committee meetings they did discuss the fact that we are going to start the initial investment that was voted on last month to focus on the refresh buildings. Mr. Reynolds stated that it was brought up during the Technology Committee meeting as well as at the Board meeting that there are teachers who have wireless devices today and are unable to do work outside of the classroom and collaborate together outside of the classroom so wireless even in the elementary buildings where we are not doing the refresh will have some benefit. Mr. Reynolds commented that in addition over the last couple of months we have had an infusion of some wireless devices in the form of iPads which are being used with Special Education classes as well as we have had parents donate wireless devices for testing in some of our buildings that do not have wireless networks so that would be an additional benefit. Mr. Reynolds added that we are seeing more and more of these devices coming into the district so he would agree that in his opinion it is a good idea to have this infrastructure in place to support this technology.

Mrs. Mullin stated that from a policy perspective if we are trying to move forward with our electronic device policy it would be kind of difficult to do when there is no wireless access.

Mr. Dehnert questioned whether we were going to grant students access to the network and Mr. DiBello replied that was a whole other conversation from a policy standpoint. Mr. Reynolds commented that this is part of his personal technology vision but it has not been discussed in length at the Technology Committee meetings. Mr. Reynolds stated that it is assumed right now that at some point we will allow students to utilize the wireless network.

Mr. Pettit stated that this is part of the reason why we need to get this done and done for all schools now.

Mrs. Mullin commented that they have advanced the electronic use policy to move towards this so that is something that has been discussed. Mrs. Mullin stated that although we are not there yet changes have been made to the electronic use policy to move in that direction which was agreed upon at one point.

The motion passed 6-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no.

- B. The Board approved purchasing equipment to add wireless network access to Brooke Elementary School, Limerick Elementary School, Oaks Elementary School, Spring-City Elementary School, Upper Providence Elementary School and the 8th Grade Center. Funding for this project will be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund and shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000.00).

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

DISTRICT-WIDE

- A. **Dr. Keith Floyd**, Director of Curriculum, and **Patrick Nugent**, Principal, to attend "*Reading Apprenticeship – An Introduction for Administrators*" at the Colonial Intermediate Unit #20 on May 7, 2012. There is no cost for this conference and no substitutes are needed.
- B. **Joseph Nugent**, HVAC Specialist, to attend "*Aerco International Co – Manufacturing Facility*" in Blauvelt, New York on April 23 and April 24, 2012. This training is needed for certification in boiler maintenance so that the district's service contract can be reduced. The total cost of this training is \$802.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Joseph Nugent**, HVAC Specialist, to attend "*SIEMENS Apogee Advanced Operations*" at Siemens Industry, Inc. in Blue Bell, PA from May 8 through May 11, 2012. This three day course is needed in order to learn DDC controls and reduce the district's service contract. The total cost for this training is \$1,995.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- D. **Deborah Longwell**, ESL Teacher, to attend "*2012 English Language Learner Symposium*" at the Chester County Intermediate Unit in Downingtown, PA from July 30 through August 1, 2012. The total cost of this symposium is \$370.28 to be paid from Title III Funds. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Kristin Beideman**, Counselor, to attend "*2012 Skyward Keystone State Users Group Meeting*" at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg, PA on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 25, 2012. The total cost for this training is \$129.35 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- F. **Sandra Frost-Horvath**, School Nurse, to attend "*BrainSTEPS Presents Smart but Scattered: Home & School Executive Dysfunction After Brain Injury*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on May 1, 2012. The total cost for this workshop is \$150.00 from the substitute account.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS

- G. **Barbara Crist**, Gifted Support Teacher, to attend "*Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education Conference*" in Exton, PA on May 3, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference as Ms. Crist is paying all her own expenses. No substitute is needed.

H. **Jon Markowich**, Math Teacher, to attend “*National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) 2012 Annual Meeting and Exposition*” at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on April 26 and April 27, 2012. The only cost to the district is \$300.00 from substitute account for two days of substitute coverage.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

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

A. The following policies were approved:

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

B. The Board approved the 2012-2013 school calendar.

C. The Board approved the following annual report of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.

1. Spring City American Legion Baseball, Inc.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item D and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mr. Pettit recognized Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Zimmerman for their wonderful donation on behalf of children at Oaks Elementary. Mr. Pettit stated that he personally wants to express his thanks as well as the thanks of the entire Board and the district.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Mark Moyer, Principal at Oaks Elementary, to come forward and comment on how his building plans on using this donation. Mr. Moyer said the initial plan for the iPads is for the teachers to begin looking at how these devices can be used. Mr. Moyer stated that as the Board already knows Oaks Elementary has moved forward with SmartBoards being installed in the classrooms so now they are taking things one step further. Mr. Moyer added that they are looking for ways to incorporate such wireless technology as the iPads. Mr. Moyer reported that Mr. Zimmerman happens to work in the technology field and he approached Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Moyer asking to become involved with the district and its progression in the area of technology. Mr. Moyers stated that the intent with this purchase will be for teachers within the grade levels to begin looking at how the iPads can be used to aid instruction with the hope then of being able to tie this as we move forward as a district with our technology endeavors. Mr. Moyer said wireless in his opinion is something that is definitely needed and he believes it will only help them as a school and as a school system to move forward.

The motion passed 7-0.

D. The Board acknowledged and accepted the donation of \$1,500.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Zimmerman for the purchase of 3 Apple iPad 2 devices (\$1,197), 3 VGA connector cables (\$87), 3 iPad covers/cases (\$117) and an Apple gift card (\$99) for classroom use by the students at Oaks Elementary School.

E. The policies are submitted as a first reading:

1. Policy #822 – OPERATIONS: Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
2. Policy #810 – OPERATIONS: Transportation

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. DiBello stated that they wanted to give a presentation and show some photos that were taken during the trip to Ireland as part of the Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange Program. Mr. DiBello said that there were some rumors circulating regarding the trip and he wanted to address one of those rumors. Mr. DiBello stated that 3 Board Members, himself, Mr. Ciresi and Mr. Pettit did go to Ireland along with Dr. Goodin and the students this year. Mr. DiBello said they went to promote the program and will discuss the details of what they accomplished and why they were there. Mr. DiBello commented that what he wanted to address is that the 3 Board Members that did go to Ireland paid for their trip themselves. There was no funding received, there was no Education Foundation money provided, no taxpayer dollars were used and he again repeated that the Board Members that went to Ireland paid for the trip themselves. Mr. DiBello stated that if that is not clear then he does not know what else he can do.

Dr. Goodin reported that there is a long history between the school district and Ireland. The history goes back to as early as the 1700's when William and Ann Evans settled what now makes up the Limerick Township Area. Dr. Goodin stated that back in 2007 on property that once belonged to the Evans Family the district dedicated its newest school building, Evans Elementary. In commemoration of this long history, Mr. Ciresi reached out to include school officials from an elementary and secondary school in Limerick Ireland to be included as part of the dedication ceremony. The Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange Program evolved from this dedication ceremony as a way to provide a cultural exchange opportunity to students from Spring-Ford High School and our sister high school in Ireland, Coláiste Chiaráin. Dr. Goodin reported that to date we have had approximately 66 students and 10 teachers participate in this annual program. Earlier this year Headmaster Noel Malone and Teacher Matt Kelly accompanied the Irish Exchange students for the two weeks that make up the United States half of the program. The Spring-Ford Area School District reciprocated by sending Dr. Goodin to Ireland for the last week of the Irish portion of the exchange. Dr. Goodin stated that he as well as 3 Board Members were able to witness firsthand the value of the exchange program and just what it means to the students.

Dr. Goodin introduced Maggie Castellano and Nicholas Tier, this year's Spring-Ford Advisors to the Program, to come forward to speak about their experiences and introduce some of the students who participated in the Exchange Program.

Ms. Castellano said she is very excited to present this program to the community and explain what it is about. Ms. Castellano stated that students wanting to participate in the program go through a very extensive application process so those students who represent Spring-Ford are the "Cream of the Crop". Ms. Castellano stated that everywhere they went she was told over and over again how responsible and respectful the students were. Beyond the application process the students are completely immersed in a new culture, they live with their host families, they present on our culture and our academics in the most eloquent way possible. The students practice for this before school at 7AM meetings and after school. The students who participate will miss some school days but are still responsible for all

of their school work which they always complete as they all have very good GPA's. Most of the students are involved in extracurriculars as well so all of this additional work is done on top of all of those commitments in addition to their jobs.

Mr. Tier spoke about this year being a special year since it was the 5th anniversary of the program. Mr. Ciresi, Dr. Hurda and Mr. Nugent traveled over to Ireland to set up the program with Coláiste Chiaráin in 2007. Mr. Tier stated that this year they did some things with the program that had not been done before such as meeting the President of Ireland, meeting the United States Ambassador Dan Rooney, meeting the Mayor of Limerick, and visiting the Aran Islands. Mr. Tier reported that the students this year pretty much traveled the length and breadth of the nation doing some pretty fantastic things.

Four of the high school seniors who went on the trip came forward and told about their various experiences while participating in the Limerick to Limerick Exchange Program and showed pictures from their trip there. They shared their academic, athletic, musical, cultural, and their sightseeing experiences.

Mr. Tier commented that the student's activities are really what makes the cultural exchange so important as the kids make their own fun with kids from another culture away from adults sometimes and they develop really close friendships. Mr. Tier stated that many times the students end up going back and forth visiting and spending summers or Christmas breaks with each other. Mr. Tier reported that this experience is not just something that lasts the four weeks of the exchange but something that lasts a lifetime for many of the students. Mr. Tier encouraged anyone wanting to view the activities that the students participated in along with the teachers to check out Ms. Castellano's Limerick to Limerick webpage as there are many pictures posted along with videos that were created for the YouTube Channel.

Dr. Goodin invited an alumni of the Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange Program, to come forward and talk about her experience. Alyssa reported that she graduated from Spring-Ford in 2008 so she was in the first class that got to go to Ireland. She thanked everyone saying that they have no idea of the impact it made on not only her but every student who participated in the program both in America and in Ireland. Alyssa reported that she has been back to visit and has Skyped on a weekly basis with the students from Ireland who were part of the program the same year she was. Alyssa stated that she knows that there were some students who actually went back to Ireland to study abroad during their college years and some students from Ireland have come here to study abroad. Alyssa stated that she wished more students had the opportunity to participate in this program because it is so enriching and helps to form you into who you are. Alyssa stated that this is something special to Spring-Ford as she has not heard of any other school in the area offering this type of program. Alyssa thanked everyone who helped to put this program together.

Dr. Goodin and the Board presented on the 2012 Limerick to Limerick Student Exchange Program from their perspective and showed pictures from their meetings with the dignitaries over in Ireland.

Mr. DiBello stated that part of the reason Dr. Goodin and several of the Board Members decided to go this year is to raise the level of the program and to get more students involved. Mr. DiBello reported that while they were there they met with several dignitaries and everyone they met with was very supportive of the program and anxious to see where the program will go.

Dr. Goodin commented that the first person they met with was Mr. Dan Rooney who is the U.S. Ambassador to Ireland.

Mr. DiBello reported that the next meeting they held was with Enda Kenny, the Prime Minister of Ireland, which took place at the Parliament Building. Mr. DiBello stated that they not only had the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador but they also met with the Minister of Education, the Minister of Housing and a former Senator in Ireland who now is associated with Coláiste Chiaráin.

Mr. Ciresi spoke about being invited to the house of Michael D. Higgins, the President of Ireland, and he presented pictures and spoke about their visit with the President. Mr. Ciresi informed everyone that they invited President Higgins to speak at our commencement ceremony when he is visiting the United States in June. Mr. Ciresi spoke of the huge arboretum that is located on the grounds at the President's house and he stated that the district will be donating a tree on behalf of the Spring-Ford community which will be planted on his grounds and another tree to be planted at the new school in Ireland for Coláiste Chiaráin as well as a tree to be planted here in our arboretum, all of them being the same type of tree. Mr. Ciresi reported that the Spring-Ford High School Band was officially invited to attend the 2014 International Festival of Bands in Limerick Ireland and participate in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin Ireland. In 2014 Limerick Ireland will be the host for the Arts of Europe so this is a huge honor for us to be invited there.

Mr. DiBello reported that while they were there they also had the opportunity to set up a few meetings one of which was with Dell Computer which has a global international office in Ireland. Mr. DiBello commented that they were able to discuss the program and how to set up global classrooms which would help connect not only Limerick to Limerick but also take it to the next level to include other countries and other schools around the world. Mr. DiBello reported that while at Dell they visited a mock classroom and one of the things they saw were desks that were outfitted with several different devices and one of the things they discussed was ways to integrate technology in the classrooms. One of the topics discussed was the issue of the teacher maintaining control as all of the devices were being used in the classroom so the Dell representatives showed them the technology that they partnered with software vendors that would provide the teacher the tools in the classroom to not only embrace the students from a technology standpoint but to also take control of the devices in the classroom. Mr. DiBello added that the software would also allow the teacher to isolate one student's device and bring it up on the SmartBoard so that the student could present and explain whatever was being worked on rather than have to come up in front of the class and present on the Whiteboard or on the blackboard. Mr. DiBello commented that Dell was very excited with where the district wanted to go from a technology standpoint and they want to work with us to set up at least one or multiple classrooms that they can showcase to additional districts. Mr. DiBello said if this all works out as planned we could be talking about tens of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment that they want to bring into our district. Mr. DiBello stated that although nothing has been agreed to it was indicated that this would be at no cost to the district. Mr. DiBello next reported that they met with the Vice President at Pfizer and toured the plant and the VP plans on reaching out to Pfizer over here to see how they might be able to be involved in the Ireland program. Mr. DiBello stated that for the amount of time they spent in Ireland you cannot measure what was achieved while they were there and where they want to bring this program to. Mr. DiBello recognized Ms. Castellano and Mr. Tier for their efforts in running this program this year saying that they did an incredible job in providing the students with an education and fun experience.

Mr. Pettit added that he wanted to express that this whole program initiated in 2007 with Mr. Ciresi as it was his idea and he is the one person who drove this from the beginning. Mr. Pettit recognized Mr. DiBello as well for his efforts in getting Dell involved saying this is an opening of a tremendous opportunity for Spring-Ford going forward technologically and it will yield tremendous benefits over and above what the students who participated this year received. Mr. Pettit said he wanted to express his deep gratitude to Mr. Ciresi for initiating this and Mr. DiBello and Dr. Goodin on the dealings we had with the Dell and the Pfizer people. Mr. Pettit stated that this trip was as much business as it was pleasure and it will yield great benefits for years going forward.

Mr. Ciresi reported that this was a life changing experience. Mr. Ciresi reported that while on the plane trip back one of the passengers became ill and one of our students went above and beyond and was one of the first people there to help this ill passenger out upon landing. Mr. Ciresi stated that we should all be very impressed with this student and his efforts. Mr. Ciresi stated that he would like to introduce a concept tonight that the Board can decide whether to move forward with. Mr. Ciresi said he would like to look into starting what could be called a global institute at Spring-Ford High School. Mr. Ciresi stated that the program could entail is sort of a vocational idea where in the 9th grade we start an exploratory program to look at global initiatives such as finance, economics, government, environment, and the laws of the different countries. Mr. Ciresi added that over the years we could tailor a curriculum that is strictly based on the global environment. Mr. Ciresi stated that students in their junior year could travel along with the seniors and then in the senior year those students who have the ability could travel over to whatever country and intern for a month or so in order to have a global experience. Mr. Ciresi said that one of the initiatives that Mr. DiBello has spoken about since the first day they have sat at the Board table is teaching our kids beyond Pennsylvania and the United States so that they can become children of the world. Mr. Ciresi reported that they experienced this while the students were over in Ireland and while they did have fun the students reported that their eyes were wide open to things that they never thought they would see and especially access to the Prime Minister of a nation. Mr. Ciresi commented that he asked the Prime Minister to help in having our children and the students from Limerick invited to visit the White House here in Washington. Mr. Ciresi thanked the parents and the community for raising such great kids for the way they represented the district not only at events here but also around the world.

Mr. DiBello said his position is that this is a great idea and with the introduction of MyChinese last year that was really the start of getting more global level courses into our program. Mr. DiBello stated that he looks forward to seeing what the Curriculum Committee could come back with for this suggestion and idea.

Dr. Goodin commented that with what Mr. Ciresi is talking about we are probably looking at an International Studies track.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiBello made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary