

On April 28, 2014 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:33 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Willard D. Cromley, Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II: Dawn R. Heine, Clinton L. Jackson and Todd R. Wolf
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Rep.: Taylor M. Auman

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Fern announced that registration for the Cool School 2014 Summer Enrichment Program will open on May 12th. She advised everyone that classes will be held on four consecutive days, Monday through Thursday, unless otherwise noted during the following three week periods: June 23 through 26, July 7 through July 10, and July 14 through July 17. Mrs. Fern reported on the variety of classes offered which included Mad Science, Disney Princesses, and Sports. She added that a complete course catalog will be available May 1 on the District Website.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATIONS

The Vocal Ensemble and soloist Dee Dee Kimble treated everyone to an outstanding performance of "Light of the Clear Blue Morning". The Vocal Ensemble followed up with a lively performance of "Twa Tanbou".

- A. The **Spring-Ford Area Senior High Vocal Ensemble** under the direction of **Mrs. Yvonne O'Dea** to perform "Light of the Clear Blue Morning".

Mrs. O'Dea spoke about the Vocal Ensemble saying that they were one of only two choirs selected to perform at the PMEA Convention. She stated that she could not be more proud than to direct these students. Mrs. O'Dea, on behalf of the Music Department, thanked the Board and the Administration for continuing to support the Music Programs here and throughout the district. Mrs. O'Dea spoke about the accomplishments of the Music Department this past year. Mrs. O'Dea introduced Christopher Barth, Joshua Mack and Jonathan Reese and presented

them with resolutions in recognition of their auditioning and participating in the All-State Concert Band. Mrs. O'Dea introduced Deanna Kimble and presented her with a resolution in recognition of her auditioning, placing first and participating in the All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Mrs. O'Dea commented that Deanna upon graduating Deanna will be heading to Berkeley College of Music as a Performance Major.

Mr. Ciresi thanked the Vocal Ensemble for coming out tonight and stated that it is an honor to have them sing this evening. Mr. Ciresi stated that this really shows the commitment of the Music Program.

- B. Presentation of **Resolution #2014-06** in recognition of **Deanna Kimble** for successfully auditioning and participating in the PA Music Educators Association All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble.
- C. Presentation of **Resolution #2014-07** in recognition of **Christopher Barth** for successfully auditioning and participating in the PA Music Educators Association All-State Concert Band.
- D. Presentation of **Resolution #2014-08** in recognition of **Joshua Mack** for successfully auditioning and participating in the PA Music Educators Association All-State Concert Band.
- E. Presentation of **Resolution #2014-09** in recognition of **Jonathan Reese** for successfully auditioning and participating in the PA Music Educators Association All-State Concert Band.

Mr. Ciresi explained that the Board this year decided to do something different by going with 2 Student Representatives. He stated that one representative will be a junior and one will be a senior. Dana introduced herself and stated that it was nice to meet everyone.

- F. Introduction of the new Student Representative to the School Board, **Dana K. Ludgate**.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Heine made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved the March 17, 2014 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the March 24, 2014 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MCIU Legislative **Tom DiBello** **4th Weds. 7:45 p.m.**
There was no report as information was covered last week in Mrs. Spletzer's report.

Curriculum/Technology **Dawn Heine** **1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.**
Mrs. Heine reported that the Curriculum/Technology Committee met viewed a presentation on Project Max. Mrs. Heine stated that we were approached to

apply for approval of this by PaTTAN. Project Max is a grant that focuses the capacity of schools to provide students with complex instructional needs with access to and learning of grade level academic standards, including the Pennsylvania Core Standards. Mrs. Heine reported that the district applied for the \$5,000 grant which will be used to help with the training of our teachers. Dr. Floyd announced that the district was awarded the grant. Mrs. Heine stated that they had 3 vendors come in to talk about the books that now appear on the agenda for approval. Mrs. Heine reported that there was a long discussion on whether to continue offering French as a foreign language. Mrs. Bast and Mr. Cope put together an information packet for the board which provided a rationale for maintaining French. Mrs. Heine stated that as a Board if they were to eliminate French it could not just be a drop dead functionality as there are currently 500 students enrolled in this program that would need to be placed in another program. She added that the Board would need to develop a plan to phase it out if they opted to go this route. Mrs. Heine reported that AP Human Geography is being offered this year and in 9th grade there are 10 students enrolled and in the 10-12 grades we have 26 students enrolled. Mrs. Heine commented that the STEM Program which is being offered through Project Lead the Way has 54 9th grade students and 70 10th through 12th grade students involved next year. Mrs. Heine reported that on the technology side they discussed the \$250,000 that Mr. Reynolds has in his budget for technology upgrades throughout the buildings and the fact that we were holding back on most of those. She stated that they are planning on moving forward on some minor items because it is not requiring the same technology that we plan on using the remaining funds for. Mrs. Heine reported that they are also gathering information for Phase III of the Security Surveillance System and the hope was that the security assessment by the state would have taken place but as of yet it has not. The committee talked about the need for a strategy before anything else moves forward so that there is consistency among the buildings.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin

Dr. Goodin acknowledged Mr. Cope and the Language Department for putting together the information on the French Program that went out to the entire Board last week. Dr. Goodin recognized all of the individuals who made the 5K Run a success, especially Dr. Roche and Carol Ganister. Dr. Goodin reported that they had over 272 runners participate and 41 kids participate in the Kid Fun Run. The event brought in \$10,600 of which \$8,000 was profit. Dr. Goodin stated that thank you letters were sent out to the sponsors. He added that the event benefits the Senior Impact Awards which is where seniors have the opportunity to recognize a staff member who has made an impact on their lives. Dr. Goodin reported that he did not beat Dr. Roche's son Cooper and as a result he will honor his bet with Dr. Roche and this Thursday he will be spending the day in the art display case. Mrs. Spletzer asked if the Board Members could be texted with a picture of this. Dr. Goodin praised Cooper for running a fine race.

Dr. Roche acknowledged the Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club who was a sponsor and donated \$500 but somehow did not have their name listed on the t-shirt. Dr. Roche apologized for this oversight and took accountability for this but stated that the Booster Club was very gracious throughout this process. Dr. Roche added that Dr. Goodin did not finish the race but Cooper did in 32 minutes.

Solicitor's Report Mark Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald reported that he sent an email to the Board right before this evening's meeting an action item that should be included on tonight's agenda with regards to the former Upper Providence Tax Collector. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Business Office and his office have been looking at the reconciliation of collections which is the lien list of currently outstanding delinquent taxes. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that it is necessary for the Board to take formal action tonight with regards to the lien list for last year. Mr. Fitzgerald reported that it is typically the process that the outgoing tax collector should have acted upon before leaving office. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the Board will need this evening to authorize the administration in conjunction with his office the power to contact the bond to stand in the tax collector's place if necessary. Mr. Fitzgerald read the motion which stated:

"The Board of School Directors authorizes and directs the district administration and the solicitor's office to execute documents to take action against Beverly Nohl's bond as Upper Providence Tax Collector such that the surety is authorized and empowered to collect or appoint another to collect any remaining outstanding taxes as well as any other responsibilities still remaining or otherwise within the power of Beverly Nohl".

Mr. Pettit made the motion and Mrs. Heine seconded it. There was no public comment.

Mr. Pettit wanted it made clear that this related to the former tax collector and not the current tax collector. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he wanted to clarify a couple other items and that is that through their preliminary investigation they believe the district is owed approximately \$3,000 so it is not a significant amount of money. He stated that what is significant is the amount of liens which need to be collected and as of right now are about \$1.2 million.

The Board discussed exactly what the motion entailed, the timeline once the process starts and what correspondence we have had with the former tax collector. Mr. Fitzgerald responded and also advised the Board that Mrs. Nohl has not responded at all to the district.

The motion passed 9-0.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-H and Mr. DiBello seconded it. The motion passed 8-0 with Mr. Dehnert abstaining under Section 1111 of the School Code.

A. Resignations

1. **Marshall W. Lawhorne, Jr.**, Custodian; Senior High School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: April 9, 2014.
2. **Daniel W. Leppold**, Science Department Chair. Effective: June 18, 2014.
3. **Lauren F. Oxenford**, Instructional Assistant; 5/6th Grade Center. Effective: May 10, 2014.
4. **David A. Schaeffer**, IT Support Technician; Senior High School. Effective: June 18, 2014.

5. **Cheri L. Krell-Morris, MS, LP**, School Psychologist; 9th Grade Center for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 19, 2014.

New Resignation

6. **Amanda Martellucci**, Instructional Assistant, Royersford Elementary School. Effective: April 23, 2014.

B. Support Staff Employee

1. **Dorothea A. Gallagher**, Secretary; Senior High School – 9th Grade Center, replacing Barbara Dianne Simmoneau who retired. Compensation has been set at \$17.00/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Secretarial Plan. Effective: April 21, 2014.

C. Professional Staff Substitutes

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Erin K. Brady | Certification: Elementary K-6 |
| 2. Kiera M. Denning | Certification: Grades PK-4 |
| 3. Erica N. Friel | Certification: Math 7-12 |
| 4. Meghan E. Hoffman | Certification: Elementary K-6 |
| 5. Ashley R. Seufer | Certification: Grades PK-4 |
| 6. Jayne R. Sherman | Certification: Elementary K-6 |

D. Support Staff Substitutes

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Dorthea A. Gallagher | Office/Clerical |
| 2. Joan C. Gerretz | Food Service |
| 3. Jennifer H. Reid | Food Service |
| 4. Darlene S. Wood | Instructional Assistant |

New Support Staff Substitute

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 5. Rodney E. Webb | Custodian |
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- E. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts.

New Personnel Motions

- F. The Board approved the following Special Education Teachers to be hired for the 2014 Extended School Year – Professional Staff including: Fast Forward, Speech & Language Services, and Tutor Programs. Compensation will be set at \$30.00 per hour plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Funding will be from 2013-2014 IDEA funds.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Brian W. Aikens | 7. Karen M. DeLange |
| 2. Krista M. Brooke | 8. JoAnna D’Orazio |
| 3. Tiffany Burns | 9. Stacy M. Eddinger |
| 4. Amanda L. Burr | 10. Nancy A. McDonough |
| 5. Daniel R. Butterweck | 11. Jessica A. Mecleary |
| 6. April Collins | 12. Crystal Zakszeski |

- G. The Board approved the following Support Staff to be hired for the 2014 Extended School Year Program(s). Compensation for new employees will be set at \$15.36 – \$17.36 per hour depending on experience and educational degree plus benefits (FICA & Retirement). Regular hourly employee will be paid at their current Instructional Assistant hourly rate. Funding will be from 2013-2014 IDEA funds.

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| 1. Nancy T. Birtch | 11. Tiffany M. Landis |
| 2. Maryann Christy | 12. Laura B. McQuaid |
| 3. Janet T. Copenhaver | 13. Megan Mowrer |
| 4. Devin L. Dehnert | 14. Barbara Newberry |
| 5. Debra A. DeMitis | 15. Melanie A. Pierce |
| 6. Kim M. Hagendorf | 16. Sharon Ritson |
| 7. Cynthia Isabella | 17. Natalie A. Stark |
| 8. Amy Faith Janetka | 18. Rachel Weller |
| 9. Brian M. Johnson | 19. Patricia A. Wynn |
| 10. Lynn Marie D. Keene | 20. Patricia M. Young |

- H. The Board approved the following teachers to be hired for the 2014 Cool School Program. Compensation will be set at \$30.00 per hour plus benefits and will be funded through student tuitions. There will be no cost to the district.

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| 1. Susan L. Albright | 13. Keith A. Heffner |
| 2. Jennifer Basom | 14. John T. Hughes |
| 3. Catherine C. Bala | 15. Matt Herner |
| 4. Kris R. Bautsch | 16. Anna E. Kessler |
| 5. Sarah L. Becker-Fralich | 17. Russell J. Landis, Jr. |
| 6. Emily Beiter | 18. Jennifer M. Low |
| 7. Laura C. Clark | 19. Ellen B. Luchette |
| 8. Jenna P. Conroy | 20. Alyssa J. Palaia |
| 9. Maria Lena Cottman | 21. Vincent L. Randle |
| 10. Sherry D. DeAngelo | 22. Arlene B. Reagan |
| 11. Stephanie R. Fitler | 23. Katherine J. Schneider |
| 12. Katherine L. Gullo | 24. John C. Slichter |
| | 25. Sharon A. VonMinden |

VI. FINANCE

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

Mr. Cromley made a motion to approve Items A-L and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

B. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

March

Check No. 153048 – 153129	\$ 791,376.82
ACH 131400411 – 131400418	\$ 2,149.05

April

Check No. 153130 – 153320	\$1,858,494.03
ACH 131400419 – 131400429	\$ 2,644.98

2. Athletic Fund

March

Check No. 306791 – 306838	\$ 12,857.36
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3. *Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

***April**

*Check No. 153321 – 153344	\$ 120,034.49
*ACH 131400430 – 131400431	\$ 782.67

4. *Board Checks held for approval

*Check No. 153345 – 153378	\$ 43,112.18
*ACH 131400432 – 131400478	\$ 18,927.77

C. 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. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Capital Projects Checks held for approval

***April**

*Check No. 32852 – 32853	\$ 13,940.00
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D. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **APRIL** in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT – Fund 32:**

1. *Spring-Ford Area S.D. District Video Surveillance System

Upgrade- Simplex Grinnell	\$ 93,932.88
TOTAL	\$ 93,932.88

E. The Board approved the following bid awards for Custodial Supplies & Equipment, District-wide, for the 2014-2015 school year. Bids were due April 1, 2014. Bid awards are as follows:

AGF Company	\$ 4,717.03
Calico Industries Inc.	\$ 2,423.28
Central Poly Corp.	\$ 23,170.00
Franklin Chemical & Equip.	\$ 8,141.45
Hillyard – Delaware Valley	\$194,102.14
Northeast Chemical & Supply	\$ 14,340.00
Penn Jersey Paper Co.	\$ 729.71
Pennsylvania Paper & Supply	\$ 52,998.95
Philip Rosenau Co., Inc.	\$ 12,334.13
Pyramid School Products	\$ 3,378.94
Reliable Paper Products	\$ 22,848.00
Singer Equipment Co. Inc.	\$ 2,410.24
Zimmerman Sanitary Supply Inc.	<u>\$ 26,709.50</u>
TOTAL	\$368,303.37

- F. The Board approved the following bid awards for the MCIU Cooperative Purchasing Bid – Copier Paper for the 2014-2015 school year. Bids were due February 12, 2014. Bid awards are as follows:

CPG Contract Paper Group, Inc.	\$ 33.27
Lindenmeyr Munroe	\$ 1,373.40
Paper Mart	\$ 17,059.24
W.B. Mason, Inc.	<u>\$100,449.15</u>
TOTAL	\$118,915.06

- G. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Buxmont Academy – Pottstown, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 45 days at a rate of \$153.44 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Fund and shall not exceed \$6,904.80.
2. **The Martin Luther School – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program and related services for 3 special needs students as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,900.00 per student for a total not to exceed \$11,700.00.
3. **Education Alternatives – Limerick, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 30 hours at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,850.00.
4. **Chesterbrook Academy – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 5 weeks at a rate of \$240.00 per week. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,200.00.
5. **Variety Club Camp & Developmental Center – Worcester, PA.** Provide an Extended School Year Program for 2 special needs students as per their IEPs. Services shall be provided for 6 weeks at cost of \$7,250.00. In addition, 18 total sessions of related services (12 Speech and Language, 6 Occupational Therapy) will be provided at a cost of \$1,620.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed a total of \$8,870.00 for both students.
6. **Medley and Mesaric Therapy Associates – Fort Washington, PA.** Review records, consult, observe and make recommendations for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 10 hours at a rate of \$140.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,400.00.
7. **Michele Decerio – Royersford, PA.** Provide six, one hour, morning “Kid’s Fun Yoga” sessions at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$600.00.

8. **Justin Pillmore and the Bungee Jumpers Jump Rope Team – Sellersville, PA.** Provide an assembly at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$800.00.
9. **John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove – Audubon, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Owls” in connection with Earth Week at Brooke Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$350.00.
10. **Peggy Generd – Oley, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Stay Healthy with Miss Maggie” at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Home and School League and shall not exceed \$250.00.

New Independent Contracts

11. **Thom Stecher & Associates – Malvern, PA.** Provide a Resiliency Student Program for grades 1-3 at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$1,500.00.
 12. **Thom Stecher & Associates – Malvern, PA.** Provide a full-day Resiliency Professional Development Workshop for the Instructional Assistants. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$2,000.00.
- H. The Board approved entering into a contract with SchoolDude, for the purchase of software and use of an on-line facility usage system. This system will assist with the management of facility usage and will simplify the scheduling process, the permit process and will account for usage expenses. There is a onetime start-up fee of \$1,917.58 and an annual cost of \$4,850.25. Funding will come from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$6,767.83.
- I. The Board authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 1112 S. Collegeville Road in Upper Providence Township, identified as Tax Parcel No. 61-00-00988-00-4, setting the assessments of the property at \$828,060 for tax year 2011 (school tax year 2011-12), \$856,110 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$915,150 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14) and \$935,820 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15).

New Finance

- J. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
- General Fund
- Money Market – March 2014
 - PSDLAF – March 2014
 - PSDMAX – March 2014
 - Checking Account – March 2014
 - PLGIT Account – March 2014
 - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - March 2014
 - Payroll Account – March 2014
 - Tax Account – March 2014

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – March 2014
- 7th Grade Activity – March 2014
- 8th Grade Activity – March 2014
- High School Activity – March 2014
- Athletic Account – March 2014

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – March 2014

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – March 2014
- Debt Service Fund – March 2014
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) - March 2014

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – March 2014
- Cafeteria Checking Account – March 2014
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – March 2014
- Investment Account – March 2014

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

MARCH

Check No. 11606 - 11628

\$ 248,275.40

L. The Board approved filing liens (outstanding delinquent taxes) that have been reconciled by the business office and the independent auditing firm, Mallie LLP, as follows:

- 2013/14 Real Estate - file with Montgomery County
- 2013/14 Interims - file with Montgomery County
- 2013/14 Per Capita - file with Berkheimer Association
- 2012/13 Interims - file with Montgomery County

VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Administration recommends approval of the following **new textbooks** for the 2014-2015 school year. Funding will come from the 2013-2014 Curriculum Budget and shall not exceed \$68,000.00.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Textbook</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1. AP Spanish	<i>Temas</i>	Vista Higher Learning Boston, MA
2. Spanish I	<i>Avancemos c.2013</i> Class sets with 6 yr eBook License for all students	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Orlando, FL
3. French I	<i>Bien Dit! c.2013</i> Class sets with 6 yr eBook License for all students	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Orlando, FL

- B. The Board approved the 2014 Summer String Lesson Program to be held at the 5/6 Grade Center for students in grades 4-12. The program will run 4 days a week for 5 weeks, in conjunction with the district's summer school programs, Monday, June 23 through Thursday, July 24, 2014. Weekly lessons will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost will be \$19.00 per half hour private lesson. All tuition money that is collected will be submitted to the Business Office and the teachers will be paid at the current summer school salary rate of \$30.00 per hour plus benefits.
- C. The Board approved the 2014 Summer Concert Band Camp to be held at the 9th Grade Center for rising 4th, 5th and 6th graders. The camp will run for 4 days, Monday, July 7 through Thursday, July 10, 2014. The camp will be offered to students on a tuition basis, there will be no cost to the school district. The cost will be \$75.00 per student. All tuition money that is collected will be submitted to the Business Office and the teachers will be paid at the current summer school salary rate of \$30.00 per hour plus benefits.

VIII. PROPERTY

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved awarding the contract for the recoating and repairs of the 8th Grade Center roof to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., rejecting all other bids. Funding will be paid from the Capital Reserve Account and as per specifications and bid under contract #KPN-201301-03B the total cost shall not exceed \$195,504.78.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-P and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Kelly Spletzer**, School Board Member, to attend "*PSBA Spring Legal Roundup*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 29, 2014. The total cost of this conference is \$160.00 from the 580 account (registration and mileage).
- B. **Julie Caterson**, Home and School Visitor, and **Dr. Jeanmarie Mason**, Special Education Supervisor, to attend "*Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training*". This training will be provided by the Montgomery County Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities from July 14 through July 18, 2014. There is no cost to the district for Ms. Caterson and Dr. Mason to receive training which will enable them to become instructors for Youth Mental Health First Aid. No substitutes are needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Margaret Castellano, Susan Miscavage, and P. Josee Voorstad**, Teachers, to attend “*AP Annual Conference 2014*” at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA on July 11 and July 12, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$870.00 from the 580 account (registration for all 3 teachers). No substitutes are needed.
- D. **Julie Korchowsky and Nicholas Tier**, Teachers, to attend “*AP Summer Institute – AP Human Geography*” at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA from July 21 through July 25, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$3,303.20 from the 580 account (registration and mileage). No substitutes are needed.
- E. **Erin McAnallen**, Teacher, to attend “*AP Summer Institute – AP Biology*” at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA from July 21 through July 25, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$1,746.00 from the 580 account (registration and mileage). No substitute is needed.
- F. **Stacey Bogus**, Teacher, to attend “*AP Summer Institute – AP Government*” at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, PA from July 21 through July 25, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$1,590.00 from the 580 account (registration). No substitute is needed.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- G. **Sarah Pinard**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*Exploring Technology Supports for Students with High Functioning Autism*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on April 29, 2014. There is no cost for registration, the total cost for this conference is \$150.00 to be paid from the Ice for Autism Funds (substitute for one day).

BROOKE

- H. **Susan Pronchik**, Guidance Counselor, to attend “*Montgomery County Counseling Association: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & Trauma Informed Care with Children and Adolescents*” in Willow Grove, PA on May 2, 2014. There is no cost to the district and no substitute is needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- I. **Cheryl Hoppel and Caren Yucha**, Speech Therapists, to attend “*Theory of Mind-Going to the Heart of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Social Communication Disorder*” in King of Prussia, Pa on June 5, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$678.00 to be paid from the Ice for Autism Funds (registration and two substitutes for one day).

NEW CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- J. **Sarah Sacks**, Information Data Specialist, to attend “*PDE Data Summit*” in Lancaster, PA from May 18 through May 21, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$331.00 from the 580 account (registration, mileage and meals).

- K. **Tanya Chambers** and **Denise Johnston**, Guidance Counselors, to attend “*A Training for Identifying Early Alerts and Risk Factors for Academic Disengagement in High School Students*” at Montgomery County Community College on April 30, 2014. There is no cost for this training and no substitutes are needed.
- L. **Mary Pat Long**, Principal, **Melinda Bower** and **Mary Palladino**, Teachers, to attend “*Discovery Education Math Common Core Academy in PA*” at Perkiomen Valley High School on May 20, 2014. There is no cost for this conference and no substitutes are required as this takes place on a district in-service day.
- M. **Matt Bornais**, Teacher, to attend “*PSSA Item Review: Science Grades 4 and 8*” in Harrisburg, PA from June 16 through June 18, 2014. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.
- N. **Kristin Beideman** and **Tanya Chambers**, Guidance Counselors, to attend “*Exploring Educational Excellence (Brown University, University of Chicago, Cornell University, Columbia University and Rice University)*” in Conshohocken, PA on May 23, 2014. There is no cost for this conference and no substitutes are needed.
- O. **Denise Johnston** and **Heather Steinmetz**, Guidance Counselors, to attend “*Exploring College Options*” in Valley Forge, PA on May 6, 2014. This is a counselor event that is hosted by Duke University, Georgetown University, Harvard College, Stanford University, and the University of Pennsylvania on admissions and the financial aid process. There is no cost for this conference and no substitutes are needed.
- P. **Patricia Flynn**, Teacher, to attend “*AP Summer Institute – Computer Science A*” at LaSalle University from July 21 through July 25, 2014. The total cost for this conference is \$1,590.00 from the 580 account (registration).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no comments on Item A.

A. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

- 1. Policy #702.1 – PROPERTY: Naming of School District Property(ies)
- 2. Policy #822 – OPERATIONS: Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- 3. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers

XI PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. DiBello spoke about the two students at the Western Center who have advanced to a national competition and it was brought to his attention that the students are Spring-Ford students and are required to raise their own funds in order to participate in the competition. He commented that he feels that Spring-Ford has funded many students who have advanced to state levels to attend those competitions and he feels the district should fund these two Spring-Ford Western Center students to attend this event.

The Board discussed the details of the competition and that the hope was that the Western Center would pay for the cost to send the students. This topic is scheduled

to be discussed at the JOC meeting in May. A motion was made by Mr. DiBello and seconded by Mr. Cromley that stated:

“In the event that the Western Center does not subsidize the student’s trip to attend the Skills USA Challenge then the district shall contribute an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per student with a maximum not to exceed \$10,000”.

There was no public comment on the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

Dan Miscavage, Upper Providence Township, read the following statement:

“My sons Andrew and Jack are first grade students at Upper Providence Elementary. Their teachers for the first two years have been Robin Rohrbach and Eric Hettrick. Their experiences in the first two years have been nothing short of awesome. Mrs. Rohrbach gave my boys the foundations to build the rest of their academic careers. She is a caring teacher who holds the kids responsible to be good citizens. Mr. Hettrick is the boys’ first grade teacher and has also had a major impact on their lives. He goes through daily workouts with the kids (all 25 of them) to get out the wiggles and to help make them life-long learners in fitness. He also uses the Smartboard in his classroom for innovative lessons that my boys come home and rave about. I want to thank these teachers for their positive and unwavering support of the students in their classes.

Joy Needles, Collegeville, read the following statement:

“My husband and I chose to move to Royersford in 2002 shortly after the birth of our first child. We saw what this district had and wanted that for our own children. Tonight I want to share with you specific examples of what I have seen here that reminds me on a daily basis why we chose this district to educate our children. In second grade my son James was identified as having a specific learning disability and began to see Mr. Raber, the reading specialist at Evans. Up until this point, my son was not particularly fond of school and would often make excuses as to why he didn’t want to go to school. But once a relationship was forged with Mr. Raber, James’ attitude began to change. Mr. Raber introduced my son to books that he found interesting, funny and easy to read on his own independent reading level. The series was called Piggy and Elephant by Mo Williems and we now own every book that Williems penned. Through reading these books, my son felt successful as a reader for the very first time. Mr. Raber also encouraged James to participate in the “Read to Dogs” Program where each Friday James would have the opportunity to cuddle up to a furry friend and read for the sole purpose of reading for enjoyment. Two years later and James still looks forward to reading with the dogs each Friday. John discovered that my son love to sing, and although he has a beautiful singing voice, sometimes he confuses the lyrics or even makes up his own words. John creatively began to teach James how to read by using the song lyrics to his favorite songs! In addition to teaching my son how to read, John also has acted as a mentor to my son. You see, my son also has severe anxiety and when he becomes stressed or anxious, John has offered his time and his classroom for James to decompress. On one particular occasion, my son was feeling overly embarrassed for something that he had done, and so, to alleviate that stress, John met with him for a long period of time to help him process the situation and come up with a plan about what he could do the next time. Upon returning James to his class, Mr. Raber pretended to trip and fall in front of the class, all this to draw unwanted attention away from my son and onto himself. You see, Mr. Raber understands my son and because he has forged a relationship with my son, James truly believes that he can

learn and that he can read. He recognizes that he is an important person, student and even friend to Mr. Raber. This is evident because when positive things happen in his little world, like making the travel soccer team, Mr. Raber is the first person that he wants to share his good news with at school. This teacher has gone above and beyond by taking his time to invest in my son, making him feel important and special, capable of achieving anything that he puts his mind to. He has motivated James to begin to read for pleasure and because of this, the gap in his learning is narrowing and he is able to spend more time in the regular classroom with his peers. In conclusion, Alfred North Whitehead says "No one who achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude".

Denise Fazio, Royersford, read the following statement:

"I am here to acknowledge the wonderful staff at Royersford Elementary School. Every year they go far and beyond for my son and the students of Royersford Elementary School. In the fall, they coordinate an awesome dance for the dance-a-thon, which is always the highlight of the night. In order to practice they go into school early several days per week in order to perfect it for the big night. Also, my son is involved in a 4th grade dance production, and he is so excited for the big night all because of his hard work and the teachers' dedication all year. They put in many hours doing the choreography for the kids and they practice almost every Friday. Furthermore, this past week, even though the environmental education program was cut, the teachers keep doing a super Earth Day Program. This used to be organized by the environmental education teacher, but they have kept it going. My son couldn't wait to tell me about his day this week. In conclusion, my son sometimes struggles in school and they have put so much extra time over the years to help him and other students be successful even with the constraints of large class sizes. Having 25 kids in a class can be quite a challenge in elementary school. This is a huge obstacle for them but they are highly dedicated and put their students first".

Laura DiBattista, Royersford, read the following statement:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank my daughter's teachers at Upper Providence Elementary and specifically Mr. Bergey. He is my daughter's second grade teacher. He is an energetic and dedicated teacher who goes above and beyond with his creative lesson plans and new technologies in teaching ideologies in the classroom. He is also a compassionate teacher who deeply cares about his students, especially my daughter, and I believe that my daughter has excelled both socially and academically because of him. My daughter has not only learned valuable content but also skills that she can carry with her as a contributing member of society. So, I wanted to thank Mr. Bergey, I did not realize that he would be in the audience today. I wanted to thank you for being such a positive role model to my daughter".

Jaclyn Ritter, Limerick Township, read the following statement:

"My daughter, Madlyn, is a second grader in Mrs. McGrory's class. Over the last few months, I have witnessed Madlyn become incredibly confident in her academic abilities and proud of what she is capable of accomplishing. I know a major reason for this blossoming is due to the individualized attention Mrs. McGrory gives to each student. Madlyn has had the opportunity to complete enrichment activities because Mrs. McGrory is always willing to put in extra time and effort to create new and interesting enhancements to her lessons. Madlyn carries this new found confidence to the fun supplementary assignments she can find on the websites on Mrs. McGrory's class page. The examples shared by parents tonight are just a small sampling of

the wonderful things our teachers have done for our children this year. Spring-Ford teachers continue to put their students first while, as Mr. DiBello stated last week, teachers have been working under an expired contract since the start of the school year. Thank you for your time and this opportunity to speak”.

Mr. DiBello stated that he agreed with the teachers who spoke this evening saying we have a lot of excellent staff in Spring-Ford. We have one of the more solid districts in the area and he looks forward to hearing about the staff over the next couple of weeks as well.

Mr. Ciresi commented that he has a 9th grader and he has been thrilled with the teacher's he had, the dedication and commitment. Mr. Ciresi said his son, thank God, loves school. Mr. Ciresi stated that he sees his son come home and be thrilled to be in Spring-Ford. Mr. Ciresi commented that they chose to live in Spring-Ford and have chosen to stay to see him through his education. Mr. Ciresi stated that he agrees with those that spoke tonight with regards to what the teachers have done for each and every one of them. Mr. Ciresi added that this week is a good reflection because on Wednesday night we will honor those teachers that have impacted our lives. Mr. Ciresi stated that he believes it is important for everyone to understand that who and what the people who serve as teacher and administrators but we also need not to forget our aides, our custodians and the 9 people who sit here as volunteers and put in countless hours. Mr. Ciresi expressed his appreciation to each and every one of those that spoke tonight and he also stated that he appreciates the 9 years he has had here in the district as a parent. Mr. Ciresi commented that when his son graduates he will be proud to say that he is a Spring-Ford graduate.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary