

The September 23, 2002 board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit, and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.
- Region II: Martha Magee Block, Janet A. Stokes, and Robert Weber
- Region III: Ed Cummins, John S. Grispon and Richard J. Schroeder
- Administrators: Dr. Genevieve D. Coale, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marsha R. Hurda, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Timothy C. Anspach, Business Manager, and Bruce Cooper, Director of Planning, Operations, and Facilities
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Clerk: Pat Dillon

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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

- A. The board approved of the August 19th work session minutes.
- B. The board approved of the August 26th board meeting minutes.

III. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Items A-S. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved of the following **resignations**, with regret:
 - 1. **Willard Cromley**, Media Department Chairperson, effective August 21, 2002.
 - 2. **Yvonne Kirby**, Librarian for the Intermediate and Spring City Schools. Ms. Kirby has accepted a full-time librarian position at the Intermediate School, effective date to be determined.

3. **Wendy Pflugler**, Speech Clinician within the district. Ms. Pflugler has accepted the Librarian position at various schools, effective date to be determined.
 4. **Keli M. Walker**, Social Studies Teacher at the High School. Ms. Walker has taken a position in the private sector. The effective date will be as soon as a replacement can be found, but no later than November 11, 2002.
 5. **Patricia A. Watts**, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the High School for the purpose of retirement, effective November 1, 2002.
 6. **Jennifer Brodie**, Playground Assistant at Limerick Elementary School, effective September 6, 2002.
 7. **Vincent S. Giaguinto**, custodian at the Intermediate School for the purpose of retirement, effective October 9, 2002.
 8. **Doug Miller**, Boys' Basketball Coach at the Intermediate School, effective September 5, 2002.
 9. **Leann Hammerle**, secretary at the Intermediate School. Ms. Hammerle has accepted the Administrative Assistant position at the Intermediate School, effective date to be determined due to a replacement being hired.
- B. The board approved of **Laurie J. Exeter**, English Teacher at the Middle School for a **maternity leave of absence**, effective tentatively December 22, 2002 until the beginning of the fourth marking period.
- C. The board approved of **Jacqueline A. Cody**, Science Teacher at the Middle School for a medical leave of absence, effective September 17, 2002 for approximately six weeks.
- D. The board approved of **Yvonne Kirby**, Spring City, PA, as a professional employee, as the Librarian at the Intermediate School replacing Deborah Bojaciuk who accepted a position the Royersford Elementary School. Ms. Kirby is currently an employee with the district. Compensation will be set at \$46,050, MS +30, Step 5, plus benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective date to be determined.
- E. The board approved of **Daniel W. Leppold**, Spring City, PA, as a temporary professional employee, for the Science position at the Senior High School. Mr. Leppold is a graduate of Penn State University with certification in General Science and Earth & Space Science. Compensation will be set at \$38,000, BS + 18, Step 4, prorated, plus benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective date to be determined.

- F. The board approved of **Wendy Pflugler**, Douglassville, PA, as a Librarian for Spring City, Brooke Elementary Schools & the Intermediate School replacing Yvonne Kirby who has accepted another position within the district. Ms. Pflugler is a current employee with the district. Ms. Pflugler is a graduate of Arcadia University with certification as Librarian. Compensation will be set at \$58,600, Master + 30, step 10, plus benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective date to be determined.
- G. The board approved of **Diane Conrad** for the PSSA after school support program in Reading. Ms. Conrad is currently an English teacher at the High School. Compensation will be set at \$29.00 an hour for 28 hours plus benefits (FICA & Retirement) at a cost of \$35.73 for a total cost of \$847.73. Funding will be obtained from the 2002-03 Curriculum budget, effective September 16, 2002.
- H. The board approved of **Olivia Wagner** for the PSSA after school support program in Math. Ms. Wagner is currently a Math teacher at the Middle School. Compensation will be set at \$29.00 an hour for 28 hours plus benefits (FICA & Retirement) at a cost of \$35.73 for a total cost of \$847.73. Funding will be obtained from the 2002-03 Curriculum budget, effective September 16, 2002.
- I. The board approved of the **change in position** of **Cheryl Murgia**, from a full time position to a .5 position at the High School teaching broadcasting only at the High School. Compensation will be set at \$22,850 Masters, Step 8, prorated, plus benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective August 21, 2002.
- J. The board approved of the **change in position** of **Jennifer McCabe**, from a .7 position to a 1.0 instructional assistant position at Royersford Elementary School due to special education student attending a full day. Compensation will be set at \$12.35 an hour plus benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective August 21, 2002.
- K. The board approved of **Constance C. Dolente**, Phoenixville, PA, for the **School Nurse** position at Spring City Elementary School replacing Patricia Turner who resigned. Ms. Dolente is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$20.50 an hour plus benefits as per the Nurses' plan, effective September 24, 2002.
- L. The board approved of the following **support staff**:
1. **Debra A. Augustine**, Royersford, PA, for the Instructional Assistant position at Oaks Elementary School replacing Carol Roth who resigned. Ms. Augustine is currently a per diem substitute with the district. Compensation will be set at \$12.35 an hour plus benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective September 24, 2002.
 2. **Agnes Bolyn**, Norristown, PA, as a one on one Instructional Assistant for a special education student for a vacant position at Limerick

Elementary School. Compensation will be set at \$12.35 an hour plus \$.25 an hour for degree for a total of \$12.60 an hour plus benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective September 24, 2002.

3. **Susan DeSalvatore**, Mont Clare, PA for the Lunchroom Assistant position at the Intermediate School. Compensation will be set at \$10.30 an hour without benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective October 1, 2002. She is replacing Rhonda Ernst who resigned.
 4. **Leann Hammerle**, Royersford, PA, for the Administrative Assistant at the Intermediate School replacing Betsy Daley who resigned. Ms. Hammerle is currently an employee with the district. Compensation will be set at \$27,300 annually plus \$.25 per hour for degree with benefits as per the Secretarial plan, effective date to be determined due to a replacement being hired.
- M. The board approved a **correction and revision to the hire date** for **Virginia Jones**, Instructional Assistant for Technology at Oaks Elementary School. The hire date listed on the August agenda was August 26, 2002. The correct hire date should have been August 21, 2002.
- N. The board approved a **revision** to the independent contract for **Spring-Ford Family Practice**, Royersford, PA to review student files in the special education ACCESS program and complete necessary medical practitioner authorization documentation in connection with student IEP files for the 2002/2003 school year. The revised cost will be \$10.00 per IEP not to exceed \$5,000. The PA ACCESS Program will reimburse funding.
- O. The board approved of **Kathleen Gebhard** to provide substitute instructional and consultative services in the absence of Jeannette Hellauer, who was approved in August 2002, for a student as per the IEP. This position was originally approved January 2001. Compensation will be set at \$29.00 per hour and will be utilized on an "as needed" basis. Compensation will be funded through District funds previously budgeted for contracted services.
- P. The board approved of the following **independent contract(s)**:
1. **Alternatives Unlimited**, Baltimore, MD, to provide an Alternative Education Program for special education student as per the student's IEP. The cost will be \$80 an hour for 180 hours not to exceed a total cost of \$14,400 and will be in effect for the 2002/2003 school year. Funding will from the Special Education Budget.
 2. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit**, Doylestown, PA, to provide a central auditory processing evaluation for a special education student. The cost of the evaluation is \$300. Funding will be from the 2002-03 Alternative Educational Funds with in the Special Education Budget. .

3. **Great Valley Nature Center**, DeVault, PA, to provide outreach programs for science and social studies. The total cost will not exceed \$300 and will be in effect from September 3, 2002 until June 10, 2003. Funding will be from the General Fund of the 2002-03 Special Education Budget.
4. **Invo-Health Care Associates, Inc.** Doylestown, PA, to provide individual psychological and counseling support services for special education students as outlined in the students IEP. The cost will be \$60 per hour for a total of 630 hours for a total cost not to exceed \$37,800 and will be in effect for the 2002/2003 school year. Funding will be from the Special Education Budget.
5. **Lansdale Tutoring & Testing**, Lansdale, PA, to provide community based instruction for a special education student as per the IEP. Services will be provided from 9/12/02 through June 20, 2003 or until an appropriate placement can be found. The cost will be \$28.00 per hour for 180 hours for a total cost not to exceed \$5,040 plus mileage.345 per mile. Funding will be from the Special Education Budget.
6. **Lovaas Institute for Early Intervention**, Cherry Hill, N.J. to provide 20 hours of Behavioral/Curriculum Support in the home and 6 hours of IEP meeting services for a student transitioning from Early Intervention into a special education school age program at a District School. The total cost of this program is \$3,600.00, which is included in the special education budget for 2002-03, effective for the 2002/2003 school year.
7. **Wendy Varga**, Lansing, NY, to provide two hours of SRA Language for Learning Training to selected teachers (special education, reading, and speech therapists) effective on September 17, 2002. The total cost will not exceed \$350. Funding will be from 2002/2003 special education budget.
8. **William Wiseman**, Forest Hill, Maryland, to conduct an In-Service for teachers and educational support staff on Thursday, October 10, 2002, on "Strategic Stress/Demand and Time Management." The total cost not to exceed \$800.00 to be paid for out of the Curriculum Budget.

Q. The board approved of the following **extra-curricular/supplemental contract(s)**:

Duane DeWire - SH -Marching Band Visual Design Planner	\$4,096-C
Daniel DeLong – SH Marching Band Percussion Design Planner	\$4,096-C
James Young - SH -Assistant Boys’ Basketball Coach	\$3,527-D
George Growcott, Jr. – SH Marching Band Program Planner	\$2,701-E
Glenn Rhine – SH Marching Band Conditioning Facilitator	\$2,382-F
Amanda Beitmann – SH Marching Band Front Visual Facilitator	\$2,382-F
Frank McGuigan – SH Marching Band Mallet Percussion Leader	\$1,649-H
Bruce Brobst – SH Fitness Room Supervisor (Fall)	\$ 505 – LB
Christopher Tereshko – SH Assistant Play Director	\$ 300 – LC
Paul Karwoski – MS - Detention Duty	\$1,350.50-E1/2
Rose Ward – MS Detention Duty	\$1,350.50-E1/2
Treasure Maack – MS 7/8 th Gr. Asst. Soccer Girls’ Coach	\$1,395 – I
Scott Ziegler – MS Asst. Boys’ Soccer Coach (Pending receipt of clearances)	\$1,395-I
Victoria Grocki- 9 th Grade Cass Advisor	\$1,096 – J
Cheryl Murgia – 9 th Grade Class Advisor	\$1,096-J

R. The board approved of the following **professional substitutes**:

Kelly A. Critchett Phoenixville, PA	Elementary & Special Education Baldwin Wallace College
Darren Dietrich Fleetwood, PA	Social Studies Kutztown University
Nina DiCicco Trooper, PA	Elementary Education Bloomsburg University
Kerri P. Dishman Royersford, PA	Art Education Moore College of Art & Design
Patricia D. Kuhn Blue Bell, PA	Elementary & Special Education Penn State University
Zachary A. Laurie Collegeville, PA	Elementary Education University of Oxford, Ohio
Yvonne M. Lockbaum Schwenksville, PA	Elementary Education University of Maryland
Carolyn Millard Schwenksville, PA	Business Education Gwynedd-Mercy College

Melissa A. Podgurski Phoenixville, PA	Elementary Marist College, NY
Jill Rinewalt Boyertown, PA	Elementary Education Kutztown University
Daniel A. Reuss Exton, PA	Chemistry West Chester University

S. The board approved of the following **support staff substitutes**:

Judy Dinofrio Schwenksville, PA	School Nurse
Vincent Giaquinto Royersford, PA	Custodian
Jayne A. McHugh Boyertown, PA	Instructional/Clerical Assistant
Sally Mansmann Royersford, PA	Instructional/Clerical Assistant Playground/Lunchroom Assistant Office/Clerical
Jennifer L. Miller Spring City, PA	Instructional/Clerical Assistant Playground/Lunchroom Assistant Office/Clerical

V. FINANCE

Regarding Item A, Mrs. Block asked whether Limerick Township paid taxes on the specified property to the 2002-03 school year? No, said Mr. Anspach. Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item A. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. Limerick Township is requesting **exoneration of real estate taxes** (effective July 1, 2002) \$1,323.63 (2002/03). Limerick Township is requesting exoneration from paying the 2002/03 school real estate taxes for Parcel #3700000-892-016. This property is the Bowman property located on Gerloff Road and will be used for open space purposes. Administration is recommending board approval.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approve 7-2 with Mr. Grispon and Mr. Weber voting no.

- B. Administration recommends approval of payment for the following invoices for the month of **SEPTEMBER**, in connection with the **SERIES A 2001 G.O.B.:**

1. <u>LIMERICK ELEMENTARY RENOVATIONS</u>		
Fox Rothschild O'Brien Professional Services		\$ 60.00
Officenter	Task Light- Receptionist Area	\$ 102.30
	TOTAL	\$ 162.30
2. <u>INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL</u>		
Fox Rothschild O'Brien Professional Services		\$ 1,509.78
U.S. Engineering Lab.	Soil Testing & Inspection	\$ 5,157.82
*R.M. Shoemaker	Applic. #9- General Contractor	\$2,173,328.00
	TOTAL	\$2,179,995.60
3. <u>UPPER PROVIDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</u>		
Fox Rothschild O'Brien Professional Services		\$ 420.00
ECT Inc. of Delaware	Data/Phone/Catv Cabling	\$ 79,322.23
*R.M. Shoemaker	Applic. #9- General Contractor	\$1,020,987.00
*Vibes Technologies	Avaya Display Sets (12)	\$ 2,489.00
	TOTAL	\$1,103,218.23

***NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item C. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- C. Administration recommends approval of payment for the following invoices for the month of **SEPTEMBER** in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT- Fund 22:**

<u>Concession Stand/Storage Project</u>		
Dave Kuterbach	Blacktop- 100' x 10' Section	\$ 1,250.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,250.00

<u>Evaluation of Land Parcels</u>		
Simone Jaffe Collins	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 3,750.09
	TOTAL	\$ 3,750.09

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item D excluding Items 4 and 5. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- D. Administration recommends approval 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:

Check List

1. August
Check No. 87258-87324 \$158,129.37

- 2. September
 Check No. 87325-87525 \$265,541.71
- 3. Check List Held for September Board Approval
 Check No. 87526-87808 \$533,068.84
- 6. Athletic Fund
 Check No. 294019-294087 \$29,172.21

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item 4 under D. Mr. Grispon seconded it. It was approved 8-0-1 with Mr. Schroeder abstaining.

- 4. Plotts Check No. 87809 \$136.67

Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve Item 5 under D. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Grispon voting no.

- 5. Pearson Check No. 87810 \$3,527.71

Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Items E-L. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

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

Limerick Township	No. 1- 16
Royersford Borough	No. 1- 19
Spring City Borough	No. 1- 6
Upper Providence Township	No. 1-29

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

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

- G. Administration approved of the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:

Checks #4201-4253	\$130,247.14
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- H. The following Treasurers' Reports were submitted for your approval:
 - Treasurer's Report – August 31, 2002
 - Money Market – August 31, 2002
 - Naturium Fund – August 31, 2002
 - Checking Accounts – August 31, 2002
 - Payroll Account – August 31, 2002
 - Athletic Fund – August 31, 2002

Investment Schedule – August 31, 2002
Note of 2000 – August 31, 2002
Note of 2002 – August 31, 2002
G.O.B. of 1999 – August 31, 2002
Capital Reserve Fund – August 31, 2002
Capital Reserve Investment Schedule
Series A 2001 – August 31, 2002
Tax Account – August 31, 2002
Cafeteria M/M Account – August 31, 2002
Cafeteria Checking Account – August 31, 2002

- I. The following reports were submitted for your information:

Cafeteria Participation Report
Use of Facilities Report

- J. The board approved to award bids for **Band Equipment** for the Middle School 2002/2003 school year to the most responsible bidder. Bids were due September 10, 2002. The successful vendor was Washington Music Center, Wheaton, MD 20902 for a total of \$35,363.00. Funding will be from the General Fund.
- K. The board approved to accept the lowest quote for new **Percussion Equipment** for the Senior High School. The successful vendor was Washington Music Center, Wheaton, MD 20902 for a total of \$9,183.00
- L. The Chester County School Healthcare Affiliation, to which Spring-Ford belongs, is giving consideration to maintain the current 100 percent rating or the 50/50 rating. Norman Wells, the independent consultant hired by the affiliation, has prepared studies to calculate the differences between the two options. The studies reflect that it is advantageous for Spring-Ford to move away from the 100 percent rating and vote for the 50/50 arrangement. Each Affiliation member has one equal vote and a simple majority in favor of a rating method will prevail. Chester County IU must receive Spring-Ford's ballot by October 1, 2002. The board approved the 50/50 rating method.

VI. PROPERTY

The board went into executive session at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 7:55 p.m. Mr. Weber announced the board met in executive session regarding a legal issue. Earlier in the evening, there was an executive session regarding contract issues and last week, the board met in executive session regarding personnel issues, he added. Mr. Schroeder made a motion to approve Item A. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved to go out to bid for the **Five Year Athletic Plan**.

Regarding Item B, Mrs. Block made a motion to amend the motion: that the board approves the negotiation of a contract with Architectural Studios for the construction of an 850-student elementary school on the Winnies site in Limerick Township. Mr. Cummins seconded it. Mr. Pettit expressed concern that this move would delay the project and recommended proceeding with EI. Mrs. Block said it would be a mistake to enter into a contract with an architect with whom the district is having problems with two current projects. She doubted the urgency of completing the elementary school on the Winnies site. She didn't think it would cause a significant delay. Mr. Cummins said EI is supplying a blueprint that has been done and the district is overseeing the engineering. He asked about the money being saved by working with EI and said EI's executives were laughing at the district and getting away with murder. Mr. Grispon said he could not believe the board would approve the contract with EI and accused the firm of gouging taxpayers for \$1.6 million. The board voted down the amendment 4-5 with Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Masciandaro, Mrs. Stokes, and Mr. Cummins voting no. Mr. Grispon asked if there were structural problems in columns A-Y to the second floor originally. Mr. Cooper said the structural problems were where the first and second stories join and the specific column location was not available at this time. Mrs. Block expressed her dissatisfaction that no one from EI Associates was present. Mrs. Block made a motion to table the motion. Mr. Grispon seconded it. The board voted not to table the motion by 4-5 with Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Masciandaro, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Schroeder, and Mr. Weber voting against tabling it. Mr. Cummins said classroom sizes were in line. Where will the numbers be in the next couple of years? Will we be overbuilt in 2005 if we build an 850-building school, Mr. Cummins asked. No, you will not be overbuilt in 2005, said Dr. Coale. He asked for numbers and Dr. Coale cited the PDE and PEL enrollment numbers. Mr. Grispon asked when the final figures would be available. Mid- to end of October, said Dr. Coale. Mr. Schroeder asked about the raised terrain involved in the addition. Mr. Cooper said the grade difference was 8 feet. On the Winnies site, it could be the same or not – the site survey must be done first, he said. If the one-story side must be shifted down, it will be similar to the Brooke design, said Mr. Cooper. How that breaks, we won't know until we survey the site, he added. Mr. Cummins asked if the soil load problem would be repeated. Mr. Cooper said it won't because they were aware of the problem. Mrs. Block asked whether the sewer line needed to be moved. Mr. Cooper said the line is across from the development entrance, the school would be on the left. We would not have to re-move the main, it would have to go into the man hole on Sunset Road and back up, Mr. Cooper said. The board then voted on the original motion. Mr. Masciandaro made a motion to approve the original motion. Mr. Pettit seconded it. The board voted 5-4 for the original motion with Mr. Grispon, Mr. Cummins, Mrs. Block, and Mr. Weber voting no.

- B. The board approved of the agreement with EI Associates for construction of an **850-student elementary school** on the "Winnies" site in Limerick Township.

Regarding Item C, Mrs. Block made a motion to amend the item to read as: negotiate a contract with Architectural Studios for the renovation of the Middle

School. Mr. Grispon seconded it. Mr. Cummins said that giving EI everything is like letting the fox in the henhouse. Mr. Grispon asked about the benefit of giving the Middle School to EI. What kind of deal do they have? Mr. Cummins asked why five members of the board were so enamored with EI. The deal isn't so great, he said. EI gouged the taxpayers for \$1.6 million and we're giving them a reward and I feel very uncomfortable said Mr. Grispon. Mr. Masciandaro said there is no timing risk to using EI because we are using the same design. On the changeorder, the number is not \$1.6 million, he added. That is not the full number. Some of the design that went in there is what we would have to pay for at any rate. Those numbers that you hear are not the right numbers. We've been talking about the Winnies site for six months. The numbers are clear that if we can't get a school on the Winnies site in three years time, we are in a lot of trouble. Mr. Masciandaro said he was glad to hear that board members were happy with the numbers that were the result of decisions the board made last year. It will take three years to open a new school, time is running out. Regarding the site adoption – Upper Providence Elementary School is on a hill. We are moving that floor down so you have both floors on the ground and one will be higher. The design will occur after an architect is hired, which we just did. I want to assure the public that there is no deal. Mrs. Block said she is happy with class sizes now but not the method to reach them because rooms in Brooke are being used for purposes that they were not designed for. Students are losing dedicated art rooms and faculty does not have planning rooms. She said that transportation costs are up because of the shuttles in the morning from Brooke and Limerick and she didn't think it was the best use of district resources. She also said that the Winnies site did not need to be open by 2005-06. She said she wondered if the additional costs incurred at the Bechtel site may have resulted because of the push to meet a deadline. She suggested postponing the opening date until 2006-07. Mr. Pettit expressed agreement with Mr. Masciandaro's comments on the process of selecting EI. Time is of the essence and projections show that Winnie's will be needed and delays are unacceptable. Mrs. Stokes asked whether artrooms are being used as classrooms at Brooke. Dr. Coale said she needed to check but doubted that the music room, art room, and faculty planning room were being used as classrooms. However, she said that she thought that the faculty lounge room was being used for special ed. Mrs. Block asked about use of the LGI and Dr. Coale said it was being used as in other schools. Our growth is uneven but the numbers closely approximate the projections said Dr. Coale, which speeds up in 2005-06 and there is a need for a new school. Mrs. Block objected to board members who ask the administration for its recommendation yet voted against the administration's recommendation regarding the architect. She said Architectural Studio has child- and teacher-friendly designs. Mr. Cummins asked for the actual number if it was not \$1.6 million. Mr. Davis said it was a matter in litigation. Mr. Cummins said last month that the administration said it was \$1.4 million. Mr. Davis said the figure was not accurate at this point. Mr. Schroeder said he sat through the facilities committee meetings and studied the numbers and concluded that the district needs an elementary school sooner than later. He said that going with EI is the right action

since it replicates the design used on other buildings and the project would be completed efficiently. He referred to accusations of a deal and said that EI offered the “best deal” around. This board knows the numbers with the problems with the elementary school based on the change orders, such as the cambert steel, \$128,000, and the total doesn’t come anything near \$1.6 million. They don’t come to half or a quarter. Mr. Davis requested that discussion of the numbers cease. The board voted on the amendment. Mr. Masciandaro said that the administration first recommended Architectural Studios and that motion failed – so this is the second attempt to get this passed. Mr. Grispon said if it was true that we haven’t designed the elementary school yet. Once the contract is approved, it is designed. Dr. Coale confirmed that the design is a clone with site adaptation. The board voted 4-5 against the amendment with Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Masciandaro, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Schroeder, and Mr. Weber voting against it. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item C. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. Mrs. Block said that she was voting against this and the previous motion because she did not want the district to be sued. It was approved 5-4 with Mrs. Block, Mr. Cummins, Mr. Grispon, and Mr. Weber voting no.

- C. The board approved of the agreement with EI Associates for the **renovation of the Spring-Ford Area School District Middle School** located in Limerick and Upper Providence Townships.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve Item D and E. Mr. Pettit seconded it. It was approved 6-3 with Mr. Grispon, Mrs. Block, and Mr. Weber voting no.

- D. The board approved of **Resolution 2002-15** to write and to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a **mandate waiver from multiple primes** under the Empowerment Act for the new elementary school on the Winnies site in Limerick Township.
- E. The board approved of **Resolution 2002-16** to write and to apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for a **mandate waiver from multiple primes** under the Empowerment Act for the renovation of the Spring-Ford Area School District Middle School on South Lewis Road in Upper Providence and Limerick Townships.

PSBA REPORTJohn S. Grispon

This week the State Board of Education approved two resolutions that outline the recommendations of the Pennsylvania Department of Education developed to comply with provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The resolutions address the issue of Adequate Yearly Progress of student achievement. As approved under the resolution, the definition of “proficient” as currently used in Pennsylvania will be maintained for consideration of determining AYP for the federal law. That is, proficient is defined as: “Satisfactory academic performance indicating a solid understanding and adequate display of

the skills included in Pennsylvania's academic standards." In measuring AYP, the 2001-02 school year is considered the base year under NCLB and the spring 2002 PSSA administration is used for calculating the average annual gains necessary for all students to reach the proficient level in 12 years (as mandated under the law). Based on the calculations, those gains will be 5.4% for math AYP and 4.6% for reading AYP. Pennsylvania will use a non-linear, or "stepped" method of measuring progress that is intended to provide schools with greater flexibility in planning and implementation by allowing for uneven progress over time.

On September 4 a special session of the Pennsylvania legislature was convened for the purpose of dealing with property tax reform. The proclamation announcing the special session stated its purpose as consideration of *"any and all legislation necessary to reduce the Local Real Property Tax currently imposed upon property owners within the Commonwealth while recognizing the need to fund the delivery of those services which ensure the well being and safety of the citizens of this Commonwealth."*

More than 60 separate legislative proposals dealing with property tax issues have been introduced in the 2001-2002 regular legislative session. Pressure is mounting for members of the legislature to finally address tax reform issues. At this point it is difficult to tell what may be accomplished in the special session prior to the general election, what may be held for a lame duck session in November, or what may be deferred until a new legislative session begins in January.

Comment: *It is important to note that the special legislative session was called in order to address the issue of property taxes. It was not called to address the issue of property tax reform specifically in the context of education funding. The two, however, are inter-related. It may be in the best interest of the Commonwealth to establish a comprehensive approach to property tax reform. Such an approach should study the reasons behind an over reliance on property taxes*

A comprehensive approach should also consider school funding reform and the establishment of a funding system for education that is dependable, equitable, and predictable. In any event, property tax/education funding reform should not be done hastily. Any comprehensive reform initiative should be thoroughly considered. Its impact and implications must be understood before the reform is enacted into law

On another issue, I checked with some PSBA officials about our Board Seat Allocation or Board Redistricting discussion. They recommend that once we determine a plan, we should allow a public comment period. PSBA recommends in their experience a minimum of a 30-day comment period to seek input from the community on any change in how school directors are elected. (end of Mr. Grispon's report)

Mr. Schroeder asked whether the 60 proposals was an effort to deluge everybody so nobody can act on anything. Mr. Grispon said legislators running for reelection could claim that they have a bill and it has become a political issue. So nothing is going to happen? Mr. Schroeder commented. Mrs. Block said that fifth grade performance would be compared to the previous fifth grade and so on, so it's a comparison of apples and oranges and no one class and its progress is being tracked. That is correct said Mr. Grispon. So it's not a measure of anything said Mrs. Block. That is correct said Mr. Grispon.

VII. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve VII, Items A-Z, AA, BB, excluding M. Mr. Cummins seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **John S. Grispon and Richard J. Schroeder**, Board Members, **Dr. Genevieve D.Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, and **Deanne Snelling**, President of Spring-Ford Education Association and a Parent from the Home and School Association to attend the *"TOPS Leadership Dinner"* at the Radisson Valley Forge in King of Prussia on October 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$247.00 from the 580 account.
- B. **Dr. Genevieve D. Coale**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend *"PASA Workshop on Testing and Accountability"* at the Holiday Inn in Allentown, PA. on October 29, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$88.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend *"PASA Workshop on Continuous School Improvement"* at the Holiday Inn in Allentown, PA on October 16, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$127.00 from the 580 account.
- D. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend *"Administrators Technology Leadership Academy"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA from November 4, 2002 through November 7, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$705.00 from the 580 account.
- E. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend *"A/CAPA Meeting"* in Hershey, PA on November 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$75.00 from the 580 account.

- F. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager, to attend "*Elements of Purchasing*" at the Penn State Great Valley Campus in Malvern, PA. on November 14, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$165.00 from the 580 account.
- G. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manger and **Joseph Krueger**, Supervisor of Special Education to attend "PSBA Legal Liability Workshop" in Hershey, PA on October 1, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$359.00 from the 580 account.
- H. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "*Advanced Issues in Tax Collection*" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Breinigsville, PA on May 15, 2003. The total cost of the conference is \$285.00 from the 580 account.
- I. **Dolores Furlan**, **Joseph Krueger**, and **Dr. Ed Coombe**, Supervisors of Special Education, to attend "*6th Annual Eastern PA Special Education Administrators Conference*" in Pocono Manor, PA from October 23rd through October 25th, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$240.00 from the 580 account.
- J. **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend "*Hands on Look at the AFR*" in Grantville, PA on November 22, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$170.00 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

- K. **Patrick Nugent**, Principal of the Senior High School, to attend "*National Association of Secondary School Principals National Convention*" in San Diego, California from February 20, 2003 through February 25, 2003. The total cost of the conference is \$2,218.00 from the 580 account.
- L. **Patrick Nugent**, Principal of the Senior High School, **Jacqueline Havrilla**, Principal of Limerick Elementary and **Willard Cromley**, Principal of Spring City Elementary, to attend "*Principals' Technology Leadership Academy*" at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit in Doylestown, PA on October 15, 2002 and at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on January 23 and 29, 2003 and February 5 and 12, 2003. The total cost of the conference is \$933.00 from the 580 account
- N. **Chip Mulvany**, Technology Education Department Chairperson at the High School, to attend "*Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania Conference*" at the Penn-Harris Radisson in Camp Hill, PA on Thursday, November 7th and Friday, November 8th, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$427.44 - \$227.44 from the 580 account and \$200.00 from the substitute account.

BROOKE

- O. **Jill Mendel**, Teacher at Brooke, to attend "*Asperger's Syndrome: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Behaviors, Social Skills – The Cornerstones to Understanding*" at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 in Doylestown, PA on Tuesday, October 8, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$235.00 - \$150.00 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.
- P. **Gladys Thonus**, Teacher at Brooke, to attend "*ASPEN Fall Conference 2002, Building Effective School Programs for Children with Asperger Syndrome and Other Autism Spectrum Disorders*" at the Hilton Woodbridge in Iselin, NJ on Friday, October 25, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$225.00 - \$140.00 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.
- Q. **Shelly Mallozzi**, Speech Clinician at Brooke, to attend "*Promoting Functional Communication and Cooperation with Difficult Cases*" at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Cherry Hill, NJ on Friday, October 18, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$252.00 - \$167.00 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.
- R. **Karen Davis**, teacher at Spring City, to attend "*Building Blocks #2759*" in King of Prussia on Wednesday, October 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$254.00 - \$169.00 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK

- S. **Traci Stengel**, Teacher at Limerick, to attend "*Asperger's Syndrome: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Behaviors, Social Skills – The Cornerstones to Understanding*" at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 in Doylestown, PA on Tuesday, October 8, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$229.60 – \$144.60 from the 580 account and \$85.00 from the substitute account.
- T. **Jennifer Kravitz**, Teacher at Limerick, to attend "*Guided Reading and Writing The Four Blocks Way*" at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Monday, November 11, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$259.00 - \$159.00 from the 580 account and \$100.00 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK/SPRING CITY

- U. **Christine Raichle**, Psychologist at Limerick and Spring City, to attend "*Ethical Considerations for the Practicing School Psychologist*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit #23 in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, October 9, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$105.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- V. **Christine Raichle**, Psychologist at Limerick and Spring City, to attend "*Behavior Management Techniques That Work*" at the Holiday Inn Express in Exton, PA on Thursday, November 7, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$99.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

OAKS

- W. **Terri Grove**, Guidance Counselor at Oaks, to attend *“What Color is Dead?- How to talk with kids about death”* in Reading, PA on Wednesday, October 2, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$139.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

OAKS/ROYERSFORD

- X. **Francine Caputo**, Psychologist at Oaks and Royersford, to attend *“Nonverbal Learning Disabilities”* at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Monday, November 4th and Tuesday, November 5th, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$199.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- Y. **Francine Caputo**, Psychologist at Oaks and Royersford, to attend *“Maryland School Psychologist’s Association Fall 2002 Conference – A Treatment Approach to the Identification of Learning Disabilities, ADHD, and Emotional Disturbance”* at Martin’s West in Baltimore, MD on Friday, October 18, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$150.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

ROYERSFORD

- Z. **David Willauer**, Principal of Royersford Elementary to attend *“Principals’ Technology Leadership Academy”* at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit in Doylestown, PA on October 15, 2002 and at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on January 24 and 31, 2003 and February 7 and 14, 2003. The total cost of the conference is \$257.00 from the 580 account.
- AA. **Joyce Parson**, Teacher at Royersford, to attend *“Dr. Jean’s Idea Factory – Tips, Tricks & Techniques for Making Teaching & Learning More Fun”* at the Holiday Inn in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, December 3, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$259.00 - \$159.00 from the 580 account and \$100.00 from the substitute account.

MAINTENANCE (covers all schools)

- BB. **Kelly Armentrout**, electrician, to attend Lewellyn Technology *“Hands-On Electrical Troubleshooting I* in Allentown, PA on September 26, 2002. The total cost for on-going education is \$395.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

Mrs. Block asked if this was only for the high school level and asked whether someone from each school should attend? Dr. Hurda said it would be an ongoing process. Mrs. Block expressed concern regarding duplication of effort. Mrs. Block made a motion to approve Item M. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

M **Autumn Herbst**, teacher at the High School, to attend “*Student Assistance Program Training*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, October 30th, Thursday, October 31st, Tuesday, November 5th and Wednesday, November 6th, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$726.00 - \$300.00 from the Safe Schools Initiative Grant, \$56.00 from the 580 account and \$370.00 from the substitute account.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A 1 and 3. Mrs. Stokes seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

A. The following new policies were approved:

1. **Policy #114** – Programs: Gifted Education
- 2.
3. **Policy #622** – Finance: GASB Statement 34

Regarding Policy #202, Mrs. Block said that in light of the No Child Left Behind Act that this district should stipulate that it does not accept tuition students except in narrow circumstances. If the policy doesn't contain that broad prohibition, we may be faced with a situation where a district who has a school that is in trouble, may have parents who want to send their children to our school and then pay tuition. We already don't have enough room for our own kids, she said. Mr. Schroeder said that at a conference, board members learned that the district has the power to reject. Dr. Coale said she had asked the question and felt strongly that tuition should be reviewed again. Mr. Pettit and Mr. Grispon withdrew their motion and second and made a motion to table the motion and seconded it. The board voted 9-0 to table the motion.

2. **Policy #202** – Pupils: Eligibility of Nonresident Students

Mrs. Block said that she is opposed to rescinding the policy that requires administration to bring two candidates to the board and felt it was too much of a delegation of duties not to interview them. Mr. Schroeder expressed his agreement and said he wanted to meet the candidates. Mr. Grispon said that the superintendent makes the recommendation and the board should not get involved. Mr. Pettit said that hiring is a administration function and the board can still say no if it is so inclined. Mr. Masciandaro asked who would be held accountable if a person preferred by the board were to fail. Debate erupted whether this was an issue of policy governance. Mrs. Block asked why the administration placed this item on the agenda. Dr. Coale said it came from the board on the evening of the last interview. Board members said that they felt it was the superintendent's role, she added. Mrs. Stokes asked why the board was involved in the process. She added that it was not fair to the candidate who doesn't have the superintendent's recommendation. She said it was not a board

decision. Mr. Cummins said it was unfair to bring in candidates who were not recommended. Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item B1 and C. Mr. Masciandaro seconded it. It was approved 7-2 with Mrs. Block and Mr. Schroeder voting no

- B. The following policy was approved:
 - 1. **Policy #303** – Administrative Employees: Employment of Administrators (to be rescinded)
- C. The board approved of the following annual report of income and expenses as required by Policy #229, Student Fund Raising:
 - 1. Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club
- D. The following new policy was submitted as a first reading for approval at the October board meeting:
 - 1. **Policy #138** – Limited English Proficiency Program
- E. The following policy was submitted as a first reading for approval at the October board meeting:
 - 1. **Policy #109** – Resource Materials

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-I. Mr. Schroeder seconded it. It was approved 9-0.

- A. The board approved of the **resignation** with regret of **Crystal Daywalt**, Secretary in the Business Office. Mrs. Daywalt has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Business Manager, effective September 23, 2002.
- B. The board approved of **Crystal Daywalt**, Oaks, PA, for the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Business Manager, replacing Cathy Emswiler who accepted another position in the district. Compensation will be set at \$27,300, pro rata, plus benefits as per the Secretary's plan, effective September 24, 2002.
- C. The board approved of of **Joseph Kowalczyk**, Norristown, PA, for the newly approved Maintenance II, second shift Boiler/HVAC Mechanic for the District. Compensation will be set at \$19.80 an hour, plus benefits as per the Maintenance plan, effective October 1, 2002.

- D. The board approved of **Joseph Doherty**, Royersford, PA, as a full time third shift custodian for the school district. Mr. Doherty is currently a part time employee for the district. Compensation will be set at \$14.50 an hour plus benefits as per the custodial plan, effective September 24, 2002.
- E. The board approved of **Rachel M. Teller**, Pottstown, PA, for the playground assistant at Limerick Elementary School replacing Dannette Oberneder who accepted another position in the District. Compensation will be set at \$10.30 an hour without benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective September 24, 2002.
- F. The board approved of **Terri McGinness**, Collegeville, PA, for the playground assistant at Limerick Elementary School replacing Jennifer Brodie who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$10.30 an hour without benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective September 24, 2002.
- G. The board approved of the following **independent contract** for **Community Service Foundation (Buxmont Academy)**, Pipersville, PA, to provide instruction for a special education student as per the IEP. The total cost will be \$97.17 per pupil for 180 days not to exceed \$17,490.60. Funding will be from the General Fund of the 2002/2003 Special Education Budget.
- H. The board approved of the following **extra-curricular/supplemental contract(s)**:

Joanne DeMeno	SH Ramoirs Literary Advisor \$436 Code L
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- I. The board approved of the following **substitutes**:

Melissa Dolan	Elementary
Ambler, PA	Beaver College

IX CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

- A. **David Willauer**, Principal of Royersford Elementary, **Mark Moyer**, Principal of Oaks Elementary, **Jacqueline Havrilla**, Principal of Limerick Elementary, **Jeff Kollar** and **William Shirk**, Assistant Principals at the Senior High School and **Dr. Dennis Booher**, Assistant Principal at the Intermediate School to attend the *"MCPSA Annual Fall Conference"* at

the William Penn Inn on October 24, 2002. The total cost of the conference is \$373.00 from the 580 account.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schroeder made a motion that the board recommends returning the Thanksgiving football game to 10 am on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Weber appealed to Mr. Schroeder to withdraw the motion. Debate occurred regarding point of order. Mr. Weber called for a second and none was offered and he said we're done. The board did not pass the motion.

- F. The board did not vote on whether to hold the Thanksgiving football game on Thanksgiving Day or Thanksgiving Eve.

X. BUILDING REPORTS

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis distributed a letter that he received from the attorney of the Spring City American Legion regarding the zoning application for the sign on the field. There seemed to be a debate whether they had the right to bring the application. The legion has a license agreement and the letter shows that the township solicitor didn't agree, Mr. Davis said. The Spring City American attorney asked the SFASD board to sign the application if it is ruled that the SFASD is needed for standing or permission to make the application. Mr. Davis said this decision was a board decision.

MOTION: Mrs. Block made a motion that the board join in the application for zoning relief filed by the Spring City American Legion Baseball Inc. filed with the zoning board for variance from Upper Providence Township. Mr. Cummins seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro asked the difference between the solicitor's definition and Mrs. Block's motion. Mrs. Block added to the motion to read: to join in the purposes of establishing standing and agreeing that they have permission to make the zoning application. Mr. Cummins seconded it.

Mr. Schroeder said that the American Legion Baseball supported the district and the board should support them. Mr. Cummins expressed his support of the American Legion. Mrs. Stokes said the American Legion has done fine things for the district and the issue was that the legality of the Plotts Oil advertising sign has never been determined. Mr. Schroeder said this motion's purpose was to determine the sign's legality. A long debate ensued regarding the sign and advertising and whether the board or administration was aware of the sign before it was erected. Mr. Rocchio asked if there was a policy in place to prevent a sign from going up in the future without the board's knowledge. No said Mr. Weber. Mr. Grispon and Mr. Davis said that a paragraph in the contract said the district had an obligation for any necessary permits. **The board voted 8-1 to approve the motion** with Mrs. Stokes voting against it.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Melinda Doyle, Bradford Woods

Expressed concern about the bus stop. Dr. Coale said that Mr. Anspach and Mrs. Rhoads submitted a proposal to her today but that she wanted to give the board a day's notice before discussing it in public.

John Rossi, Waterford Green Associates (formerly The Hamlet)

Says he would like a bus to come into his development for safety reasons. Said he had asked before and was denied because the streets were not dedicated. Now they are dedicated. Wants the bus to come into Crown Point and come around the horse shoe. Mr. Weber recommended that he contact the Transportation Department.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pettit seconded it. The board adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Magee Block
Board Secretary

Pat Dillon
Recording Clerk