

On April 26, 2011 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
- Region II: Julie A. Mullin and Donna L. Williams
- Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
- Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi
- Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
- Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Rep.: Taylor Daily

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Ciresi announced that the Board met in an Executive Session regarding personnel. Mr. Ciresi announced that the Senior Impact Awards will be held tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the 5/6 Center. High school seniors will be honoring 97 educators for making an impact on their lives at this annual ceremony. Also tomorrow, from 4 to 9 p.m., residents are invited to visit the Colledgeville and Royersford Rita’s Water Ice locations for the “Ice for Autism” event. Twenty percent of the evening’s sales will be donated to the Spring-Ford Educational Foundation. Mr. Ciresi invited the community to take part in the annual community walk-thru for the post-prom party. Community members will be able to see the high school decorated for the 2011 post-prom party, which has a theme of Viva Las Vegas. The walk-thru will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 14. Entrance will be at the auditorium, Mr. Ciresi announced that the annual Spring-Ford Art Festival, featuring the artwork of students in grades 7-12, will take place this Friday and Saturday in the high school gym. Visit Friday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mr. Ciresi invited Spring-Ford residents and staff to attend a community reception in honor of Dr. Marsha Hurda on Monday, May 23rd from 5:00-6:00 PM in the lobby outside of the Gymnasium - Auditorium of the High School 10-12 Grade Center. Mr. Ciresi reported that spring is the season for school music concerts. He reminded parents to visit their school’s home page to find out when concerts and performances will be taking place throughout the month of May. Mr. Ciresi announced that the Board will be reopening the Superintendent’s Search as the Board was not able to come to any consensus or agreement with any of the candidates.

I. PRESENTATION

Dr. Hurda stated that it gives her great pleasure tonight to recognize the hard work and efforts of Taylor Daily. She commented that Taylor has served as the Student Representative to the School Board for the past year and that in and of itself is something to be proud of. Dr. Hurda stated that what is even more important for the school community to realize is that while Taylor was here serving as the School Board Representative she was also working very

hard on her academics and she is the number one student in the graduating class this year. Dr. Hurda reported that Taylor will be attending Loyola University in Maryland and without a doubt she will be a tremendous success and in four years from now we will be hearing great things about her. Mr. Ciresi presented Taylor with flowers and a gift on behalf of the Board. Dr. Hurda stated that this evening is bittersweet because we say goodbye to a young person who has represented the district so well but at the same time we welcome the new School Board Representative who will do a wonderful job in representing what is happening in our school district to the community and our School Board. Dr. Hurda said it gives her great pleasure tonight to introduce Elizabeth Brady.

Elizabeth introduced herself saying she is a 10th grader at Spring-Ford and she is very happy to have accepted this position and to have been given the honor of holding this position. Dr. Hurda stated that Elizabeth went through a very competitive interview process and was selected by the Board to serve as the representative. Dr. Hurda invited Elizabeth to sit at the Board table beside Taylor for tonight's meeting.

- A. Farewell to the current Student Representative to the School Board, **Taylor V. Daily**.
Introduction of the new Student Representative to the School Board, **Elizabeth Brady**.

II. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Jill Dreibelbis, Spring City, said she wanted to speak about the superintendent search. MR. Ciresi asked if this discussion could be done at the end of the meeting since it is not on the agenda. Ms. Dreibelbis stated that was fine but had another question regarding Letter K. She commented on the custodial plan on the agenda for approval saying she knows that at one time the Board talked about getting a service in and then that was scratched, she wondered if that was back up again for approval and what is the Board's plan for this. Mr. Ciresi replied that Jani King did appear on the agenda for approval under New Independent Contracts. Mr. Ciresi stated that Item K pertains to the agreement with staff regarding their benefits and salaries for the next school year. Mr. Davis reminded the public that not all of the custodians were laid off and those remaining staff members will be covered by this plan. Ms. Dreibelbis asked for clarification that the custodial service is something the Board will be voting on to decide if they are moving forward with this or not and Mr. Ciresi confirmed that was correct.

Mary Moore, Limerick, said she has questions on page 9 section 7, letters D and E, with regards to the elimination of 5 class sections K-4 and she asked how much money the district anticipates saving and Dr. Hurda said she believes it was about \$400,000 for the five positions. Ms. Moore asked if this included letter E and Dr. Hurda said no D and E are a total of 7 positions and if you are rounding off the dollar amounts saved it would be approximately \$580,000 in salary and benefits. Ms. Moore asked when determining which teachers would be laid-off or furloughed if it would be done by seniority and Dr. Hurda replied yes that as per the collective bargaining agreement it would be based on seniority.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, stated that she raised the issue last week and with regards to Mr. Ciresi's comments earlier on reopening the search, what is the total amount that has been spent to date regarding the independent contract entered into in the amount of \$19,000. Mr. Ciresi said he does not want to be rude to the previous community member who asked about the superintendent search but this is something that is not on the agenda and can be discussed during the open part of the meeting. Ms. Bryant stated just to clarify when you opened the subject at the beginning of the meeting it does in fact become

part of the agenda. Mr. Davis commented that just to be clear what he believes the Sunshine Law or Open Meetings Act requires is that the public be given the opportunity to comment on items to be voted on so simply the Board President making an announcement does not put it on the agenda. Ms. Bryant commented on New Independent Contracts, Number 10, regarding the hiring of an outside firm from Philadelphia, a janitorial company, in the amount of \$795,000 per year for two years, she questioned why this was not subject to a competitive bid and Dr. Hurda stated that we absolutely did seek proposals and Mr. Davis' office did review the proposals. Ms. Bryant asked if it was publicly bid for all available companies to bid on and Mr. Davis replied that it is a service and you do not bid services under the school code but it was put out as a request for proposals with a rather extensive 30 -40 pages of specifications for the job. Ms. Bryant stated that she is aware that services are not obligated to be bid by the school district however, in the current economic climate she would think that they would want to ascertain every possible savings that you can but for whatever reason you chose to go in another direction. Mr. Davis replied that proposals were solicited for a number of people so certainly it did create a competitive atmosphere because everyone knew that other people were making proposals and he does not want to leave the public with the impression that there was not a competitive nature. Ms. Bryant asked if this firm was utilized by any of the employers of the current School Board Members, there was no response so Ms. Bryant asked if this firm were utilized by the Kimmel Center for example and Mr. Ciresi responded that if Ms. Bryant wants to get up and attack him that is fine but he does not make a decision at the Kimmel Center on who they use to clean the building. Ms. Bryant stated that she is simply asking a question. Mr. Ciresi said as far as he is concerned or knows Jani King has nothing to do with the Kimmel Center so maybe she has a relation with them and they have not asked that yet. Ms. Bryant replied not in the slightest. Mr. Ciresi directed Ms. Bryant to just come out and ask it directly, thank you. Ms. Bryant stated that she did this. She asked what guarantees the school district and its tax paying residents have that the individuals that will be coming into the schools to clean them in the evenings when personnel and students are still in the buildings will be the same people that the district will have child abuse and safety clearances on file for. Ms. Bryant stated that her feeling is that we will have no guarantees that the people climbing into a van in Philadelphia are the individuals that you will always have.Ms. Bryant asked if Mrs. Mullin had a question for her and Mrs. Mullin replied no. Mr. Ciresi stated that this question has been asked before and answered but he asked that Mrs. Leiss go over it one more time. Mr. Ciresi stated that the company is out of King of Prussia and Mr. Cooper replied that it was actually Plymouth Meeting. Mr. Ciresi commented that the company does not empty the prisons for their employees and he wants to make that clear too. Mrs. Leiss replied that as we do with outside contractors who are providing services in our buildings, we do require that they do get all 3 clearances prior to beginning work and that we have copies on file and it is also her understanding that it would be the same employees on a regular basis who would be coming into our schools. Mrs. Leiss stated that she does know that Jani King will be opening it up to those employees who are being furloughed so hopefully it would be our own employees who were furloughed that would be back in our buildings again. Ms. Bryant stated that her point is that the people getting into the work van wherever, and by the way the agenda clearly says Philadelphia, not King of Prussia or Plymouth Meeting, there is no guarantee because there is no administrator on duty to say that individuals showing up to clean tonight is in fact someone who you have clearances for. Dr. Hurda responded that there will be a supervisor who will oversee the operations in the school district. Dr. Hurda added that there are other school districts in this area who utilize this firm, we have checked all of their references, spoken to their HR people and maintenance supervisors, so we as a district have done our due diligence in that regard. Dr. Hurda pointed out that all of our first shift head custodians are staying on so we will have continuous custodial service during the

daytime when our students are here but there will also be some that will remain on in the evenings so that they can do set up in the buildings. The people that will be here from the outside company would be clearly cleaning the building and the supervising of setting up and tearing down would still be done by our employees so there is a distinction there. Ms. Bryant stated that the taxpayers in Spring-Ford have spent many, many tens of millions of dollars on these wonderful facilities and for you to not be 100% certain at all times who was going to be in the buildings in the evenings in regard to your facilities and in regard to the general public is a very fair question to ask. Ms. Bryant stated that her reference to the Kimmel Center was in no way meant to be disparaging it was simply a way to ask if there is any relationship at all of any Board Member to this particular firm. Mr. Ciresi stated that was fine and he thinks she could ask that question of every single vendor we have in this district but then you should get up and ask that of every single vendor on the agenda. Mr. Ciresi stated that he believes that Board Members would have to abstain from the vote on those conflicts and he does not feel that it was necessary to bring the Kimmel Center into this argument. Mr. Ciresi commented that Ms. Bryant could have brought up any other company from the 9 who sit on the Board. Ms. Bryant replied that she did. Mr. Ciresi stated that although his company likes to be in the news his employer is not present to be put on trial and asked the question. Mr. Ciresi emphasized that he wanted to make it clear that the 9 of the Board Members do not get paid, have no personal agenda to make money off of their positions, and give countless hours away from their families and friends to serve the community so if Ms. Bryant wants to come up and speak about who they work for then have that information and the knowledge before asking that question. Mr. Ciresi stated that he is offended by Ms. Bryant's question and he has answered Ms. Bryant's questions for a long time and has never come back at her but this time it went overboard and it was a personal attack on him and his employer and he did not appreciate it. Ms. Bryant replied that it was clearly not her intent and she is sorry that he feels that way.

Mark Dehnert asked if there was a requirement in the contract about Jani King employees to wear badges identifying themselves and Mr. Davis said he did not know off the top of his head but someone who reviewed the contract such as Beth Leiss or Bruce Cooper who wrote the specs would know this.

Mr. DiBello stated that he wanted to go on record saying he has no idea who cleans the buildings where he works.

Jen Riordan, Spring City, asked about New Programming and Curriculum Items D and E wondering if it was strictly an increase in class size or would there be a plan to redistrict or move around. Dr. Hurda stated that the resolutions that are on the agenda are recommendations that will adjust class size and at this point that is all that it addresses. The Board must approve the resolutions and then they are sent to PDE, PDE must review and decide whether to approve or disapprove them. Dr. Hurda reiterated that the action that is taken tonight is necessary to send the resolutions to PDE to see if they will approve them or not so this is the first step in the process but all this deals with right now is the realignment of class size. Dr. Hurda stated that the numbers as we look at them are pretty much where we are now and there is no tie in to any redistricting.

Brenda Johnson, Spring City, questioned the wording of the resolutions saying she also thought that it might be possibly referring to the possibility of redistricting. Ms. Johnson stated that the resolution for grades 5 and 6 says that the current average class size is 24.26 children and she does not know how that information was obtained because her daughter is in 6th grade this year and has 26 kids in her class this year as well as last year. Ms. Johnson stated that the resolution says class size will go up to 25 but they are already over that and she thinks that there has got to be another way to help than getting rid of staff. Mr. Ciresi stated that he believe that what is being looked at is the average in K-4 because there are some major differences between buildings. Mr. Ciresi stated that Dr. Donahue had done a great job a few years back when the redistricting process started but it took him close to a year going back and forth with the redistricting numbers so there is no way we could redistrict that quickly as it is a very extensive process. Mr. Ciresi commented that the numbers that Ms. Johnson is looking at are the K-4 averages. Ms. Johnson asked if the reallocation and redistribution of resources is referring to teachers and Mr. Davis said the language is just parroting the School Code Section 1124 which talks about furloughs so you should not read any more into that language.

Dawn Heine, Limerick Township, stated that along those same lines of discussion regarding the different schools and the different class sizes she questioned at what point the Board will need to send kids that are coming in new to a different school when the class sizes are at these maximums. Mr. Ciresi replied that there is a precedence set in years past where one school was closed and students were sent to a different school but at this point the question of whether redistricting is off the table is not known. Ms. Heine asked if the potential existed to go back to that closed grade school environment to send kids to a different school to keep the numbers adequately balanced.

Chris Chrisman, Royersford Borough, questioned the resolution which is in opposition of Senate Bill 1, saying that Senate Bill 1 also includes an expansion to the educational improvement tax credit and he wondered if the Board was opposed to this as well. Mr. Ciresi said no it was specifically to the tuition vouchers. Mr. Chrisman stated that the education improvement tax credits are part of Senate Bill 1 so you are either opposed to the whole thing or not and if you are opposed to the whole bill then you have to be opposed to that as well. Mr. Ciresi replied that the feeling is and we have been asked by PSBA and from a lot of different groups to oppose this because of what the main thrust of this which is the tuition vouchers. Mr. Ciresi indicated that we then have to go back and re-evaluate what else is in there and re-propose it. Mr. Chrisman asked if the Board is for or against the bill and Mr. Ciresi replied we will have to see how the vote goes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. The Board approved the March 21, 2011 Work Session minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Taylor Daily

Taylor reported that this is a big time for seniors coming up as by May 1st they will all be finalizing their college plans. This is a really exciting time and the Impact Awards are being held tomorrow night and a big group will be in attendance. Taylor reported that the class trip is coming up in June. Students are beginning to prepare for AP tests which will start next

week. Students are getting ready for the prom. Marketing and Rampage field trips are coming up this week for students who participated. Taylor reported that the Ireland Exchange students returned for their first day back in school today and they all were wearing the things they bought while over in Ireland and everyone reported that they had a really good time. Taylor said she believes this is a great program. Taylor thanked the Board for the opportunity to sit as the student representative this past year.

Extracurricular**David Shafer****2nd Mon. 6:00 p.m.**

Mr. Shafer reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on 4/11/11 and the sole topic of discussion for the meeting was the activity fee. The Committee discussed a report prepared by Mr. McDaniel on what our neighboring school districts in our region are doing regarding proposed cuts relating to extracurricular activities. Mr. Shafer stated that administration was asked to compile a summary of all of the current expenses that would fall underneath the Extracurricular Committee's responsibility and essentially what his intentions are as Chair of the Committee is to present on this as a whole at the next budget meeting. Mr. Shafer stated if he is given some direction from the Board level then when the Extracurricular Committee meets again in May he will go back to the coaches and representatives from several clubs and say that this is the direction that was received. Mr. Shafer said everyone is concerned about cutting programs and the impact on the children so he would like to task them to come up with any plans if any to have to trim some percentage of the overall budget. Mr. Shafer reminded the public that extracurricular simply does not mean sports as it means band, clubs and it is anything that is additional. Mr. Shafer stated that as painful as it is we will have the opportunity to discuss this on May 4th.

Mr. Ciresi said the list the Board received was quite eye opening and extensive and he would like to see it put on the website for the public to be able to take a look at it because when you start looking at all of the clubs and the cost per student you really become quite shocked with some of the fees.

Mr. DiBello said he would like to suggest some changes to the report because when he went through it there were no grand totals at the bottom of it. Mr. Shafer stated that by the budget meeting he will have gone through it and assemble the report so that there are some grand totals.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he attended the Spring-Ford Hockey Club's banquet and this is an example of a very expensive sport that does not receive any money from the school since they are not affiliated with the school but are very successful with the people paying to play. Mr. Dehnert stated that this is something we need to strive for and this is an example of a club that has been successful with this model.

Policy**Donna Williams****1st Weds. 7:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Williams reported that the Policy Committee met on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 and discussed the policy review list as they do every month. The Committee also discussed Policy 237 Electronic Devices and Mr. Shafer suggested that this policy go to the Technology Committee for review, Mr. Dehnert who was present said he would take this policy to the Committee. The Policy Committee requested that administration provide their input on the challenges they now face in the area of technology as Christmas was a large time for children receiving Kindles and other reading devices and they are now being brought into school. Mrs. Williams stated that they need to look at how these devices should be handled, how they are used and who has responsibility for the care, custody and control of them. The Committee also discussed Policy 109 Resource Materials and the Committee asked administration for input on

how the internet fits into this policy. The Committee reviewed Policy 110 and made no changes, Policy 111 and recommended changes and are concerned that the plan book contains only one day in advance and the Committee feels that the teacher's lesson plan book should be done at least five days in advance. The Committee also reviewed policies 112 Guidance Counseling, 113 Special Education and 113.1 Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities and there was no input from the administration on these policies. Mrs. Williams reported that the Committee looked at a Pay to Participate policy and reviewed several sample policies and Mr. Shafer asked if they could have more sample policies that the Committee could review at their next meeting. Mrs. Williams stated that the Committee looked at Policy 707.1 but did not have a discussion on it other than they would like administration to survey principals and the physical education teachers to find out if there have been any issues or if they find the presence of community members during the day when students are outside distracting. The Committee did not have time to look at Policy 707. The Committee will go back to Policy 707.1 and discuss it at their next meeting.

Property**Tom DiBello****1st Weds. 6:00 p.m.**

There was no report.

Technology**Mark Dehnert****2nd Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Dehnert reported that the Technology Committee met on April 11, 2011 and discussed ideas for the Skyward presentation on its capabilities which will be presented to those Board Members who may be interested. The Committee discussed the technology budget for this coming fiscal year with regards to the 196 laptops and 855 desktop computers with leases expiring at the end of June. Mr. Dehnert reported that something needs to be done and Mr. Reynolds is looking into the cost of extending the leases or the cost of buying them out so that a decision can be made on what to do. Mr. Dehnert stated that the Committee is not recommending replacing them due to the high cost and the tight budget year so we are going to try to get an extra year to two out of those computers. Mr. Dehnert reported that the next topic discussed was the district website and there is an item on the agenda for Edline whose services include providing the capability and ability to create websites by making it more flexible which will make it easier for the Spring-Ford staff to create their own websites. Mr. Dehnert stated that another topic discussed was server virtualization and currently we have 31 servers of which 21 are out of support. The replacement of this would be \$94,000 if we went to a virtual server environment that would provide the benefits of being easier to manage, increased stability of the server environment, reduced downtime, and energy savings as newer servers use less power. Mr. Dehnert stated that Mr. Reynolds is looking into this and will be bringing that project to the Board in the future. Mr. Dehnert stated that the last thing they discussed was a technology reserve so that instead of always leasing equipment a technology reserve would be created so that there would be money available when it was necessary to buy new computers. Mr. Cirese asked about the servers and wondered if that what was discussed last year with Mr. Spohn and Mr. DiBello replied yes this was brought up last year but unfortunately we did not move in that direction at that time but with Mr. Reynolds coming on board this year it was decided that we definitely wanted to move in that direction. Mr. DiBello reported that it will involve a small investment upfront for a few servers that will basically reduce the number of servers from 31 down to 3 so this is definitely a direction we want to move towards.

WMCTC Ciresi, Dressler, Mullin 1st Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Dressler reported that the JOC Board met on April 4, 2011 and the enrollment has a projected increase of 18%, from 385 students to 455. The standard for enrollment is approximately 12% of a district's population with Pottsgrove having an 18% contribution, Upper Perkiomen having a 16% contribution and Spring-Ford having a 9% contribution. Mr. Dressler reported that the administration of the WMCTC has been able to decrease their budget by 1.75%. Mr. Dressler reported that under pressure from the Board which was led by Mr. Ciresi the utilization of facilities is trying to be increased by the addition of some evening courses. One such evening course is one from the Montgomery County Community College on computer information where they are offering a CISCO Network Certification Program. This summer the Western Center will be offering a Summer Fun Camp for ages 12-14 from July 11-15 and July 18-22 from 9AM until noon at a cost of \$60 per session to introduce teenagers to various programs the Western Center offers including culinary arts, a police cadet program, carpentry, auto repair as well as a few others. Mr. Dressler informed the public that more information pertaining to the summer camp is available by going to WMCTC website at www.westerncenter.org. Mr. Dressler reported that there was good news on the water runoff issue saying that tonight he was informed by Mr. Davis that and Mrs. Williams that in fact a significant phase of the water runoff remediation and hopefully this will be completed before too long.

Mr. Dehnert stated that at the Property Committee meeting a question was raised with Mr. Cooper concerning all the project we have throughout a school year and whether it would be beneficial for students enrolled in certain programs at WMCTC to participate in some way in order to get actual on-hands experience. Mr. Davis replied that there is a limitation under the school code on what you can do with your own workers or in lieu thereof so they might not be as readily available as you may think. Mr. Dehnert commented that we do use our own workers for some of the projects and Mr. Davis replied that you would also have workers compensation issues and liability issues but this is something that could be looked into but would be a hard program to implement. Mr. Ciresi said this was talked about with regards to using students in the district or even with our own Western Center project at a previous JOC meeting and Mr. Fitzgerald brought up the same points raised by Mr. Davis. Mr. Davis added that the school does do a house project with the students every year as this incorporates all the trades. Mr. Dehnert asked if we are prohibited from having the students work on school building projects and Mr. Davis replied that you are limited with work that you can do with your own labor whether you use students or not and as suggested previously there are liability problems, workers compensation problems and all of these would have to be worked through. Dr. Hurda commented that what we have to acknowledge is that a huge component of what the Western Center does is the hands-on piece as it is built in and if you go through the shops you will see that. Dr. Hurda stated that there is certainly an opportunity for every student at the Western Center, once they complete their program, to go out on a co-op where they are supervised. The students have to have an approved co-op supervisor so there are a number of educational issues that would have to be addressed but the goal of the program is to integrate the academic and the theoretical with the hands-on real world experience. There is also an opportunity for students to become engaged in a formalized apprenticeship program. Dr. Hurda commented that there are a lot of technicalities in terms of supervising students who come out of the technical school environment and the house project is probably one of the best examples of how students are working on the job and getting the real world experience while being supervised by their instructors who are certified by the state. The idea that students are just doing the theory part is not accurate as they are getting the hands-on training as well. Dr. Hurda stated that Mr. Dressler indicated that Spring-Ford's enrollment is about 9% and she wants to recognize the fact that due to the work of the counselors and the

fabulous job the Western Center has done in educating our counselors our enrollment based on recent numbers has increased for next year by about 26% so we are making some progress in that area. Dr. Hurda acknowledged the hard work of our guidance counselors in concert with the staff at the Western Center.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. Resignations:

1. **Jeannie Funk**, District; Support Technician, effective with the last work day, April 15, 2011.
2. **Dorothy C. Sperring**, Oaks Elementary School; Part-time Food Service Employee, effective with the last work day, March 11, 2011.
3. **Carolyn Ciccio**, 8th Grade Center; Part-time Food Service Employee, effective with the last work day, April 8, 2011.
4. **Josiah Platchek**, 8th Grade Center; Baseball Coach, effective March 22, 2011.
5. **Judy Yanchek**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last teacher day, June 16, 2011.

New Resignations:

6. **Mary Kae Coy**, Limerick Elementary School; Library Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day June 16, 2011.
7. **Kathleen Fredericks**, Spring City Elementary School; Food Service, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day June 14, 2011.
8. **Susan M. Horn**, High School; Guidance Secretary, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2011.
9. **Shirley J. Lynn**, 7th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2011.
10. **Keith Edleman**, High School; Mathematics Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day June 16, 2011.
11. **Judy E. Kuhns**, District Office; Technology Integration Specialist, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day, June 16, 2011 (**revised, previously approved March 28, 2011 with an effective date of June 30, 2011**).

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Angie L. Cressman**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 22, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

2. **Marla Falcone**, 7th Grade Center; Autistic Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively July 25, 2011 through the first marking period of the 2011-2012 school year.
3. **Ellen T. Grecco**, Oaks Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 5, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks (*revised, previously approved March 28, 2011*).
4. **Helen Hiles**, 8th Grade Center; English Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 21, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Dawn Iannozzi**, High School; Part-time Food Service Employee, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Food Service Plan, effective March 24, 2011 for a maximum of 30 calendar days.
6. **Linda Lawhorne**, High School; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective March 15, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
7. **Lou Rizzo**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 4 through April 8, 2011.
8. **Shonna Schulz**, 5/6th Grade Center; Autistic Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively September 18, 2011 through the 2011/2012 school year.
9. **Heather C. Weise**, Royersford Elementary School, Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective with the first teacher day of the 2011/12 school year until the beginning of the second marking period of the 2011/2012 school year.
10. **Robert L. Wolfe**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Board Policy, effective April 4, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
11. **Reesa G. Wurtz**, Upper Providence Elementary School; School Psychologist, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, retroactive to January 31, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

New Leaves of Absence:

12. **Helen M. Brennan**, High School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 6, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
13. **Janet M. Esbensen**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective April 14, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

- C. The Board approved the following Special Education teachers to be hired for the **2011 Summer ESY Professionals including Fast Forward, Speech & Language Services, and Tutor Programs**. Compensation will be set at \$30 per hour plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Funding will be from 2011/2012 IDEA funds.

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Lauren Bucci | 16. Christine Kramer |
| 2. Jamie Buckwalter | 17. Gina Lasky |
| 3. Amanda Burr | 18. JoAnn Messer |
| 4. Daniel Butterweck | 19. Mary Moore |
| 5. Kelly Clarke | 20. Heather Potemski |
| 6. April Collins | 21. Stacy Shiffer |
| 7. Kara Cooper | 22. Melissa Shimukonas |
| 8. Stephanie Davis | 23. Erin Siuchta |
| 9. Karen DeLange | 24. Jennifer Smith |
| 10. Joanna D'Orazio | 25. Joan Staples |
| 11. Stacy Eddinger | 26. Kristen Weinstein |
| 12. Kimberly Fallstitch | 27. Jennifer Whytosek |
| 13. Kelly Finn | 28. Crystal Zakszeski |
| 14. Shannon Furlong | |
| 15. Sandra Gallagher | |

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item D be separated. Mrs. Mullin made motion to approve Item D and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Dehnert abstaining under Section 1111 of the School code.

- D. The Board approved the following **ESY-Support Staff** to be hired for the **2011 Summer ESY program(s)** that were previously Board approved. Compensation for new employees will be set at \$15.04 - \$16.04 per hour depending on educational degree plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Regular hourly employees will be paid at the current Instructional Assistant hourly rate of \$16.04 - \$17.04 per hour depending on educational degree plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Funding will be from 2011/2012 IDEA funds.

* New Additions since the Work Session

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Michael Benedict | 16. Barbara Newberry |
| 2. Nancy Birtch | 17. Nicola Pascal |
| 3. Susan Boring | 18. Emily Peden |
| 4. Mary Ann Christy | 19. Sharon Platchek |
| 5. Devin Dehnert | 20. Jillian Prevost |
| 6. Jessica Guzzardo | 21. William Shirk |
| 7. Colleen Hampton-Butterweck | 22. Leigh Ann Sisson |
| 8. Cynthia Isabella | 23. Amanda Tamaki |
| 9. Amy Janetka | 24. Hilary Tutrani |
| 10. Brian Johnson | 25. Darlene Wood |
| 11. Lynn Keene | 26. Patricia Wynn |
| 12. Sally Knab | 27. Patricia Young |
| 13. Tiffany Landis | 28. *Robin Riegel |
| 14. Laura McQuaid | 29. *Allyson Kimble |
| 15. Debra Mohr-Kehs | 30. *Megan Mowrer |

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items E-H and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

E. The Board approved **Cathy Bradfield**, as the Certified School Nurse for the 2011 ESY Summer School Program. Compensation will be set at \$30.00 per hour plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Funding will be from 2011/2012 IDEA funds.

F. **Extra-Curricular Contracts:** 5/6th Grade Center

1. **Jeff Moyer**, Lacrosse Intramural Advisor, \$402
2. **Melissa Treichler**, Lacrosse Intramural Advisor, \$402

G. **Professional Staff Substitutes:**

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Christine Allen | Mathematics |
| 2. Samantha Crist | Elementary Education |
| 3. Kelly Ferreri | Elementary Education |
| 4. Jessica-Lyn Joseph | Elementary Education/Mid-Level Mathematics |
| 5. Amanda Powell | Library Science |
| 6. Valerie Trapani | Elementary Education |
| 7. Heather Wilson | English |

New Professional Staff Substitutes

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 8. Kelly Becker | Social Studies |
| 9. Nancy Shultz | Elementary Education/Mid-Level Mathematics |

H. **Personnel Information Items**

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

Lauren Carr	Elementary Education
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New Personnel Items

Mr. Ciresi asked to separate Item O. Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Items I-P and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

I. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Secretarial Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

J. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Assistants' Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

K. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Custodial Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

L. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Food Service Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

M. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District RN/LPN Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

N. The Board approved the Spring-Ford Area School District Maintenance Plan, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

P. Support Staff Substitute

1. Kathleen Doran Cafeteria

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item O and Mrs. Williams seconded it.

Mr. Ciresi commented that he knows the Board has met with the Administrative Team and talked about remaining status quo with the agreement for next year and while he thinks this is great and remaining status quo is no additional fee, he would like to have administration look at taking possibly a 5% reduction in pay. Mr. Ciresi stated that we are furloughing teachers, letting go custodians and aides, and looking at a 12 million budget deficit. Mr. Ciresi commented that he believes that each one of the Board Members sitting at the table have taken a pay cut in their personal places of employment. Mr. Ciresi stated that as everyone knows he works for the Kimmel Center and he did take a pay cut. Mr. Ciresi said these are hard economic times and he is not asking this due to poor job performance as he thinks we have a stellar team who have been honored state-wide, locally and nationally. Mr. Ciresi said this has to do with the fact that if everyone is making concessions and being asked to take a little bit less then he believes that the administration should take less so that it starts at the top. Mr. Ciresi commented that he will be voting no on this.

Mr. DiBello asked if Mr. Ciresi was requesting that the administration revisit the agreement and is he asking that the motion be tabled because if the Board were to approve this then it would have to be reopened.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to table Item O and Mr. DiBello seconded it saying he thinks Mr. Ciresi is making a request and he would like to see where it goes. The motion to table Item O passed 5-3 with Mrs. Williams, Mr. Shafer and Mr. Dehnert voting no.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he does not know what every principal and assistant principal makes but he stressed that we must be careful that none of their salaries are reduced below the top of the teacher scale. Mr. Dehnert stated that the administrators work 12 months a year, have a lot of responsibility, and work more hours so he does not think it is very fair to have them take less pay than they would if they were teaching.

Mrs. Williams stated that she is perplexed as to how this appears on an agenda and then at the 11th hour this kind of issue happens. Mrs. Williams commented that we can do better than this as this is not the Board's best work and if we had an issue with this it could have been shared among all of the Board in an executive session or in a private and confidential memo. Mrs. Williams stated to do this at the last minute just is unprofessional in her opinion.

Mrs. Mullin commented that she did not know about this until Mr. Ciresi just mentioned it. Mrs. Williams replied that she was not saying that she did. Mrs. Mullin stated that she did not think of it but it was a suggestion that was just made and she is okay with it.

Mr. Pettit questioned whether it was possible to discuss a motion when the Board just approved tabling the motion. Mr. Davis replied but his microphone was not on so the response could not be heard.

Mrs. Williams stated that the Board was not discussing this motion and she was only giving comments. Mrs. Williams said this is not the Board's best effort and they can do better and she is disappointed so that is why she voted no.

O. The Board approved tabling the Spring-Ford Area School District Meet and Discuss Plan between the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education and the Spring-Ford Principals and Administrators Association, effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

VI. FINANCE

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

1. **SENIOR HIGH- ALTERATION & ADDITIONS**

ABJ Sprinkler Co., Inc.	Applic. #8- Fire Protection Contr	\$ 23,964.75
ABJ Sprinkler Co., Inc.	Applic. #9- Fire Protection Contr	\$ 39,240.00
Applied Video Tech. Inc.	Equipment-TV Studio (4 Inv.)	\$ 114,505.00
L. Gary Britcher Masonry	Window opening-Reception area	\$ 5,100.00
	Door opening-Stage Aud. area	
El Associates	Professional Services	\$ 188.06
Limerick Township	Professional Services (3 Inv.)	\$ 1,192.44
*MBR Construction Serv.	Applic. #22- Electric Contractor	\$ 85,400.72
UPS Store	Drawing Copies (2 Inv.)	\$ 299.80
*Comstar Supply, Inc.	Misc. Supplies	\$ 318.00
*Johnson Controls Inc.	Professional Services	\$ 1,183.00
*Rental World	Equipment Rental	\$ 178.00
	TOTAL	\$ 271,569.77

2. **9th GRADE CENTER PARKING LOT**

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$ 490.00
	TOTAL	\$ 490.00

B. The Board approved for 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

<u>March</u>		
Check No. 141149 – 141221		\$ 363,165.55
<u>April</u>		
Check No. 141222 – 141410		\$1,024,025.37

2. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u> Check No. 141472 – 141505	\$ 630,650.32
3. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u> Check No. 141411 – 141471	\$ 30,585.88
4. <u>Athletic Fund</u> <u>March</u> Check No. 303337 – 303390	\$ 22,221.44

Mr. Pettit asked that Item D10 be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items D1-D9 and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

1. **Lyndi Puleo – Phoenixville, PA.** Assist with the completion of psychological reports for Early Intervention Students for a total not to exceed one hundred (100) hours at a rate of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 IDEA, Part B, ARRA Stimulus Funds and shall not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00).
2. **Bon Homie Daily Living Center – Limerick, PA.** Provide transition services for a special needs student as per the student's IEP. Services will be provided for fourteen (14) days at a rate of fifty-seven dollars (\$57.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$798.00).
3. **Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year Services for three (3) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a cost of ten thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$10,875.00). In addition, Variety Club will provide a one-to-one assistant for one student at a cost of two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700.00), plus twenty-four (24) sessions of related services (18 speech and language; 6 Occupational Therapy) at a cost of two thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$2,160.00). Funding will be paid from 2011-2012 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed a total of fifteen thousand seven hundred thirty-five dollars (\$15,735.00).
4. **Darren Sardelli – Long Beach, NY.** Children's book author and award winning poet to provide two (2) assemblies for students in grades K-4 and four (4) writing workshops for students in grades 3-4 at Royersford Elementary School on May 3, 2011. Funding will be paid by the Royersford PTO and shall not exceed one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00).
5. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled "Scream and Shout, Kidz with Character" at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$995.00).

6. **Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital – Malvern, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Cruisin’ not Boozin” for students at the 7th Grade Center. There is no charge to the school district for this assembly as all fees are paid by the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation.

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

7. **Martin Luther School – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services to a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-seven (27) days at a rate of one hundred twenty-five dollars and ninety-three cents per day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00).
8. **Variety Club Camp and Developmental Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year Services for three (3) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for six (6) weeks at a cost of three thousand six hundred twenty-five dollars (\$3,625.00) per student for a total of ten thousand eight hundred seventy-five dollars (\$10,875.00). In addition, Variety Club will provide a total of (30) thirty sessions of related services (18 speech and language; 12 Occupational Therapy) at a cost of two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700.00). Funding will be paid from 2011-2012 Special Education IDEA Funds and shall not exceed a total of thirteen thousand five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$13,575.00).
9. **Progressions School – Stowe, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for forty (40) days at a rate of one hundred twenty-seven dollars and forty cents (\$127.40) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed five thousand one hundred dollars (\$5,100.00).

Mr. Pettit made a motion to table D10 and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Dehnert voting no. The motion was tabled.

10. **Jani-King – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide contracted custodial services for the afternoon/evening cleaning of district school buildings. This contract will be for a two-year term with the option of a third year. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 General Fund and shall not exceed seven hundred ninety-five thousand two hundred twelve dollars (\$795,212.00) per year for the first two years.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approved Items E-I and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- E. The Board approved accepting the state Safe & Drug Free Schools and Community Mini-Grant in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). This grant will continue to support our grades 5-12 Student Assistance Program (SAP), SAP training and further student assessment by Spring-Ford Counseling and Creative Health Services.

- F. The Board approved the purchase of jackets for the 2010 Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band in recognition of their winning the 2010 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Championship. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Student Activity Fund and shall not exceed five thousand eight hundred dollars (\$5,800.00).

NEW FINANCE

- G. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – March 2011
- PSDLAF – March 2011
- PSDMAX – March 2011
- Checking Account – March 2011
- PLGIT Account – March 2011
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - March 2011
- Payroll Account – March 2011
- Tax Account – March 2011

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – March 2011
- 7th Grade Activity – March 2011
- 8th Grade Activity – March 2011
- High School Activity – March 2011
- Athletic Account – March 2011

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – March 2011

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – March 2011
- Debt Service Fund – March 2011
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – March 2011

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – March 2011
- Cafeteria Checking Account – March 2011
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – March 2011
- Investment Account – March 2011

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

March

Check No. 10025 - 10057	\$ 301,791.72
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- I. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 3538 - 3573

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Williams seconded it. Mr. Ciresi welcomed back the students who were in Ireland and he thanked for the video message that they sent all of the Board Members. Mr. Ciresi stated that it is nice to see our students travel world-wide. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the 2011-2012 student-funded exchange program with the Coláiste Chiaráin High School in Limerick, Ireland. This exchange would provide a 2-3 week opportunity between students at Spring-Ford High School and students at Coláiste Chiaráin High School. Dates to be determined. (Thanksgiving/Spring Vacation).
- B. The Board approved a proposal from Edline of Chicago, Illinois to provide 12 months of Web Hosting Services for all Spring-Ford schools, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. These services shall include 12 months of Edline services (\$17,400.00), QuickStart Design (\$795.00), 12 months of Forms and Surveys (\$3,312.00) and 12 months of Interactive Classroom for Spring-Ford High School (\$929.00). The total cost of this proposal is \$22,436.00 and shall be paid from the 2011-2012 Technology Budget.

NEW PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Dr. Hurda spoke about Item C saying in light of the growth in the secondary the numbers in existence right now at the elementary level, it is recommended that the numbers in the motion be changed. The new numbers for K-2 would be 19-25, 3-4 would be 20-25, and 5-8 would be 23-28. Mr. Davis stated that the motion would then be to adopt Item C with those numbers which would then alter the resolutions to be adopted to reflect those numbers as well.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adopt Item C with the amended numbers and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. Mr. Ciresi commented that this is a recommendation that he would hope that we would never have to go to the extreme. Mr. Ciresi stated that this is something that no one wants to hear of 28 kids in the lower grades, this is a recommendation and does not mean that we are moving to the recommended numbers.

Mr. DiBello pointed out that we already have some classes currently today that are already there with these class sizes so it is not as if we are increasing the class sizes by some enormous number of students, in most of these cases we are just trying to adjust the ranges so that we are in alignment with some of our classes.

Mr. Dressler stated that he would like to change the numbers for 5-8 from 28 to 29. Mr. Ciresi stated that we would have to change the whole motion. Mr. Ciresi asked if there was any other Board Member who wanted to support that recommendation. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Ciresi to review exactly what the Board was agreeing to with the amended Item C. Dr. Hurda replied the revised targeted class size guidelines are as follows: K-2 would be 19-25, 3-4 would be 20-25, and 5-8 would be 23-28. Mr. Dressler pointed out that in the resolution it states 29 students for the top of the range at the 5-8 grades. Mr. Ciresi stated that the resolution needs to be corrected to reflect 28. Mr. Ciresi asked if any of the Board Members wanted to amend the class size at the 5-8 grade level to 29 students and no one indicated that this was their desire.

The motion passed 8-0.

- C. The Board approved the class size guidelines as recommended by the Curriculum Committee at their January 10, 2011 meeting. Targeted class size guidelines are as follows: (K-2) 19-25, (3-4) 20-25, (5-8) 23-28.

Dr. Hurda reported that there is a new resolution which will be Item F and is an addendum to the agenda. Dr. Hurda explained that Resolution 2011-13 is regarding the alteration of academic programming, K-4, and basically the purpose of this resolution is to align with class size guidelines. Resolution 2011-14 is to align the 5-6 grade enrollment with class size guidelines as revised. The new Resolution is 2011-15 which is the resolution regarding the alteration of academic programming, 7-8 grade, to reflect the change in the class size as just approved by the Board. Dr. Hurda stated that Item F would be "Administration recommends approval of Resolution 2011-15 regarding the Alteration of Academic Programming in grades (7-8) and the rest of the motion would be the same.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the Board needed to take public comment and Mr. Davis replied yes.

A parent who did not identify herself stated that now her daughter will have 28 kids in her class and will she still have her co-teacher or will she be with one teacher and 28 kids. Mr. DiBello replied that the Board is not saying that all of the classes are going to be at 28. The parent then stated that her daughter's class will probably be at 29 because right now she is at 26 and the guideline was 25. Mr. DiBello responded that the Board is making the guidelines in alignment with where we are with some of the classes. Mr. DiBello said with enrollment throughout the district some classes are bigger than others. The parent asked Mr. Dressler if he had ever been in a classroom with 28 fifth or sixth graders. Mr. Dressler replied no but he did teach for 30 years and had 100 students at one time in a classroom. The parent asked what age the students were and Mr. Dressler responded that they were teenagers but did not know how much difference that would make. The parent stated that she did not think this was the best thing for our students and she thinks it is a shame that once again we will be getting rid of teachers that we need. The parent commented that she does not care if her daughter does not have a laptop in 10th grade as she could bring in her laptop from home and this is just ridiculous. Mr. Dressler stated that these numbers are not required number but just the upper limits. The parent walked away from the microphone and her final comments could not be heard.

Mary Moore, Limerick Township, stated that she is a resident and a teacher as well. Ms. Moore said that she believes this is something that the Board should take a little more time to consider as she has worked in a class with 23 eight year olds and the mandates that are required are a lot. She stated that she knows this is difficult and she commends the Board for all the hours and time they put in as she has attended a few Board meetings. Ms. Moore commented that she thinks that this is a big decision as there are classrooms right now where there are 23 first graders in the class and she realizes that these are guidelines but she would like to really urge the Board to possibly table this motion and look for something else. Ms. Moore stated that the impact this could have is very difficult such as maintaining contact with parents, supporting student's instructional reading and academic needs, as this is intensive and takes a lot of work. Ms. Moore said it makes a huge impact when you start increasing these limits.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items D-F and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- D. The Board approved **Resolution #2011-13** regarding the **Alteration of Academic Programming (K-4)** “as a result of a substantial decline in class enrollments or to conform with standards of organization or educational activities required by or recommended by the Department of Public Instruction...”, effective as of the close of business on June 30, 2011, pending official approval of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- E. The Board approved **Resolution #2011-14** regarding the **Alteration of Academic Programming (5-6)** “as a result of a substantial decline in class enrollments or to conform with standards of organization or educational activities required by or recommended by the Department of Public Instruction...”, effective as of the close of business on June 30, 2011, pending official approval of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- F. The Board approved **Resolution #2011-15** regarding the **Alteration of Academic Programming (7-8)** “as a result of a substantial decline in class enrollments or to conform with standards of organization or educational activities required by or recommended by the Department of Public Instruction...”, effective as of the close of business on June 30, 2011, pending official approval of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education.

VIII. PROPERTY

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the extension of the Trash and Recycle Bid with Waste Management of PA, Inc. for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$51,000.00 which represents a 3% increase over last year’s amount. The bid was awarded effective July 1, 2009 with the option to extend for two additional years. Administration recommends extending the bid for 2011-2012 school year, the 3rd and final year of the contract. Funding will come from the 2011-2012 General Fund – Maintenance Budget.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Items A-J and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

The following individuals were approved for the following conferences/workshops:

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

DISTRICT-WIDE

- A. **Mark Dehnert, Edward Dressler**, Board Members, and **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend the “*MCIU Legislative Breakfast*” at the William Penn Inn in Gwynedd, PA on Friday, April 29, 2011. The total cost of the Legislative Breakfast is \$69.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

- B. **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction, **Dr. Leslie Morrill**, Principal, **Jennifer McGlade**, **Janet Gebhardt**, **Janine Schwartz**, **Kathryn Pogwist**, **Carol Vogt**, and **Marylu Onorato**, Reading Specialists, to attend “*PDE – RtII and School Organizational Change: Promoting Sustainability and Shared Leadership*” at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on June 3, 2011. There is no cost to the district for this conference. No substitutes are needed.
- C. **Julie Deutermann**, Home and School Visitor, to attend “*Meeting the Challenge: Educating Homeless Children in Pennsylvania*” at the Radisson Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29, 2011, There is no cost to the district for this conference. No substitute is needed.
- D. **Douglas Carson**, Maintenance Foreman, to attend “*Siemens Industry, Inc. Educational Seminar*” at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA on May 10, 2011. There is no cost for this seminar. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Jennifer Farischon** and **Margaret Castellano**, Teachers, to attend “*PDE Work Group for Keystone Assessment Project – Composition Exam*” at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on April 8, May 3, May 4 and May 5, 2011. PDE is covering all costs for this conference with the exception of substitutes. The total cost to the district for substitutes for two teachers for four days shall not exceed \$1,200.00.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- F. **Douglas Reigner**, Assistant Principal, and **Cynthia Cooper**, Guidance Counselor, to attend “*Cyber Bullying Seminar*” at Neumann College in Media, PA on April 12, 2011. There is no cost to the district for this seminar. No substitutes are needed.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- G. **Deborah Longwell**, ESL Teacher, to attend “*2011 English Language Learner Symposium*” at the Chester County Intermediate Unit in Downingtown, PA from July 31, 2011 through August 3, 2011. The total cost for the conference is \$394.48 and will be paid from 2011-2012 Title III Funds.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- H. **Brenda Haydt**, Teacher, to attend “*PASA Spring Conference*” in Harrisburg, PA for ½ day on Friday, May 13, 2011 and ½ day on Friday, May 20, 2011. The total cost for this conference will be \$150.00 for a substitute for the two ½ days.
- I. **Agnes Bolyn**, Teacher, to attend “*PASA Spring Conference*” in Harrisburg, PA for ½ day on Friday, May 20, 2011. The total cost for this conference will \$75.00 for a substitute for the ½ day.

NEW CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP

J. **Stacey Hoffman** and **Heather Shaw**, Teachers, to attend “*Biology by Design*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 29, 2011. The total cost of this conference is \$400.00 - \$100.00 from the 580 account and \$300.00 from the substitute account.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve items A-C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #105.2 – PROGRAMS: Exemption from Instruction
2. Policy #106 – PROGRAMS: Guides for Planned Instruction
3. Policy #107 – PROGRAMS: Adoption of Planned Instruction
4. Policy #108 – PROGRAMS: Adoption of Textbooks
5. Policy #217 – PUPILS: Graduation Requirements

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

B. The Board approved **Resolution #2011-12** opposing Senate Bill 1 – Tuition Voucher Bill.

C. The Board approved the 2011-2012 school calendar.

XI. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

No report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Jill Dreibelbis, Spring City, stated that as far as extracurricular events about 45 years ago she was a Spring-Ford majorette and they bought their own material and sewed their uniforms because there was no budget back then and she asked the Board to consider things like this. Ms. Dreibelbis commented that SmithKline may be moving or at least building a new building so the Board may want to ask them if they are going to move to donate lab equipment. Mr. Ciresi added that they are not moving but rather just building another facility in Philadelphia. Ms. Dreibelbis commented on the tabling of the Administration Item saying that it was a shame that it was done at the last minute but she appreciates the fact that it was said that it should be done from the top down. She asked what made the Board table the Jani King motion and Mr. Ciresi responded that he did not like it from the beginning but he feels the Board would like to see additional options. Ms. Dreibelbis asked what other options are being looked into and Mr. DiBello responded that there are a couple things going on such as looking to see if there are avenues that could be taken internally. Mr. DiBello stated that he would hope that even though the Board has moved in the direction of cutting staff that there would still be something that could be done before making the final decision. Mr. DiBello stated that the Board wants to make sure they have all of the information necessary. Ms. Dreibelbis asked what the Board was looking for in the next superintendent and Mr. Ciresi replied that the information was posted on the website and they will see if it can be reposted. Mr. Ciresi stated that basically they interviewed the staff, the community and the Board and from those responses they were able to develop a profile for the superintendent candidate.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence, stated to be very clear she does not think for one moment that there is any financial incentive for the selection of one janitorial firm over another. Ms. Bryant said that her only question is regarding the loss of control with going with an outside firm in that you really do not know what you are getting. Ms. Bryant said she is deeply sorry that Mr. Ciresi was offended by her comment and that it was taken the way she did not intend as she only meant to question if any Board Member had any experience with this firm. Mr. Ciresi thanked her for clarifying her earlier comment. Ms. Bryant stated that with regard to the superintendent search how much of the original \$19,000 contract has been spent and Mr. Ciresi replied to date \$17,710.50 and this includes expenses due to the search such as travel expenses, advertising expenses, and printing expenses. Mr. Ciresi stated that there is \$6,000 remaining to be paid on the contract. Ms. Bryant asked if they would have to enter into a new agreement with the recruiter or would it be opened up to the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Mr. Ciresi replied that there will not be any additional costs to the contract with Ray and Associates and the only additional costs would be advertising expenses if we have to do that again and any travel expenses for a new candidate to be brought in to be interviewed. Ms. Bryant asked if the Board was going to actively advertise to not only Pennsylvania but beyond and Mr. Ciresi replied yes. Ms. Bryant said she was delighted to hear that it would be opened up again as the one and only candidate that was introduced to the public was from a district that was ranked 387 out of 500 and fell 22 points in a single year while Spring-Ford currently ranked at 40 had improved by 20 points. Ms. Bryant stated that she had hoped the Board would look for someone from a similar background and demographics within the district because as Dr. Hurda has always said do what is in the best interest of kids. Ms. Bryant commented that she does not have any children in the district anymore but she just wants to see every child have the same opportunities as her children did when they went here. Ms. Bryant thanked the Board and again apologized.

Mrs. Mullin stated that she noticed that there was a sign put up at Evans Elementary and she wondered where else signs were posted regarding usage during the day and Mr. Cooper replied that they sent someone around to make sure that there was a sign posted at every property.

Mr. DiBello commented that he thinks it is important to point out that at the Finance Committee meeting next week the Board will be having a budget discussion because in a few weeks we will have to have a budget posted. Mr. DiBello stated that he appreciates everyone's concern over class sizes and although he does not want to blame everything on the Governor's budget it does have an impact on the district. Mr. DiBello said that some of the Board Members have kids in the district and they are not thrilled by the increase in class sizes but at the end of the day it is basic when you have revenue and you have expenses. The district is required to have a balanced budget by the end of June and when 60%-70% of your budget is made up of salaries then there are not many areas you can look at. Mr. DiBello stated that you cannot go to the public and continually raise taxes. Mr. DiBello said for every parent that sits here and talks about how they want the best education for their children the Board receives numerous calls from a large portion of the community who have either had children go through the district or may have never had kids go through the district residents saying they cannot afford an increase in taxes. Mr. DiBello reported that Governor Corbett came out when he took office saying he was not going to raise taxes at the state level so that means one of two things at the district level which is we either raise taxes or we don't. Mr. DiBello stated that if we do not raise taxes then we must cut expenses and for us to do that we must make some very unpleasant decisions because we cannot increase

revenue other than by raising taxes. Mr. DiBello said based on where we are from a legislative standpoint we are pretty limited on where we can raise taxes to and next year it is going to get even more difficult as far as the legislative changes that are coming to all the districts. Mr. DiBello said if we are lucky next year we will be given a guideline of raising taxes less than 1%. Mr. DiBello said it is not about the Board hurting or a plan of decreasing education in the school district but we are required to have a balanced budget and the only way we can do that is to eliminate the deficit and then look at if there was a tax increase, how minimal can it be within the guidelines given to us by the state. Mr. DiBello stated that he just wants to be clear that they are not here making these decisions because they are not thinking logically or making quick decisions. Mr. DiBello said the Board is not happy with some of the decisions and he has had many sleepless nights knowing that he was coming to a meeting to make a vote that was going to be very unpleasant but at the end of the day it does not matter who is sitting in these seats this year they would be making the same decisions because there is no money. Mr. DiBello stated that there is no way they can generate millions of dollars in revenue just because they want to preserve education and if people are that fired up about it and that angry about what is happening in education then he hates to say it because he does not like to pass the buck but it is not starting here at this table it is starting in Harrisburg. Mr. DiBello stated that Harrisburg is where you need to take your anger, your disappointment and your displeasure. Mr. DiBello spoke about SB 1 saying that he voted to support the resolution in opposition to it because as everyone knows the government has a way when they are passing bills through, especially when they are unfavorable, of putting a little piece in it to make it a little more palatable to people. Mr. DiBello further stated that you have to do the research on SB 1 because if you do then you will be as angry as he is every time he talks about it because in 3 to 4 years it will cost the State of Pennsylvania \$1.4 - \$1.5 billion dollars to pay for it. Mr. DiBello said residents should ask their legislators where the money to pay for SB 1 is going to come from because they do not have the answer. Mr. DiBello commented that the state wants to say that school choice is great for kids and we want to support the underperforming districts and give underprivileged kids an opportunity but that is about 25% of SB 1. He urged residents to do the research saying that they are being snowballed and if they are that angry about 26 or 27 in a classroom then contact Harrisburg because the Board has no other choice.

Mr. Ciresi wished Taylor Daily the outgoing Student Representative to the School Board good luck and said that the Board looks forward to reading about her in the future. He thanked her for serving with the Board.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary