

On May 24, 2010 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:37 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:

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 there is a full house and a lot of presentations and performances tonight. Mr. Ciresi said the first thing the Board needs to do is to approve some action items related to the resolutions to be presented this evening. Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Action Items A-G and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

**Mr. Pettit arrived at 7:39.**

### **I. PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Hurda introduced Mrs. Yvonne O'Dea and the Spring-Ford High School Chorus who performed for the Board and the audience who were present. Dr. Hurda commented that there is no doubt in her mind and she believes in the mind of everyone present tonight that this group deserved their first place finish at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia Beach. Dr. Hurda presented Mrs. O'Dea and the Chorus with Resolution #2010-16 recognizing them for their accomplishments. Mrs. O'Dea thanked Dr. Hurda and the Board for inviting them here this evening and said it is truly a pleasure to work with these students. She thanked Dr. Hurda and the Board for the opportunity to work with these students and for their support of the Choral Program.

- A. Presentation of Resolution **#2010-16** to **Yvonne O'Dea** and the **Spring-Ford High School Choral Program** for their outstanding performance at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia Beach, VA where the Chamber Choir was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and achieved an Excellent rating along with the Festival's Best Overall Trophy, the Vocal Jazz Choir was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and achieved an Excellent rating and the High School Choral Program was awarded the Fiesta-Val Grand Champion Choir

Trophy. Mrs. O'Dea received the Fiesta-Val "Award of Distinction" in recognition of notable contributions to musical excellence.

Dr. Hurda introduced Mr. Eckstine and the Spring-Ford High School Jazz Band. Dr. Hurda commented on what an impressive group of musicians these students are. She presented Mr. Eckstine and the Band with Resolution #2010-17 recognizing them for their accomplishments. Mr. Eckstine thanked Dr. Hurda, Dr. Donahue, all of the School Board Members, Mr. Nugent, and all of the High School Administration. Mr. Eckstine said they are very humbled to be able to come here and perform this evening. He echoed what Mrs. O'Dea said by stating that the students are a joy to work with and have worked very hard to get to where they are at today. Mr. Eckstine announced that the Music Department has a gift for Dr. Hurda, Dr. Donahue and all the School Board Members which consisted of a packet of CD's containing the music of the various high school music ensembles.

- B. Presentation of Resolution **#2010-17** to **John E. Eckstine, Jr.** and the **Spring-Ford High School Band Program** for their outstanding performance at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia Beach, VA where the Wind Ensemble was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and achieved a Superior rating along with the Festival's Best Overall Trophy, the Concert Jazz Band was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and achieved a Superior rating along with the Festival's Best Overall Trophy and the High School Band Program was awarded the Fiesta-Val Grand Champion Band Trophy. Mr. Eckstine received the Fiesta-Val "Award of Distinction" in recognition of notable contributions to musical excellence. The Concert Jazz Band also has the distinction of placing 1<sup>st</sup> at the 2010 Atlantic Coast Jazz Band Championships in Wildwood, NJ beating a long-running champion from New Jersey.

Dr. Hurda presented Resolution #2010-18 to Yvonne O'Dea on behalf of Emily McGranahan, who could not be at the meeting this evening, and the Spring-Ford High School Orchestra recognizing their accomplishments at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia. Mrs. O'Dea said she has had the pleasure of working with Emily the past two years and she is a very dedicated young lady and is happy to be at the High School. Mrs. O'Dea stated if you have heard the concerts in the last two years you will have noticed the significant advancements they have made in music. Mrs. O'Dea thanked everyone on behalf of Ms. McGranahan. Dr. Hurda congratulated the Spring-Ford High School Band Program, the Choral Program and the Orchestra Program for their outstanding performances at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia Beach. Dr. Hurda stated as you look at the students not only are they wonderful musicians but more importantly they are wonderful young people and wonderful students and they represent the district so well. Dr. Hurda thanked all of the students.

- C. Presentation of Resolution **#2010-18** to **Emily McGranahan** and the **Spring-Ford High School Orchestra Program** for their outstanding performance at the Fiesta-Val Competition in Virginia Beach, VA where the Orchestra was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and achieved an Excellent rating.

Dr. Hurda presented Resolution #2010-19 to Scott Beck and the Spring-Ford High School Indoor Guard for their performance at the 2010 Tournament Indoor Association Chapter Championships in Wildwood, New Jersey. Mr. Beck thanked everyone and said he just started with the girls in December and it was pretty impressive to see how

far they have come in 4 months. Mr. Beck stated that the girls worked very hard and it was very impressive to see how their hard work has paid off.

- D. Presentation of Resolution **#2010-19** to **Scott Beck** and the **Spring-Ford High School Indoor Guard** for their outstanding performance at the Tournament Indoor Association (TIA) Chapter III Championships in Wildwood, NJ where the Indoor Guard was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place. In addition the following weekend the Indoor Guard finished 4<sup>th</sup> out of 16 color guards at the TIA All-Chapter Championships in Wildwood, NJ.

Dr. Hurda presented Resolution #2010-20 to James Brittain recognizing his participation in the PMEAA All-State Wind Ensemble.

- E. Presentation of **Resolution #2010-20** honoring **James Brittain** for successfully auditioning and participating in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Wind Ensemble (Tuba) in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Hurda presented Resolution #2010-21 to Matthew Boyce recognizing his participation in the PMEAA All-State Chorus.

- F. Presentation of **Resolution #2010-21** honoring **Matthew Boyce** for successfully auditioning and participating in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Chorus (Bass 2) in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Hurda presented Resolution #2010-22 to Matthew Dwyer recognizing his participation in the PMEAA All-State Chorus.

Mr. Ciresi commented that the Board of Education is very proud of each student here this evening and how they represent the district throughout the community, state and the country. Mr. Ciresi commended the students on the effortless hours they all put into the music program. Mr. Ciresi thanked all of the parents for the time they put into their children's activities. Mr. Ciresi thanked everyone for their commitment to the arts, to education and to making Spring-Ford a better place for everyone to live.

- G. Presentation of **Resolution #2010-22** honoring **Matthew Dwyer** for successfully auditioning and participating in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Chorus (Tenor 1) in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Hurda said the final presentation tonight is to a group whose consistent dedication to the safety of our young people is unparalleled. Dr. Hurda reported that once again SNAP hosted another successful, in fact the most successful, post prom party. Dr. Hurda stated that prom night and graduation, in fact the months April through June, historically have the greatest number of teenage traffic fatalities which is due to us being in the celebratory season. Dr. Hurda commented that we have a dedicated group of people in the school district and in the community who have done everything they possibly can do to make sure that on one given night, prom night, we can guarantee that students will return home to their parents safely. Dr. Hurda said that she cannot express her gratitude for what this group does. Dr. Hurda invited Lori Gliva and Janice Johnson to come forward and accept a certificate in recognition of the SNAP Committee's efforts. Dr. Hurda announced that nothing happens alone and this year we had more people volunteer their time to help the SNAP Committee than ever before.

Dr. Hurda expressed her thanks to Barbara Ann Sharon, who could not be present this evening, for all of her efforts serving as the chairperson on the SNAP Committee.

Lori Gliva thanked everyone and asked for a few minutes to share the results of their efforts this year. Lori stated that over 400 people volunteered this year and raised over \$34,000 this year which kept over 800 children safe on prom night. Lori commented that on top of that 1,156 community members come through during the walk through. Lori called all of the volunteers present at the meeting up to the podium so that they could all be recognized and be presented with a certificate in recognition of their efforts. Lori invited everyone to please join them next year.

Dr. Hurda stated on behalf of the school district she expressed her appreciation to the SNAP Committee. Dr. Hurda said as a parent and grandparent she watched the energy and effort that went into making this event so successful and she can only feel some satisfaction that there are people in the world who do good to maintain safety for our students. Dr. Hurda said it has been a joy to work with this committee as they have come up with so many innovative ideas ranging from a prom dress sale, to a comedy/magic night, and a beef and beverage night. Dr. Hurda stated that the SNAP Committee really does a lot to encourage funds and she would encourage anyone who has not yet been a part of this organization to see one of the representatives and get your name on the list to help.

H. Recognition of the **SNAP Committee** for their efforts in creating a safe and successful post prom party for the students at Spring-Ford Area High School.

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

There were no questions or comments.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

A. The Board approved of the April 19, 2010 Work Session minutes.

**IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Relations**                      **Joe Ciresi**                                      **2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. 6:15 p.m.**  
No report.

**V. PERSONNEL**

Mr. Dehnert asked that Item H be separated. Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

**A. Resignations:**

1. **Patricia Costello-Falcone**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Playground Assistant, effective May 14, 2010.
2. **Cindi DiPette**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Secretary, effective May 7, 2010.
3. **Erin Hughes**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, effective June 18, 2010.

**New Resignations:**

4. **Micah Kummerer**, Bechtel Building: Maintenance Employee, effective May 28, 2010.
  5. **Molly Sheehan**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Intramural Lacrosse Coach, effective May 3, 2010.
  6. **Joan Vattimo**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Playground Assistant, effective May 21, 2010.
- B. **Leaves of Absence** in accordance with **Board Policy** for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks:
1. **James Brobst**, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Custodian, effective May 10, 2010.
  2. **Lauren Carr**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, effective August 24, 2010.
  3. **Marguerite A. Detwiler**, Brooke Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, effective August 24, 2010.
  4. **Dawn Fanelli**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, effective August 24, 2010.
  5. **Keith Heffner**, Brooke Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, effective April 28, 2010 through May 7, 2010.
  6. **Doreen D. Krebs**, Brooke Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective April 26, 2010.
  7. **Linda Lawhorne**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Custodian, extension, effective March 26, 2010.
  8. **Mark Matthews**, Oaks Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, effective April 7, 2010.
  9. **Elaine Moore**, Evans Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective April 15, 2010.
  10. **Lindsey Waltermeyer**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, effective April 19, 2010 to the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
- New Leave of Absence** in accordance with Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks:
11. **Jessica Hauseman**, Upper Providence Elementary School: Elementary School Counselor, effective August 24, 2010.



Mr. Shafer made a motion to approve Item H and Mr. DiBello seconded it. The motion passed 5-1 with Mr. Dehnert abstaining under Section 1111 of the School Code.

- H. The Board approved the following **ESY-Support Staff** to be hired for the **2010 Summer ESY Programs** that were previously Board approved. Compensation for new employees will be set at \$14.80(\$15.80 degree rate) per hour plus benefits (FICA & Retirement); Regular hourly employees will be paid at the current Instructional Assistant hourly rate. Funding will be from 2010/2011 Special Education IDEA funds.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Denise Bedard</b>     | 16. <b>Dana Peden</b>                    |
| 2. <b>Nancy Birtch</b>      | 17. <b>Emily Peden</b>                   |
| 3. <b>Susan Boring</b>      | 18. <b>Sharon Platchek</b>               |
| 4. <b>Mary Ann Christy</b>  | 19. <b>Barbara Porter</b>                |
| 5. <b>Devin Dehnert</b>     | 20. <b>Paul Seip</b>                     |
| 6. <b>Jeff Fuhrman</b>      | 21. <b>Leigh Ann Sisson</b>              |
| 7. <b>Stephanie Hahn</b>    | 22. <b>Amanda Tamaki</b>                 |
| 8. <b>Amy Janetka</b>       | 23. <b>Hilary Tutrani</b>                |
| 9. <b>Lynn Keene</b>        | 24. <b>Cynthia Watras</b>                |
| 10. <b>Debra Liney</b>      | 25. <b>Jennifer Werner</b>               |
| 11. <b>Tiffany Landis</b>   | 26. <b>Darlene Wood</b>                  |
| 12. <b>Melanie Macelko</b>  | 27. <b>Patricia Wynn</b>                 |
| 13. <b>Laura McQuaid</b>    | 28. <b>Patricia Young</b>                |
| 14. <b>Barbara Newberry</b> | <b>*New</b> 29. <b>*Cynthia Isabella</b> |
| 15. <b>Nicola Pascal</b>    | 30. <b>*Mary Ann Willow</b>              |
|                             | 31. <b>*Kelly McDevitt</b>               |
|                             | 32. <b>*Kate Gullo</b>                   |

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items I-L and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

- I. The Board approved **Sarah Fralich, Kris Jennings, and Jim Westlake** for the 2010 Summer Instrumental Lesson positions and **Emily McGranahan** for the 2010 Summer Strings Lesson position. Compensation will be set at \$30 per hour and will be funded through student tuitions collected for the lessons. **There will be no cost to the district.**

**New Personnel**

- J. The Board approved **Chadwin R. Brubaker**; High School, English Teacher. Compensation will be set at \$97,000 M+30, Step 15 with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 24, 2010. Mr. Brubaker is filling a position created as a result of a retirement at the secondary level that was approved by the Board on April 26, 2010.
- K. **Supplemental Contracts: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**
1. **Elizabeth Croll**, Science Coordinator (1/2 contract), \$1070
- L. **Supplemental Contracts: 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center**
1. **Meghan Mozi**, Lacrosse Intramural Advisor, \$388

**VI. FINANCE****\*DENOTES NEW PAYMENTS SINCE THE WORK SESSION**

Dr. Hurda made a correction to Item F saying where the motion lists the previously approved amount it should read \$5,174,710.00.

Mr. DiBello asked that Item F be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

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

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

Bergey's Leasing Assoc.	Refrigerated Truck Rental (5 Inv)	\$	2,610.98
Berkshire Systems Inc.	Master Clock Systems & Synch.	\$	2,870.00
Box King Products	Moving Boxes (150)	\$	475.50
Colonial Electric Supply	Misc. Supplies	\$	1,692.60
John DiBattista	Repairs-Office Area	\$	350.00
Earth Engineering Inc.	Professional Services	\$	1,645.00
EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	788.51
Franklin Cleaning Equip.	Custodial Supplies	\$	2,186.00
Grainger	Transformers (10)	\$	773.32
Limerick Township	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$	414.85
Monoprice, Inc.	Super VGA Cable (356')	\$	1,747.65
Peter Lumber Company	Misc. Supplies (3 Inv.)	\$	277.09
Pyramid School Products	Custodial Supplies (2 Inv.)	\$	1,259.19
Secure-a-Home	Parts for High School Intercom	\$	652.00
Sunoco	Diesel Fuel-Refrigerated Truck	\$	98.38
*APEX Plumbing Inc.	Applic. #10- Plumbing Contractor	\$	94,596.25
*E.R. Stuebner, Inc.	Applic. #11- General Contractor	\$	1,982,260.70
*Goshen Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #12- HVAC Contractor	\$	313,018.20
*Hillyard	Custodial Supplies	\$	19,908.94
*MBR Construction Serv.	Applic. #12- Electric Contractor	\$	153,976.00
*Penske Truck Leasing	Refrigerated Truck Rental	\$	1,829.19
*Pyramid School Prod.	Custodial Supplies	\$	494.30
*Zimmerman Supply LLC	Custodial Supplies (2 Inv.)	\$	3,624.75
	TOTAL		\$2,587,549.40

**2. 9<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER PARKING LOT**

Colonial Electric Supply	Misc. Lighting Supplies	\$	4,014.06
	TOTAL	\$	4,014.06

**3. 10<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BY-PASS**

Fox Rothschild LLC	Professional Services	\$	234.00
*Fox Rothschild LLC	Professional Services	\$	342.00
	TOTAL	\$	576.00

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

## C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work SessionApril

Check No. 136121 – 136248 \$ 694,875.31

May

Check No. 136249 – 136405 \$ 805,425.61

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

Check No. 136547 – 136640 \$ 927,459.14

3. Board Checks held for approval

Check No. 136406 – 136546 \$ 146,603.41

4. Athletic FundApril

Check No. 302369 – 302549 \$ 28,529.04

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

1. **Woods Services – Langhorne, PA.** Provide a one to one assistant during the Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided from July 6, 2010 through 8/16/2010. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA funds and shall not exceed five thousand thirteen dollars (\$5,313.00).
2. **Variety Club Camp – Worcester, PA.** Provide Extended School Year (ESY) Services for four (4) special needs students as per their IEPs. Variety Club will provide six (6) weeks of ESY programming at a cost of three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00) per student for a total of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) for all four students. Variety Club will also provide a one-to-one assistant for one student at a rate of fifteen dollars per hour (\$15.00) for a total of two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700.00). Additional services to be provided include eighteen (18) sessions of speech therapy and thirteen (13) sessions of occupational therapy at a rate of ninety dollars (\$90.00) per session for a total of two thousand seven hundred ninety (\$2,790.00). Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA funds and shall not exceed twenty thousand four hundred ninety dollars (\$20,490.00).
3. **Easter Seals Society – Kulpsville, PA.** Provide Extended School Year Services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-four (24) days at a rate of two hundred one dollars (\$201.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA funds and shall not exceed four thousand eight hundred twenty-four dollars (\$4,824.00).
4. **Overbrook School for the Blind – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide Extended School Year Services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for eighteen (18) days at a rate of one hundred eighty-two dollars (\$182.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2010-2011 Special Education IDEA funds and shall not exceed three thousand two hundred seventy-six dollars (\$3,276.00).

5. **Gateway Employment Resources, Inc. – Limerick, PA.** Provide Community Based Transition Work Assessment services for a student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for up to eighty (80) hours at a rate of fifty-four dollars (\$54.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand three hundred twenty dollars (\$4,320.00).
6. **Dr. Mary Lazar – Haverford, PA.** Provide neuropsychological testing and an educational report for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00).
7. **Academic Entertainment, Inc. – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled "Nutrition" at Royersford Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$995.00).

**New Independent Contract:**

8. **Drama Kids of Montco, LLC – Souderton, PA.** Provide five (5) one hour Dramatic Arts Workshops which include speaking skills, acting skills, creative problem solving, teamwork, leadership, confidence development and self esteem at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Spring City Elementary Assembly Budget and shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
- E. The Board approved increasing lunch prices for the 2010-2011 school year from \$2.40 to \$2.65 for elementary (1-4) and from \$2.60 to \$2.85 for secondary (5-12). The last increase in prices was for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item F and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. DiBello asked for clarification on Item F saying that the number Spring-Ford is responsible for is roughly \$1.2 million and Dr. Hurda confirmed this was correct. Mr. DiBello stated that if he remembers correctly from a previous meeting it was estimated that Spring-Ford would have approximately 150 kids attending the Western Center, Dr. Hurda confirmed this was correct. Mr. DiBello commented that this means we are paying approximately \$8,000 per kid and Dr. Hurda confirmed this was also correct. Mr. DiBello stated that in addition to this we are also paying about \$1 million dollars per year in debt service which equates to around another \$7,500 per kid. Mr. DiBello said it costs us about \$9,000 per year to educate a student in our district so if he is doing the math correctly for about 150 kids it is costing us somewhere around \$20,000 to \$25,000. Dr. Hurda said she does not want to disagree with Mr. DiBello but believes he is mixing two things up, clearly the tuition we spend is accurate but the debt service amount would be spent over a larger period of time and would benefit kids for 20-30 years to come. Dr. Hurda stated that we absolutely spend a large amount of money on supporting the technical school. Mr. DiBello commented that he is concerned that for such a small portion of kids in the district we are spending about \$20,000-\$25,000, not that he is against the technical school as he feels it has a lot to offer kids. Mr. DiBello said his concern is for what is going on at the vocational school that is going to promote higher enrollment so that the costs are actually reduced.

Mr. Ciresi stated that from the JOC Board itself there are a couple of things they are looking at which is a more aggressive marketing campaign. The feeling was that nearly \$40 million was spent on the building, the building is brand new, there is a lot of new programming and we need to be more aggressive in rebranding what we are bringing to the children of our district. Mr. Ciresi stated that for years the building was in disrepair and we did not have any kids who really wanted to go out there because of that and now we have million dollar labs that have been put into the building and it is time that everyone sees it. Mr. Ciresi said there is also a campaign going to rebrand the name of the building so that it will have a different image to the community. Mr. Ciresi commented that they are also looking into having the building open more to the community possibly through night classes being offered.

Mr. Dressler stated that the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit has come up with a marketing plan although he did not have much information on it at this time.

Mr. Ciresi stated from our own schools there has been a more aggressive stance to try and get kids involved and he hopeful and confident that once the renovation project is complete that there will be a much larger push from our Guidance Department. He asked Dr. Hurda if Spring-Ford had a goal that we are shooting for in the future and she responded that she was not sure if we identified a number but she does recall that we all agreed that the growth there would be incremental. We would have to wait and see the project completed before you would really have a great product to sell. Dr. Hurda stated that it might be helpful to the Board to see what the cost per student is for the other vocational technical schools in the county as a point of reference. She indicated that she would be happy to provide them with this information. Dr. Hurda commented that we did know that it would take a little bit of time for students to actually see what we envisioned in terms of the renovation project. Dr. Hurda concluded by saying we have 150+ students signed up for next year, we certainly anticipate more, and with the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Program we do have a greater interest, no question about it.

The motion passed 6-0.

- F. The Board approved the amended 2010-2011 WCTS budget in the amount of \$4,707,932.00. The previously approved budget amount of \$5,174,710.00 was reduced to redistribute a portion of the WCTS fund balance back to the sending school districts. While Spring-Ford's 2010-2011 contribution will remain the same at \$1,255,349.00, Spring-Ford will receive a portion of the prorated fund balance in the amount of \$131,347.13.

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items G-M and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

- G. The Board approved continuing with the legal services (2010/2011) of Fox Rothschild LLP at an annual retainer of \$23,800.00 charged on a quarterly basis in equal installments of \$5,950.00. Items not covered under the school retainer are subject to a blended hourly rate of \$185.00 per hour or established rates as listed under Miscellaneous Matters and Rates outlined in Fox Rothschild's agreement.



- M. The Board approved retaining Vincent D. Quinn & Associates to provide the district with appraisal services in preparation of the assessment appeal against SmithKline Beecham Corporation in Upper Providence Township in lieu of the services of Coyle, Lynch & Company. The cost of these appraisal services shall not exceed \$15,000.00. Any appraisal work subsequent to the issuance of the report will be billed at a rate of \$250.00 per hour.

**VII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved the following **new textbooks** for 2010-2011. Total amount not to exceed \$20,000 as per the 2010-2011 Curriculum Budget.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Textbook</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
1. AP English Language & Composition	<i>The Language of Composition</i>	Bedford/St. Martin's (2008)
2. Finance	<i>Business Finance Workbook</i>	Thompson South Western (2008)
3. AP Music Theory	<i>Music for Ear Training Techniques for Materials of Music</i>	Holt McDougal (2009) (2008)
4. AP Physics	<i>Physics for Science &amp; Engineering Students</i> (site license unlimited access)	Physics Curriculum Instruction (2009)

**VIII. PROPERTY**

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-D and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert asked about Item C and questioned how much we anticipate the actual cleaning will cost and Mr. Cooper explained in detail the work to be done and that this is something he budgets for every year and that it will not exceed \$5,000.

The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved the bid by Johnson Controls, Plymouth Meeting, PA for installation of a security camera system at the Spring-Ford Senior High 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Centers. Johnson Controls was the lowest responsible bidder at \$98,985 meeting bid requirements. The system will incorporate the existing 32 cameras into a 103 camera system with recording and viewing capabilities in the Security Office. Funding will be paid from the High School Construction Fund.
- B. The Board accepted the proposal from Schiller and Hersh Associates, Inc. to perform an Energy Audit Study in accordance with the PECO Smart Equipment Incentive Act 129 requirements. Total costs shall not exceed \$12,880.00. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Maintenance Budget. 50% of the costs for this Energy Audit will be reimbursed by PECO.

## **New Property**

- C. The Board approved Schiller and Hersh Associates, Inc. to prepare the plans and specifications to bid the Duct Cleaning of Spring- Ford Upper Providence Elementary School and Intermediate/Middle School HRU-1 and associated systems, not to exceed \$5,000. Funding will come from the 2010-2011 General Fund-Maintenance Budget.
- D. The Board approved seeking bids for Duct Cleaning of Spring- Ford Upper Providence Elementary School and Intermediate/Middle School – HRU-1 and associated systems. Work would be completed during the summer months per Indoor Air Quality recommendations and awarded to the lowest bidder. Funding will come from 2010-2011 General Fund Maintenance Budget

## **IX. PSBA REPORT/MCIU REPORTS Tom DiBello**

Mr. DiBello reported that approximately 80 people turned out for the annual MCIU Legislative Breakfast on April 30, 2010. Mr. DiBello stated that although invitations had been sent out to all the Representatives in Montgomery County, only a few showed up. Mr. DiBello reported that roughly 3 were taking questions and most questions focused on PSERS and Act 1 and their impact on local school districts. Mr. DiBello stated that the responses were the typical “we’re working on it”. Mr. Dehnert added that the other response was that the districts could raise taxes. Mr. DiBello reported that according to the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue the Commonwealth collected \$2.9 billion in general fund revenue in April which is about \$390 million or 11.8% less than anticipated and the fiscal year to date general fund collection totaled \$22.8 billion which is about \$1.1 billion or 4.6% below estimate. Mr. DiBello stated that the projection is for about \$1.3 billion shortfall and the reason he brings this up is because it has been talked about and we may or may not get what we anticipate next year since the state is running at a deficit. Mr. DiBello reported that the State Board of Education has approved draft changes to Chapter 12 which addresses student health and wellness. The proposed regulation contains new student nutrition standards for competitive foods and beverages which are sold during the school day in cafeterias, school stores and vending machines. There will be governing policies focusing on afterschool activities also and the goal is to get our kids healthy. They are going to propose that each kid requires 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily and time spent in extra-curricular, inner-scholastic athletics and physical activity may not be counted towards that. Mr. DiBello reported that Professor Suzanne Lane of the University of Pittsburgh School of Education gave an initial report comparing the National Common Core Standards to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards and noted that for grades 3,5,8, and 11 over 80% of Pennsylvania’s English and Language Arts (ELA) Standards align moderately or very strongly to the common core ELA Standards but when including off grades that number increased to 87%. Mr. DiBello reported that for math for grades 3,5,and 8 only about 50% of Pennsylvania Math Standards aligned with the common core standards at grade level with minimal to strong alignment for grade 11 at 84% of the state’s math standards alignment to the common core which is 61%. Mr. DiBello stated that what this boils down to is that districts need to do slightly better with math.

Mr. Ciresi added that the district did have an open hearing with the Republican Education Committee for the State Representatives. Mr. Ciresi reported that State

Representative Mr. Quigley brought 10-12 Representatives from around the state and Dr. Hurda testified on the cost of special education and the mandates.

Dr. Hurda reported that besides herself, the business managers from Pottstown and a representative from PSEA also attended. Dr. Hurda stated that the purpose of their testimony was to express our concern with the ever-rising costs of special education and the flat funding that we are receiving from the state. There has been no increase in our special education subsidy for the last two years. The issue surely is that next year we will lose our \$1.6 million in stimulus dollars that we used to offset some of our special education costs. Dr. Hurda stated that they were encouraging our state representatives to find a way to make the funding more appropriate in terms of cost for each district. Dr. Hurda said they all delivered the same message and that is that something needs to be done to help districts as they provide the best care in the least restrictive environment.

#### X. **CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

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

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

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

- A. **Margaret Castellano**, Teacher, to attend “*AP Summer Institute – English Literature and Composition*” at Penn State Great Valley in Malvern, PA from July 26, 2010 through July 29, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$899.50 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

#### **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER**

- B. **Michael Siggins**, Principal, to attend “*Investigations in an Algebra Classroom: Effective Teaching Strategies for Algebra Teachers*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on May 20, 2010. There is no cost to the district for this conference. No substitute is needed.

#### **New Conference/Workshop**

- C. **The Spring-Ford Administrative Team**, to participate in a seminar entitled “*Creating Team Synergy*” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center on June 23, 2010. The 34 members of the Administrative Team will receive training through Human Management Services. Participants will learn and practice the seven skills central to team success. The total cost of this seminar is \$573.00 from the 2009-2010 Professional Development Budget. No substitutes are needed.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Shafer seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he would like to recognize Mr. Anspach and Mrs. Fern on the excellent job they do saying they put a lot of hours in and the minutes are very detailed and this really helps the School Board be able to go back and reflect and know what went on at the meeting. Mr. Dehnert stated that these are two people who work hard and do not get much recognition. Mr. Ciresi added his thanks as well.

The motion passed 6-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #707 – PROPERTY: Use of School Facilities
2. Policy #916 – COMMUNITY: Community Volunteers

B. The Board approved of the appointment of Timothy Anspach to the office of the Board Treasurer of the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year, effective July 1, 2010.

C. The Board approved of the appointment of Diane Fern to the office of the Board Secretary of the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years, effective July 1, 2010.

**XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis reported that he is moving forward with trying to finalize the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bypass and there are just some issues now about how to share maintenance. He reported that he has comments from Bruce Cooper but has not received any comments from the Board Members so he will wait a few more days. Mr. Davis stated if the Board has any comments they can give him a call or send him an email and he will incorporate their comments otherwise he is going to try and bring this to a closure.

Dr. Hurda asked Mr. Davis about community volunteer football program with regards to the agreement being drawn up between the district and the program and what is the next step for us to move forward. Mr. Davis stated that if the Board is happy with the agreement he shared with them then the next step would be to share the agreement with the football program and get their comments on it. Mr. Davis reported that there is one substantial issue that needs to be resolved by the Board which is that someone needs to direct the length of the term of the agreement. Mr. Davis commented that the original term with the American Legion agreement was 4 years and it might be an appropriate period to go with so that each side can get a feel for each other before either side commits for a 25 year period.

**XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Linda Weaver, 806 Lizzie Lane, thanked the Board for the time they volunteer and stated that the results are obvious in the fact that this community is well served. Ms. Weaver asked about next year regarding what we are looking at in terms of furloughing teachers. Mr. Davis replied that in terms of furloughing teachers you cannot simply furlough for economics. We are not going to furlough teachers for economics. Mr. Davis stated that the Board has looked at some educational programs which may lead

to furloughs if approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hurda has applied through resolutions and letters to the Commonwealth that she has thought that by curtailing or altering some of the programs in the long term it would strengthen us academically. Ms. Weaver asked what programs we are considering curtailing and Dr. Hurda replied we are curtailing the GLOBE Program which is a special class at the Intermediate School, we are curtailing the Academic Support Program at the elementary school, we are changing our programming of Art, Physical Education and Music at the elementary level from a 5 day cycle to a 6 day cycle and this will change some of our staffing as well. Ms. Weaver commented that she noticed under New Personnel that the district hired someone on step 15 at \$97,000, she wondered if this was common practice to give someone 15 steps when they come to our district and have we ever done this in the past? Dr. Hurda replied that yes we have in the past and certainly depending on their experience we have to pay them for their degrees and their level of experience so that is what you see here. Ms. Weaver thanked Dr. Hurda.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern  
Board Secretary