

On September 24, 2007, the regular meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:34p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro and Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr.
Region II: Ammon G. Morgan, Jr.
Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi and John S. Grispon
Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams
Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
Business Manager: Tim Anspach
Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.: Michael J. Masciandaro

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that some additional activities have been added to the slate of homecoming festivities. The additional activities include a powder puff football game on Friday, September 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Coach McNelly Stadium followed by a bonfire on the High School campus at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Homecoming Dance for adults at the Loft at Limerick Golf Club from 7 to 11:00 p.m. On Saturday, September 29 the Homecoming parade will begin at noon followed by pre-game festivities around 1:30 p.m. and then the football team will take on Owen J. Roberts at 2:00 p.m. The 9th Grade Center will hold an orientation and open house on Tuesday, October 2 from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Weber arrived at 7:36

Mrs. Williams commented that many of you may have noticed that for several meetings now Mr. Petrowski has been absent. She reported that she spoke with him today and he asked her to convey to everyone that he has had several major surgeries and at the present time is in the process of recuperating. He asked her to thank everyone for their calls and prayers and said he fully intends on being back in October.

I. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Murray from Boenning and Scattergood said this presentation is an outgrowth of the presentation originally made to the Finance Committee with regards to looking at what the District has publicly talked about which is the need for additional capacity here at the high school and the commitment made on the Western Center. Mr. Murray said this presentation puts together both pieces and two potential bond structures. Mr. Murray said one bond is a level debt service structure and the other is a modified schedule that has slightly lower payments in

the front and slightly wraps around the existing debt of the District. Mr. Murray showed two charts regarding interest rates. The first chart is the index of the bond buyer for the past twenty years and the second chart shows the past year. Mr. Murray said there is some volatility in the charts and their purpose is to show where we have been and help project out for the future.

Mr. Pettit arrived at 7:40

Mr. Murray showed a chart of the history of the School District's bond issues and outstanding debt service. Mr. Murray reported that currently the outstanding debt service for the School District is level at about \$13.4 million per year and is all budgeted for. Mr. Murray said all the School District's debt service goes away by the year 2025-2026 so there is not a lot of long term debt.

Mr. Murray explained that option one is for \$52.0 million and that is broken down as \$35.0 million for the high school and \$17.5 million for the Western Center project. Mr. Murray noted that on the level schedule you will see that the debt service levels off at \$17.2 million. Mr. Murray explained the estimated millage impact for unbudgeted debt service requirements which amounted to \$99.00 (2008-09) and \$109.00 (2009-10).

Mr. Murray reported that option two which is a modified schedule which is also called a modified wrap-around. Mr. Murray said we are amortizing some principal in the front but we are taking a little bit of the debt service and moving it to the back of the scale leveling off all of the District's debt service overall in a better fashion. Mr. Murray explained that the estimated millage impact for under this option amounts to \$90 (2008-09 and 2009-10).

Mr. Murray said the real difference between option one and option two is just a little bit on the top line debt service, it evens out increases just a little to make them more manageable. Both schedules allow for any additional projects that may be considered in the future as it does not bind you, it does not do excessive wrap-arounds, or prevent you from doing level or anything in the future, it simply manages the debt service in an appropriate fashion. Mr. Murray reported that it is more stylistic than economical.

Mr. Masciandaro questioned the two projects that are on the books now and when we can expect to have the funding in place to start paying off the construction costs or any costs associated with the project, Mr. Murray said the general rule of thumb is before you borrow you should have a reasonable expectation that you will spend the money down in three years. Mr. Murray said although he cannot say when spending will occur from a construction standpoint, there is no penalty in borrowing that money now because you would invest the money and earn as much as you are paying until such time you will need it. Mr. Murray said there is no economic benefit or loss from doing it now or when you actually have construction payments to be made. Mr. Murray commented that it is really about whether you want to have an interest rate risk, should you borrow now and get it over with or wait and have interest rates potentially go up or quite possibly go down. Mr. Masciandaro asked what the outlook is for interest rates and Mr. Murray said he is not real happy with the direction long term interest rates have taken basically the bond market feels that there is inflation pressure

out there and is not of the mind to lower long term rates much further than where they have been. Mr. Murray said in his view where interest rates are is where they are and he does not have any great expectation that they will go precipitously lower but he can foresee situations where they could go dramatically higher. Mr. Masciandaro asked what the current status is for bond funds that are unspent at this time and are any of these funds something that are adequate to be looking at for these projects, Mr. Anspach said all the old bond funds are already allocated for various projects so they are already committed.

Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Davis to clarify the three year rule and whether it was three years from date you borrow until you write the first check and Mr. Davis confirmed it was until you do your first draw down.

Mr. Pettit commented that we have been very fortunate with our financial timing and we all owe Mr. Murray a debt for his recommendations and advice over that period of time as it has played no small part in our luck. Mr. Murray said they try to be prepared and review the District's debt on a quarterly basis but it is a team effort as he conveys his ideas to the Business Office, they then pass along the information to the Finance Committee who is very receptive to the suggestions and then the Board works with the Administration and it all kind of works out.

Mr. Ciresi asked about a previous discussion regarding the financing of the Western Center Project saying he believes we were going to look into the option of the three districts borrowing together in order to get a better rate and reimbursement. Mr. Ciresi also asked about the numbers presented and the increase in millage and he asked if it would be possible to include in the Board packet what the impact of the operation would be on a per year basis from the expansion of the high school and what we are projecting at the Western Center so that we get one millage rate for what this project will come up at, how many teachers we will have to hire here. Mr. Ciresi said he knows it will be a guesstimate to a point but he just wanted to throw it out there and he hoped that maybe this information could be given to the Board in a month or so. Mr. Anspach replied that the business managers for Spring-Ford, Upper Perkiomen and Pottsgrove all met and discussed various options for financing the project at the Western Center. Option one would be for all three districts to borrow together, option two would be for all three to borrow separately and option three would be for all three to borrow some of the money jointly with the remainder of the money being borrowed independently. Mr. Anspach said one of the unique problems is that Upper Perkiomen and Pottsgrove have entered into pre-purchase agreements with Act 1 so they are in a dilemma where they have to borrow the funds independently. Mr. Davis added that these two districts also have different correspondent purchasers in their SWAP agreements so they cannot even go together to put their deal together. Mr. Anspach said it is not an easy thing to put this financing together for the Western Center and one of the concerns he has is that our \$17.5 million share changes over time as it is based on the school districts market values as well as your five year ADM values for all three schools. Mr. Anspach commented that in his opinion some type of reconciliation account is needed in order to make sure that when Spring-Ford pays its' share it is also getting reimbursement back from the state for the share that it paid. Dr. Hurda asked for clarification that the information Mr. Ciresi was looking for was an indication of the impact of the borrowing with the two other

districts at the Western Center and the impact on our operation as a whole when we bring the Western Center students back plus the increase in staff that we are going to need as our population grows; Mr. Ciresi confirmed this is what he was looking for so that when we look at the millage rate we can have a true number to the impact to the taxpayer in the budget.

Mr. Rocchio asked when the other two sending districts got into the purchase agreements that Mr. Davis spoke about. Mr. Davis said he cannot speak for Upper Perkiomen but everyone was doing it on the eve of Act 1 becoming effective. Mr. Murray said it was around April of 2006 or right before in January of 2006. Mr. Murray said the idea was that you could enter into a forward purchase agreement and incur debt but not issue it so therefore any millage increase that would go along with that would come as an exemption to the index of Act 1. Mr. Rocchio asked if Mr. Murray could run a stress test on the debt service and Mr. Murray said he can certainly do this tomorrow. Dr. Hurda said she if Mr. Murray will forward the information to her she will include it in the board packet this week.

Mrs. Williams asked if Mr. Murray was looking for a parameters resolution from the Board before the board meeting in October, Mr. Murray said no his only intention was to bring this to the attention of the full Board. Mr. Murray commented that he needs some direction from the Board if they want to start moving forward towards this. Mr. Murray said there is some correspondence that he will need to undertake with the Western Center and he asked the Board to authorize him to do this so he can make them aware of the fact that we will be going down this path and then there is paperwork that must be done. Mr. Murray said the Board would be fine with taking action at the October meeting on incurring the debt at that point, a parameters resolution would not be necessary.

Mr. Ciresi asked if there was money in the Capital Reserve Account earmarked for the Western Center, Mr. Anspach said there is a line item for this and the amount is \$15.4 million. Mr. Ciresi commented that under this plan we would be borrowing the full amount and he wondered if it would not be more beneficial for us to take part of the funds in the Capital Reserve Account and put it towards the Western Center Renovation Project and then borrow less money, Mr. Anspach said that is the option of the Board. Mr. Grispon responded that the Capital Reserve is not fully funded; Mr. Ciresi said it is about \$3.0 million under what the funding is. Mr. Grispon said it depends on how you look at the Capital Reserve because you anticipate money coming into that fund each year to be able to fully fund that whole thing. Mr. Ciresi said there is about \$22.0 million in the Capital in Reserve right now and Mr. Grispon said some of it is allocated for other things. Mr. Ciresi said he would like to find out whatever is allocated toward that number because we may not have to borrow the full amount. Mrs. Williams reported that she believes it was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to fund the entire amount and not touch the Capital Reserve simply because it is not fully funded. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Anspach for the current balance of the Capital Reserve Account and Mr. Anspach answered saying it is \$20.0 million. Mr. Rocchio said one concern he has is that the high school addition is not in there yet and with all the debt we have coming up we need to think of the big picture on how much to borrow at the relative terms and then discuss how much should come from the Capital Reserve for this project and how much of the balance do

we allocate for future projects. Mr. Rocchio commented that if we are going to borrow we should borrow as much as we can now at the best rates we can and then figure out how to allocate it. Mr. Anspach said the Capital Reserve Account has always given the Board a lot of flexibility and in essence it helps with planning for keeping taxes down over the long term but we realize Act 1 will create a dilemma for the Board out three years from now and if we do not plan ahead we will be looking at cutting things out of the budget that we really do not wish to cut such as non-mandated programs.

Mr. Masciandaro reminded the public that the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on October 11 in the District Office at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Williams encouraged the Board Members to attend as well because they will be able to look at things in much greater detail.

Mrs. Williams asked the Board if everyone was okay with us going down this road without a vote; there were no objections voiced.

- A. Edward Murray, Boenning and Scattergood, Inc., to present financing options for the High School and WCTS Projects.

Mr. Bannon said he is back to answer any questions the Board may have regarding the High School Addition and Renovation Project. Mr. Bannon said he did forward to Dr. Hurda what is being referred to as Phase II – Future Projects. Dr. Hurda said the Phase II information was in response to a question asked last week by Mr. Weber. Dr. Hurda thanked Mr. Bannon for preparing the report and said you can really see we are options that range anywhere from \$28 million to \$63 million depending on the option selected.

Mr. Weber said if in the future if we are looking at any of the options presented we are looking at minimally an additional \$28 million on top of the \$52 million we are currently talking about so we are in essence talking about borrowing \$90 million in the next ten years. Dr. Hurda said that is a pretty conservative figure depending on which option the Board selects for Phase II but that is essentially right.

Dr. Hurda commented that when we approved Mr. Bannon working on this high school project last June we gave him permission to make a recommendation and design this project as well as move forward with PlanCon A & B; Mr. Bannon said this was correct. Dr. Hurda said it would seem to her that we need a resolution by the Board to move forward from this point; Mr. Bannon confirmed this and said he did go to the effort of preparing a draft resolution for the Board to use when the appropriate time came. Dr. Hurda asked if the process would be held up if the Board did not adopt the resolution until the October Board Meeting and Mr. Bannon said October will be fine.

Mr. Ciresi questioned whether or not we needed to tell Mr. Bannon which option we chose to go with whether it is the design for 2000 students or 2400 students; Mr. Bannon said he needed this information in order to prepare the PlanCon documents.

Mr. Grispon said before we go any further we need a contract with Mr. Bannon. Mr. Bannon said this is in the works and the process has been started as the solicitors are looking into the language of the contract.

Dr. Hurda clarified that the approval of PlanCon A & B officially starts the project still can be changed, altered and stopped after this point.

Mrs. Williams questioned when Mr. Bannon spoke to Mr. Murray about this project what student number was used to calculate the finances, Mr. Bannon said 2400 students.

Mr. Ciresi questioned the classroom requirements and suggested that this discussion take place at the next Property Committee Meeting in order to decide which option we want to pursue. Dr. Hurda said we presently have 675 students in second grade today and this probably will not be the highest number we will have as there could be more students moving into the District that will fall into this grade level. Mr. Ciresi commented that this information pretty much decides that we will need to go with the option for 2400 students. Dr. Hurda said in conversation with Mr. Bannon it is much more cost efficient to build for the bigger than it is to have to come back again and do it. Dr. Hurda said this past summer we enrolled over 400 new students of which more than half were in grades K-6 which is more than we did last year so we will more than likely see a class of 800 before we know it.

Mr. Rocchio said he agrees and if we believe that we will see 700 second graders then a high school for 2000 becomes almost a meaningless number. Mr. Rocchio gave an example of being at his daughter's cheerleading game and observed 40 players on the sidelines in uniform while a full team was already on the field compared with our opponent who had 6 extra players on the sidelines. Mr. Rocchio said he questioned when many of these players would ever get a chance to play and he knows there have been concerns about going with a second high school and talks center around curriculum but there are a lot of additional things that round out children's education. Mr. Rocchio said he worries that ten or fifteen years from now if we have done justice and while it may seem ridiculous to think about 2000 students he does not believe it is foolish to think that way.

Mrs. Williams asked the Board if they wish to do the resolution tonight but there was a concern voiced that we do not have a completed contract with Mr. Bannon. The Board opted to wait until the October meeting to adopt the resolution for PlanCon A & B.

- B. Follow up question and answer session with Gary Bannon, E.I. Associates regarding High School Addition and Renovation Project.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Donna Williams

As needed

No report.

Community Relations

Donna Williams

2nd Mon. 8:15 p.m.

No report

Mrs. Williams said with regards to finance, she spoke to Mr. Petrowski today and as Chair of the Finance Committee he asked her to relay a message to Mr. Anspach which was to look into the possibility of bidding out the gasoline costs for the District.

Curriculum/Technology

Raymond J. Rocchio, Jr. 1st Tues. 7 p.m.

Mr. Rocchio said the Curriculum/Technology Committee met and covered a lot of topics including staff development, summer curriculum issues and initiatives, 2007-2008 textbook adoptions, and also reviewed the curriculum cycle and calendar for the next five years out. Mr. Rocchio reported that the Committee also spent time discussing dual enrollment and grants that may be available for these courses. Mr. Rocchio said they also discussed 2008-2009 new courses for the high school and Mr. Nugent expressed that his concern with regards to space limitations. The Committee also started discussions on graduation credits and feel this is something that will take a protracted period of time and not something that they are looking to accomplish this year. Mr. Spohn spoke to the Committee about Skyward Technology which looks like it will do great things for the District. Mr. Rocchio commented that the big thing he came away with from after year's being on the Curriculum Committee is that our continuing challenge as the District grows in size is that curriculum has moved from the Assistant Superintendent to a Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction and the reality may be that we should consider a second position in order to break up curriculum between K-6 and secondary education. Mr. Rocchio said he believes this is something we should be looking at this year as we are really stretching ourselves when you look at what we need to accomplish for curriculum and quite possibly it may be a bit overwhelming for one person.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Williams pointed out the meeting minutes attached to the agenda are the correct minutes but the date printed on the front page of the agenda should read August 20, 2007.

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

- A. The Board approved the August 20, 2007 work session minutes.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-L and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. Resignation:

1. **Gailey C. Teller**, Instructional Assistant at Upper Providence Elementary School, effective with the last work day October 12, 2007.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Scott Burr**, 1st Grade Teacher at Upper Providence Elementary School, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective September 27, 2007.
2. **Tara Chester**, ESL Teacher at Oaks Elementary School, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Professional Agreement, effective tentatively December 21, 2007 until the beginning of the 4th marking period .
3. **Lynne Webb**, LA/Social Studies Teacher at the 5th Grade Center, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively December 21, 2007 until the beginning of the 4th marking period.
4. **Michael Barber**, Custodian at Limerick Elementary School, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective August 24, 2007.
5. **Sue Gallagher**, Software Technician at the 9th Grade Center, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective August 1, 2007.
6. **Leah Quay**, Instructional Assistant at the 9th Grade Center, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective November 15, 2007.

C. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Beth A. Christensen**, Oaks Elementary School; ESL Teacher, compensation will be set at \$40,500, Masters, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective August 30, 2007 through the end of the 3rd marking period.
2. **Julie K. Katz**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary School Counselor, compensation will be set at \$40,500 Masters, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective September 5, 2007 for the 1st semester.

D. Support Staff Employee:

1. **Kira T. Popky**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$14.56 per hour (degree rate) plus benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective September 25, 2007.

New Support Staff Employee:

2. **Edward M. Koneski**, Maintenance I Employee, compensation will be set at \$17.34 per hour with benefits as per the Maintenance Plan, effective September 25, 2007.

E. Supplemental Contracts: Department Head

1. **Charles Mulvany**, Technology Education \$3489

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. Kenneth DeAngelo , Track Head Coach, Boys & Girls	\$6240
2. Chadwick Strickler , Asst. Football Coach	\$6120
3. Steve Schein , Asst. Football Coach	\$6120
4. Karen Hegedus , Head Volleyball Coach, Girls	\$5280
5. Ray Hess , Head Soccer Coach, Girls	\$4800
6. Max Robinson , Head Basketball Coach, Boys 9 th Gr.	\$4226
7. Drew Scheeler , Asst. Volleyball Coach, Girls	\$3960
8. Maldwyn Cooper , Asst. Soccer Coach, Boys	\$3600
9. Kevin Czapor , Asst. Lacrosse Coach, Boys	\$3600
10. Elaine Ruppert , Asst. Lacrosse Coach, Girls	\$3600
11. Kori McDaniel , Asst. Field Hockey Coach	\$3600
12. Kori McDaniel , Asst. Lacrosse Coach, Girls	\$3600
13. Richard Loughead , Asst. Track Coach, Boys & Girls	\$3600
14. Melanie Volpe , Detention Duty	\$3271
15. Mark Morgan , 9 th Grade Asst. Football Coach	\$3250
16. Deanna Williams , Head Cheerleading Coach (Fall)	\$3250
17. Richard Harrison , Head 9 th Grade Baseball Coach	\$2886
18. William Racich , Cross Country Head Coach	\$2675
19. Jeremy Daross , Marching Band Mallett Percussion Ldr.	\$1998
20. Frank P. McGuigan , Marching Band Battery Percussion Leader	\$1998
21. Kelly German , 10 th Grade Class Advisor	\$1689
22. Jessica Geri , 10 th Grade Class Advisor	\$1689
23. Aimee Cantello , Asst. Play Director	\$ 362
24. Melanie Volpe , Community Service (Rotary Interact Club Advisor)	\$ 362
25. Daniel Miscavage , Scoreboard Operator – Football Grades 7, 8, & 9	\$30/hr.
26. Kenneth DeAngelo , Basketball Scorekeeper, Girls	\$30/Hr.
27. Barry Shafer , Wrestling Announcer/Scoreboard/Timer	\$30/Hr.

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

28. Robert Sieracki , Head Swimming Coach	\$6240
29. Steven Bonetz , WSFTV Advisor	\$1327
30. Melanie Volpe , 12 th Grade Trip Advisor/Coordinator	\$612
31. Sarah Kalish , Spanish Club Advisor	\$362
32. P. Josée Voorstad , Science Club Advisor	\$362

G. Extra-Curricular Activities - Middle School, Grades 7 & 8

1. Barry Shafer , Athletic Coordinator, MS	\$4891
2. Wayne Christman , Head Football Coach, 8 th Grade	\$4450
3. Dennis Knorr , Asst. Football Coach, 7 th Grade	\$3250
4. Sandy Flocco , Girls Basketball Coach, 7 th Grade	\$2886
5. Nicholas Lemuell , Girls Volleyball Coach, 7 th Grade	\$2886
6. William Racich , Head Track Coach, 7/8 th Grade	\$2675
7. David Caldwell , Head Cross Country Coach, 7/8 th Girls	\$2675
8. Courtney Amersbach , Asst. Cross Country, 7/8 th Girls	\$2500

9. Jeff Moyer , Head Girls Soccer Coach, 8 th Grade	\$2500
10. Elaine Ruppert , Hockey Coach, 8 th Grade	\$2500
11. Patrick Welch , Head Soccer Coach, 8 th Grade Boys	\$2500
12. Matthew Jarema , Asst. Cross Country Coach, 7/8 th , Boys	\$2500
13. Daniel Badway , Asst. Boys Soccer Coach, 7/8 th Grade	\$2500
14. Mark Morgan , Asst. Track Coach, 7/8 th Grade	\$2500
15. Ariel Cocco , Head Girls Lacrosse Coach, 7 th Grade	\$2500
16. Francis Ryan , Percussion Coordinator	\$1998
17. Jason Kerkusz , Intramural Wrestling, MS	\$ 612
18. William Racich , Intramural Wrestling, MS	\$ 612
19. Treasure Maack , Intramural Spring Girls Field Hockey, 7 th	\$ 362

New Extra-Curricular Activities - Middle School, Grades 7 & 8

20. Barbara Paige , Head Cheerleading Coach, 8 th Grade	\$1,625
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H. Supplemental Contracts: Playground Assistant:

1. Sherry Grove , Evans Elementary School	\$10.60/hr.
2. Christine Schoch , Limerick Elementary School	\$10.60/hr.
3. Debra Bauer , Royersford Elementary School	\$10.60/hr.
4. Pam Yerkes , Royersford Elementary School	\$10.60/hr.
5. Tywana Wilhite , 5/6 th Grade Center	\$10.60/hr.

I. Supplemental Contracts: Volunteers:

1. Patricia Lebow , Volunteer Golf Coach	\$1.00
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J. Professional Staff Substitutes:

1. Kathryn Ball	Art
2. Elizabeth Capparella	Elementary Education
3. April Collins	Elementary/Special Education
4. Kimberly Curcio	Elementary Education
5. Justin Dottor	Citizenship
6. Tyler Heid	Social Studies
7. Sandra Hutchison	Elementary School Psychologist Elem/Sec School Guidance
8. Leon Kanopka	Elementary Education
9. Lindsay Kunz	Elementary Education
10. Jennifer Lahr	Elementary Education
11. Angela Lavin	Elementary Education
12. Rachel Lawrence	Elementary Education
13. Jane Levan	Art
14. Michele Moyer	Elementary Education
15. John Provasnik	Elementary and Mid Level Math
16. William Sayers	Elementary/Special Education Health/Physical Education
17. Kristin Schlichter	Elementary Education
18. Monica Van Trieste	Elementary Education

- 19. **Nicole Wassil** Elementary Education & Support
- 20. **James Zawislak** Industrial Arts

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- 21. **Nicholas Hoffman** Elementary Education
- 22. **Nicole Steckiel** Elementary Education

K. Support Staff Substitutes:

- 1. **Joyce McCauley** Support
- 2. **Molly Steckel** Support
- 3. **Lori Tusavitz** Support
- 4. **Leonard Young** Custodian

New Support Staff Substitutes:

- 5. **Kelly Castner** Support
- 6. **Thomas O'Donnell** Custodian
- 7. **Josette Turtrani** Support

L. Personnel Information Items

The individual(s) listed below have completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee(s) and are, therefore, entitled to tenure status:

- 1. **Amy L. LeForge** Elementary Education
- 2. **Maureen McGovern** English
- 3. **Douglas Weidner** Mathematics

VI. FINANCE

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

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Items A-K and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **SEPTEMBER**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2004:**

1. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brodart Co.	12 Book Trucks – Library	\$	2,596.00
Cannon Sports, Inc.	Physical Education Equip.	\$	888.10
DLR Group	Professional Services	\$	14,400.00
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	247.10
Mid-Atlantic Media	6 Califone Listening Centers	\$	414.00
Nasco	3 Drying Racks-Kdg. Class	\$	367.05
Officenter	Allsteel Label Holders	\$	35.00
Prizer's Appliances	Appliances	\$	4,559.30
Scholastic	Library Books	\$	149.00
Specialty Products	Piping Insulation	\$	395.91

Washington Music	Music Instruments	\$	1,119.00
West Music	Music Classroom Supplies	\$	27.90
*Chem Seal	Line Striping Services	\$	675.00
*Limerick Twp. M.A.	Professional Services	\$	683.75
*MBR Construction	Applic. #19-Electric Contractor	\$	21,299.00
*SMJ Contracting	Applic. #21-General Contractor	\$	209,099.17
*West Music	Music Classroom Supplies	\$	38.00
	TOTAL	\$	256,993.28

2. **BROOKE ELEMENTARY**

*Worth & Company	Applic. #12- HVAC Contractor	\$	16,341.50
	TOTAL	\$	16,341.50

3. **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

WATERPROOFING PROJECT -8th GRADE CENTER

Arthur Altemose	Professional Services	\$	6,048.00
	TOTAL	\$	6,048.00

GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELDS

Martin Stone Quarry	Stone	\$	297.54
Martin Stone Quarry	Track Mix	\$	299.10
Montco Fence	Chain Link Fence Baseball Back Stop	\$	6,800.00
New Holland Concrct	600 Concrete Blocks/Sand	\$	1,096.50
Stanton Door Co.	Door- Dugouts	\$	258.00
Trans-Fleet Concrete	Concrete	\$	1,860.00
*New Holland Concrct	Concrete Blocks/Sand	\$	5,527.56
*Peter Lumber	Sand/Masonry Cement/Block	\$	87.44
	TOTAL	\$	16,226.14

HS-FIELDS HOCKEY/LACROSSE

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	1,015.51
	TOTAL	\$	1,015.51

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – BROOKE & SPRING CITY

Berkshire Systems	Brooke – Fire Alarm System	\$	64,998.00
	TOTAL	\$	64,998.00

B. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **SEPTEMBER**, in connection with the **CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT – Fund 22:**

1. **Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	986.00
	TOTAL	\$	986.00

2. **Pole Barn Project – Maintenance & Operations Bldg.**

John DiBattista	Maintenance Pole Barn	\$	3,860.00
Glenwood Metals	Misc. Maintenance Supplies	\$	2,951.49
J&L Building Material	Alum. & Stainless Steel Trim	\$	363.44
Martin Stone Quarry	Stone	\$	558.41

Peter Lumber	Misc. Building Supplies (2 Inv)	\$ 512.58
*Drumheller Constr.	Pour 24'x30' Pole Barn Floor	\$ 1,750.00
*Peter Lumber	Wood/Studs/Misc. Supplies	\$ 1,986.99
*Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse General Fund	\$ 228.64
*Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse General Fund	\$ 3,600.00
*Trans-Fleet Concr.	14 yds. Concrete (floor)	\$ 1,364.00
	TOTAL	\$ 17,175.55

3. Scoreboard Project

Tom Stone Masonry	Form up Pillar Footing	\$ 960.00
	TOTAL	\$ 960.00

4. New District Office

Foreman Architects	Professional Services	\$ 82,422.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 305.50
	TOTAL	\$ 82,727.50

5. *10TH Avenue By-Pass

*Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 122.00
	TOTAL	\$ 122.00

C. 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.

D. Checks:

1.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
	<u>August</u>	
	Check No. 118481 – 118574	\$ 414,190.64
	<u>September</u>	
	Check No. 118575 – 118764	\$1,055,545.66
2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
	Check No. 118836 – 118844	\$ 274,678.04
	Check No. 119073 – 119075	\$ 30,979.80
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
	Check No. 118845 – 119072	\$ 439,006.22
4.	<u>Athletic Fund</u>	
	<u>August</u>	
	Check No. 299531 – 299594	\$ 30,239.54

E. The Board approved the acceptance of the 2007-2008 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant in the amount of seventy-three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$73,700.00). These funds are dedicated to the District's various Healthy Choices Programs.

- F. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Lakeside Educational Network (Mainstay) – Fort Washington, PA.** Provide instruction in the home for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for six (6) hours per week for thirty-six (36) weeks at a rate of sixty-three dollars and twenty-five cents (\$63.25) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed thirteen thousand six hundred sixty-two dollars (\$13,662.00).
 2. **High School to Work Transition Services – Telford, PA.** Provide transition and pre-employment services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at a rate of one thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$1,750.00) per marking period. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00).
 3. **Camfel Productions – Irwindale, CA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Charting Your Course” at the 7th Grade Center on October 18, 2007. Funding will be paid from the 7th Grade Assembly Budget and shall not exceed six hundred forty-five dollars (\$645.00).
 4. **Bruce Van Patter – Lewisburg, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies for the 3rd and 4th grade classes at Limerick Elementary in conjunction with Author Day. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Limerick Home and School League and shall not exceed eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850.00) plus one night’s lodging.
 5. **Philstar Entertainment – Stowe, PA.** Provide a workshop entitled “Native American Workshops – Historical Connection” at Upper Providence Elementary on October 25 and 26, 2007. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800.00)
 6. **Bruce Van Patter – Lewisburg, PA.** Provide a total of four (4) assemblies along with grade level student workshops and an evening performance for students and parents entitled “The Magic of Making Stories” at Brooke Elementary on October 2, 2007 and at Royersford Elementary on October 25, 2007. The evening performance will be held on October 2, 2007 for students of both Brooke and Royersford Elementary and their families. Funding will be split between the Brooke Elementary and Royersford Elementary Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed a total of two thousand three hundred thirty six dollars and sixty-four cents (\$2,336.64).
 7. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies on the circle of life in the animal kingdom on February 8, 2008 at Upper Providence Elementary. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed nine hundred ninety-five dollars (\$995.00)

8. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Jasmine V.’s Anything is Possible Tour” on October 31, 2007 at Upper Providence Elementary. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand three hundred ninety dollars (\$1,390.00).
9. **Jedlie Circus Productions, Inc. – Readville, MA.** Provide two (2) assemblies entitled “Jedlie’s Bully Free Is the Choice for Me” at Brooke and Limerick Elementary Schools on October 26, 2007. Funding will be split between the 2007-2008 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and the 2007-2008 Limerick Elementary Home and School League and shall not exceed a total of eight hundred dollars (\$800.00).
10. **Roger “Hurricane” Wilson – Kennesaw, GA.** Provide an assembly at the 8th Grade Center for 7th and 8th grade music students entitled “Blues in the Schools”. There is no charge to the District as the fees are being paid by George’s Music in Spring City, PA.
11. **Therapy Source, Inc. – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Speech and Physical Therapy services for the Extended School Year Program for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for twenty-two and one-half (22.5) hours of service plus travel time at a rate of eighty-four dollars (\$84.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed two thousand nine hundred forty dollars (\$2,940.00).

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

12. **Safari Parties – Ardmore, PA.** Provide four (4) one hour assemblies between October 10, 2007 and May, 2008 at Upper Providence Elementary on nature and animal appreciation. Services will be provided at a rate of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per assembly. Funding will be paid by the 2007-208 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).
13. **Philadelphia Rock Group – Oaks, PA.** Provide an assembly on Friday, September 28, 2007 at Evans Elementary School in connection with pro-social initiatives. The assembly will focus on team building, inclusiveness, communication and problem solving. Funding will be paid from the Guidance and Assembly Budgets and shall not exceed one thousand twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).

NEW FINANCE

- G. The Board approved entering into a contract with the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to provide Understanding by Design and Advanced Understanding by Design training for staff members on Thursday,

September 20, 2007. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed one thousand forty-five dollars (\$1,045.00).

H. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – August 2007
- PSDLAF – August 2007
- PSDMAX – August 2007
- Checking Account – August 2007
- PLGIT Account – August 2007
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – August 2007
- Payroll Account – August 2007
- Tax Account – August 2007

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – August 2007
- 7th Grade Activity – August 2007
- 8th Grade Activity – August 2007
- High School Activity – August 2007
- Athletic Account – August 2007

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – August 2007
- Note of 2004 – August 2007

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – August 2007
- Debt Service Fund – August 2007
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – August 2007

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – August 2007
- Cafeteria Checking Account – August 2007
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – August 2007
- Investment Account – August 2007

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

AUGUST

Checks No. 7614 - 7680 \$ 173,995.41

J. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2007 – 2008 school year:

Limerick Township	No. 6 - 15
Royersford Borough	No. 39 - 64
Spring City Borough	No. 5 - 12
Upper Providence Township	No. 18 – 37

K. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2007-2008 school year:

Permit No. 1952 – 2037

VII. PROPERTY

Mr. Rocchio asked that Item A be separated. Mr. Masciandaro asked that Item B be separated.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. The motion passed 6-2 with Mr. Pettit and Mr. Rocchio voting no.

- A. The Board approved going out to bid for the installation of the Premier Court acrylic all weather surface on the five tennis courts at the 9th Grade Center at a cost not to exceed one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00). Funding will come from the G.O.B. Series of 2004 – Capital Improvement Fund.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro commented that this motion has four fields that we are talking about putting artificial turf on and he wondered how much it is going to cost us for Mr. Parks to prepare the specs so that we can go out to bid. Mr. Cooper said he spoke to Mr. Parks today and this information was being worked on and we should have it in a couple days. Mr. Masciandaro asked if we could put a not to exceed number on this as we normally have this as part of the motion. Mr. Grispon said if we put \$30,000.00 as the not to exceed number then that should cover it. Mr. Pettit said he would like to see this item tabled until we have hard number from Administration on what this will cost us as we are spending money here and no one has even agreed to turfing all of these fields and he is uncomfortable voting for something that he does not know how much we are talking about spending. Mr. Morgan cautioned that one of the things we looked at was possibly doing the stadium field next year and in order to make that happen we need to have the specifications done sometime in December in order to have the project done in the time frame that we have allotted over the summer.

Mrs. Williams advised the Board that we have a motion and a second on the table. Mr. Grispon made a motion that the original motion be amended to include a not to exceed amount of \$30,000.00 and Mr. Morgan seconded this.

Mr. Rocchio said the Board talked at some point regarding when the specs were done if they would be given the options for not doing the fields with synthetic turf and Mrs. Williams said natural turf and synthetic turf would be part of the specs.

The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Pettit voting no.

Mr. Masciandaro wondered if the Board was comfortable with looking at turfing four fields the first time out and he wondered if there were any Board Member who feels that they would agree to turfing all four fields. Mr. Masciandaro commented that he feels our first dive into this we should try it out somewhere and see how it works and how do we transition to this. Mr. Grispon said it all depends on the price and he feels it is better for the Board to see what it really is going to cost before deciding which one they want to accept. Mr. Morgan said this is just the specifications for four fields and when the documents come out we will have several options to bid each field separately and choose which ones you want to do as it was never the intention to do all four at one time.

Mr. Ciresi asked for clarification that the specifications would be drawn up for both synthetic and sod because the motion does not state that and he wants to make sure the specs come back both ways. Dr. Hurda said when the first field was approved to go out for specs there was discussion that we wanted it done for both synthetic and sod and if everyone wants to insure that this happens this time then we should make an amendment to the motion to include this language.

Mr. Ciresi asked that the motion be amended to say synthetic or natural. Mr. Rocchio seconded this amendment to the motion. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Pettit voting no.

Dr. Hurda asked for clarification on the changed wording of the motion saying she believes it was approved to read as such "Administration recommends approval for Stephen Parks and Associates to prepare specifications for the purpose of going out to bid for the installation of synthetic and natural turf, etc. and then ending with the wording "Funding will be from the G.O.B. Series of 2004 – Capital Improvement Fund and shall not exceed \$30,000.00.

Mr. Masciandaro asked if lighting applied also to the High School 8 & 9 Fields and Mr. Grispon said yes. Mr. Masciandaro said this is not totally clear in the motion.

The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Pettit voting no.

B. The Board approved Stephen Parks and Associates to prepare specifications for the purpose of going out to bid for the installation of synthetic and natural turf and lighting for HS-2(Hockey/Lacrosse Field), HS-8&9(Physical Education Class Fields and Practice Fields), and synthetic turf and all weather six lane track for 9C-1(Coach McNelly Stadium). The specifications shall include the option for the District to award the contract for synthetic turf and/or lighting for one field, two fields, all three fields or any combination of the above once the bids have been received. Funding will be from the G.O. B. Series of 2004 – Capital Improvement Fund and shall not exceed \$30,000.00.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items C & D and Mr. Rocchio seconded it. Mr. Ciresi asked how long it will be until we can begin the process on the 8th Grade Center and Mr. Cooper said the specifications are just about done and it will be coming to the Board next month for approval. The work can begin while the students are in the building because the work area can be fenced off making it safe for students to enter and exit the building. Mr. Cooper said the work on the areas that may affect the students will have to be done over the weekends or after hours in order to not interfere with the student day. Mr. Cooper said the work would take place over the winter and should be done by spring. The motion passed 8-0.

C. Administration is recommending approval to go out and receive bids for the 8th Grade Center Waterproofing Project. Funding will be paid from the 2004 Bond Issue.

- D. Administration is recommending approval to go out and receive bids for walkways/paths around the High School Athletic Fields. Funding will be paid from the 2004 Bond Issue.

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mr. Pettit asked that Item B be separated. Mr. Grispon made a motion for Item A and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. Administration recommends approval to move forward with seeking grant funding for the construction of a pond and habitat to be located at Brooke Elementary School. This pond would provide a school yard habitat (garden, pond, and nesting sites) for the purpose of teaching hands-on lessons in environment and ecology. This habitat would be a resource for all elementary schools to visit and use the site for studying opportunities.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Pettit said he wanted to express his appreciation and he feels the whole Board is in debt to Mr. Ciresi and to Dr. Hurda especially for the excellent job they did for making this happen. Mr. Pettit said this is a great thing for our community and for our District. Mr. Weber asked when we can expect some particulars and when will a plan will be formed that the Board will receive for approval. Dr. Hurda said we really want to see this happen this school year so we already have a template that we are working on in order to come up with an agreement between our school and the school in Ireland. Dr. Hurda commented that our biggest thing is for us to get over there and make sure we are comfortable with initiating this exchange program. Dr. Hurda said we are looking at tentatively around November 15, 2007 and we would like to have the plan formalized so we can go forward and say this is something our Board wants to move on. Dr. Hurda reported that she suspects we will see something of a rough nature in the next couple of weeks. The motion passed 8-0.

- B. Administration recommends approval to move forward with forming a partnership with the Coláiste Chiaráin High School in Limerick, Ireland. This partnership would provide a 2-3 week exchange opportunity between students at Spring-Ford High School and students at Coláiste Chiaráin High School.

PSBA/MCIU LEGISLATIVE REPORT

John S. Grispon

Mr. Grispon gave the following report:

The Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee met on September 19, 2007. Our guests were Dominique Raymond, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Education, John Troxel, Deputy Secretary of Education, and Deborah Wynn, from the Office of Governmental Affairs. Most of the evening was taken up with heavy and heated discussion on the proposed Graduation Competency Assessments. John Troxel presented a short discussion on the new "Common Cents" program. Deborah Wynn gave us an update on the new proposed special education regulations.

The Pennsylvania School Boards Association supports the concept of a statewide healthcare plan for public school employees that would protect local taxpayers by containing premium costs, assuring a reasonable level of

health benefits and eliminating a contentious collective bargaining issue. However, significant additional work is needed.

PSBA's primary concerns include:

- Avoiding the creation of new statutory entitlements for employees or former employees who do not all currently participate in many local health plans, or do not do so at employer expense.
- Ensuring that school employers, employees and the commonwealth have a defined incentive to be full partners in cost-containment and funding program benefits. Local taxpayers should not be the sole default bill-payer, and no longer can be in view of the realities of Act 1's restrictions.
- Strengthening the bill's language to ensure that healthcare issues are no longer a permissible subject of bargaining.
- Focusing the new system on active school employees rather than retirees.
- Ensuring that in designing the new system the governing board has a duty to balance the interests of all stakeholders, including local employers, taxpayers and the commonwealth, as well as those of individual beneficiaries.

Dr. Hurda asked about the Common Cents Program and if we would need a resolution on the agenda next month if the District decides to participate in the program; Mr. Grispon said yes we would need a resolution before we can join. Mr. Grispon reported that the Intermediate Unit has already worked on a resolution. Mr. Grispon reported that we could go with other school districts to save money in various areas but all twenty-one school districts in Montgomery County must agree which is a difficult thing.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-HH and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend "*Communications Planning Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, October 1, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$92.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

- B. **Dr. Marsha Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference 2007"* in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, October 2 through Friday, October 5, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$724.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Dr. Marsha Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"Win at the Polls – Now and In the Future"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Friday, November 9, 2007. The total cost for this conference is \$122.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- D. **Dr. Kenneth Donahue**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend *"Trends and Issues in High School Scheduling"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Friday, October 19, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$55.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- E. **Dr. Leticia Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend *"2007 Society for Human Resources Conference and Expo"* at the Marriot Conference Center in Philadelphia, PA on Thursday, October 18 and Friday, October 19, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$1,220.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- F. **Daniel Currie, Sherry Sterling-Holt, and Carol Frankel**, Supervisors of Special Education, to attend *"Eastern PA Special Education Administrator's Conference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Hershey, PA from Wednesday, October 24 through Friday, October 26, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$1,530.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- G. **Susan Kennedy**, Media Center Assistant, and **Barbara O'Brien**, Media Specialist, to attend *"Access PA Fall 2007 Training Session"* at the Crowne Plaza Valley Forge in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, October 4, 2007. There is no cost for this conference other than \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- H. **Maren Trout**, College Career Coordinator, to attend *"PA State System of Higher Education Counselor Information Day"* at West Chester University in West Chester, PA on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. There is no cost for this conference. No substitute is needed.
- I. **Maren Trout**, College Career Coordinator, to attend *"PA Liberal Arts College Tour"* at Albright, Juniata, Lebanon Valley and Moravian Colleges from Wednesday, November 14 through Friday, November 16, 2007. The total cost for this college tour is \$35.60 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- J. **Lisa Pupo**, Teacher, to attend *"Why Don't We Know More About Rwanda? An Independence Day Event"* at the University of Scranton on

Wednesday, September 12, 2007. There is no cost for this conference other than \$125.00 from the substitute account.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- K. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend "*American Libraries Association Mid-Winter Meeting*" at the Philadelphia Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, January 11 and from Monday, January 14 through Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$925.00 - \$425.00 from the 580 account and \$500.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- L. **Dr. Tina Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to attend "*PA Value Added Assessment System Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Friday, November 2, 2007. The total cost of this workshop is \$12.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- M. **Dr. Tina Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to attend "*Improving Reading Achievement for Middle School and High School*" at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Monday, November 12, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$12.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- N. **Cynthia A. Cooper**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Female Relational Aggression in Schools Conference*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, September 26, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$21.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- O. **Cynthia A. Cooper** and **Tanya Chambers**, Guidance Counselors, to attend "*Student Assistance Training*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on October 3, 4, 9, and 10, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$874.12 from the 2007-2008 Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant. No substitutes are needed.
- P. **Cynthia A. Cooper**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Resiliency and Emotional Recovery for Today's Youth*" at Eagleville Hospital on Thursday, November 8, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$23.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- Q. **Julie Deutermann**, Home and School Visitor, to attend "*Making Connections: Successful Students Empowered Schools, Strong Communities*" at the Milton Hershey School in Hershey, PA on Friday, October 19, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$252.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- R. **Jacquelyn M. Raco**, Certified School Nurse, to attend "*Annual PA Department of Health 2007-2008 School Health Update*" at Downingtown

High School in Downingtown, PA on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$20.00 from the 580 account.

- S. **Wendy Parkhouse**, Reading Specialist, to attend "*Literacy Coaching Academy*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on October 24, 2007, December 13, 2007, February 13, 2008 and April 16, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$775.00 - \$275.00 from the 580 account and \$500.00 from the substitute account.
- T. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Pathologist, to attend "*Assistive Technology Core Team Member Update*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, November 8, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$146.00 - \$21.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

EVANS

- U. **Jacqueline Clarke-Havrilla**, Principal, to attend "*Designing Quality Elementary School Master Schedules*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, October 18, 2007 in the afternoon only. There is no cost to the district for this conference. No substitute is needed.

ROYERSFORD

- V. **David Willauer**, Principal, to attend "*2007 PAESSP State Conference*" at Radisson Penn Harris – Harrisburg, PA from Sunday, October 21 through Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$712.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- W. **David Willauer**, Principal, and **Matt Bornais**, Teacher, to attend "*Exploring the 5E's in Science*" at the Crowne Plaza Valley Forge Hotel in King of Prussia, PA on Monday, October 1, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$595.00 - \$470.00 from the 2007-2008 Elementary Science Account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- X. **Karen DeLang, Shannon Furlong, Sharon Hohenstein, Nina Lee, and Susan Purtell**, Teachers, **Marylou Onorato** and **Carol Vogt**, Reading Specialists, to attend "*Wilson Language Training – Foundations Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Monday, October 15, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$1807.03 – \$932.03 from the 580 account and \$875.00 from the substitute account.
- Y. **Khrystin Herb**, and **Denise Johnston**, Teachers, to attend "*PA Association of Student Assistance Professionals*" at Penn State University in State College, PA from Sunday, March 9 through Tuesday, March 11, 2008. The total cost of the conference is \$1167.39 - \$667.39 from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant and \$500.00 from the substitute account.

- Z. **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, **Marylu Onorato**, **Wendy Parkhouse** and **Carol Vogt**, Reading Specialists, to attend “*2007 Keystone State Reading Conference*” in Hershey, PA from Sunday, October 21 through Wednesday, October 24, 2007. The participants will each attend one day of the four day conference and share the information received. The total cost of the conference is \$1437.00 - \$1062.00 from the 580 account and \$375.00 from the substitute account.
- AA. **Sandra Hoff**, **Joanne Garro**, and **Kathy Mandracchia**, Teachers, to attend “*Kid Writing*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, October 25, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$761.64 – \$386.64 from the 580 account and \$375.00 from the substitute account.

FACILITIES

- BB. **Bruce Cooper**, Director of Planning, Operations and Facilities, and **Doug Carson**, Maintenance Foreman, to attend “*Elements of Facilities Management*” at the Best Western Inn at Towamencin in Kulpsville, PA on Tuesday, September 25, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$307.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

- CC. **Wendy Pflugler**, Librarian, to attend “*Children’s Literature Conference*” at West Chester University on Saturday, October 20, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$70.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- DD. **Rachel Shore**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*What Makes Instruction Effective for Low Functioning Students*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. The total cost of the conference is \$147.20 - \$22.20 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- EE. **Joan Staples**, Speech Therapist, to attend “*Assistive Technology New Core Team Member Training*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on October 9, 2007, November 7, 2007 and December 6, 2007. The total cost of this training is \$411.00 - \$36.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- FF. **Mary Pat Long**, Math Support, to attend “*Everyday Mathematics Differentiation Training*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, October 17, 2007. The total cost of this training is \$165.00 - \$40.00 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.
- GG. **Mary Pat Long**, Math Support, to attend “*Math Coaching Collaborative Academy – Advanced Level*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Thursday, October 11, 2007 and Wednesday,

January 16, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$435.00 - \$185.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

HH. **Jennifer Whytosek**, Learning Support Teacher, to attend "*The Writing Academy*" at the Sheraton Suites in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, October 19, 2007. The total cost of this conference is \$270.00 - \$145.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rocchio made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #707 – PROPERTY: Use of Facilities
2. Policy #806 – OPERATIONS: Child Abuse
3. Policy #910.1 – COMMUNITY: Community Engagement
4. Policy TBD – Civility

B. The following field trip was approved:

1. Melanie Volpe, Ashley Heilman and Hollie Strohl, Senior Class Advisors, to take the Class of 2008 on a five (5) day trip to Orlando, Florida and Clearwater Beach, Florida from Friday, May 23, 2008 – Tuesday, May 27, 2008 (Memorial Day Weekend). The cost of the trip will be approximately nine hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$979.00) per student, less any senior class fundraising supplements. This trip will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy #121, which outlines the specific requirements for Overnight Field Trips.

XI. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. District Administration Building Options

Mr. Masciandaro said he asked for this item to be on since they did not have a chance to discuss it last week. Mr. Masciandaro commented that the Board has agreed to go ahead and rebid this project on a slimmer version and hopefully it will come in to where we can all get on board. Mr. Masciandaro asked what the thoughts were of the Board of possibly considering what other options would be available to them such as leasing and so forth but he would like to see this done in parallel with proceeding with the rebidding process so as not to hold things up. Mr. Masciandaro said he has spoken to members of the public who would also like to see this done and he mentioned that he had received an email from David Shafer saying that this might be a good option as well. Mr. Masciandaro said he would like to ask Administration to go out and see if there are any other options open for us so that we can move forward.

Mrs. Williams commented that on August 27, 2007 this Board voted 8-0 to reject all the bids we had at the higher dollar value and they also voted 8-0 to cap the project at \$3.5 million. She thinks we have a responsibility, before we go off on another tangent, to not keep doing this until we at least get this information back. Mrs. Williams said she believes that when the District owns two buildings, the

Bechtel Road site and the other Bechtel Dairies, she does not understand why we would even consider going out to lease property as this is not a good use of taxpayer's dollars. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Davis if there were any problems with a District leasing central administration property. Mr. Davis responded saying under school code you have the power to lease but he cautioned the Board that leasing does require an Act 34 Hearing. Mr. Davis suggested that before we move too far ahead with leasing we may want to call PDE to see how they view lease payments and how the District may be capped with regards to those lease payments. Mr. Davis said if the formula is similar to what is used with new buildings then you may be in referendum. Mrs. Williams suggested before we go down that path we should have Mr. Davis and Dr. Hurda check into this and get back to us.

Mr. Masciandaro said he would really like to hear from other Board members and the reason he asked to do it now is so that it can be done in parallel because if you do it serially it could add to the length of the project not subtract from it. Mr. Masciandaro said if the project comes in at \$3.5 million then we probably could not lease a place that would be commensurate in terms of spacing but if the project is at \$5.0 million then it would pay to lease. He asked to hear from the other Board members.

Mr. Weber said he agrees with Mr. Masciandaro on certain parts of this and if we are looking at \$5.0 million and compared it with \$20.00 a square foot rent then we should be looking at leasing a property but when you talk about \$3.5 then maybe we are getting more in the ballpark where we can afford to do it on our own.

Dr. Hurda said she met with Mr. Cooper last week and she wanted to tell the Board where we are in redesigning of the District Office. She asked Mr. Cooper to review where we stand, how much work has been done and what we anticipate the numbers to be at now. Mr. Cooper said he has had several meetings regarding this and they have done some redesigns in the mechanical system, took out the second floor which was a very costly item and he feels that the new numbers will come in at \$3.5 million max. Mr. Cooper said he will make sure of this.

Mr. Pettit commented that speaking generally since there is no extra cost involved and no unnecessary delay it is always good to explore all options before we spend taxpayer's money.

Mr. Rocchio said two things he was thinking about after the discussions last week was that if you look at the low bidder it was considerably lower than the others and he is concerned that if the bid comes back it may put us in a precarious position where we cannot get to the \$3.5 million. Mr. Rocchio commented that he does not want to be short sighted and in order to get it in at the \$3.5 million we may be short changing ourselves on the heating and ventilation system. Mr. Rocchio said we discussed a 5-7 year payback on this system on a building that should last us 20 years and he wondered if we are really benefitting taxpayers by making a short sighted decision not to use geothermal. Mr. Cooper said he did discuss this with the architect and once they sat down and laid it all out in terms of costs involved with running the system, the

maintenance on the system, and running the system from the other well fields the architect could not make the payback numbers originally talked about.

Mr. Grispon commented that he believes we are sending the Administration a mixed message and he said if the Board wants to pursue this then he can support it but only if the Ad Hoc Committee does it and it does not impact the Administration.

Mrs. Williams asked if the Board was in favor of going out and looking at leasing property again. Mr. Ciresi said he is in favor of looking at what the options are but not stalling the process as we need to move forward. Mr. Ciresi said we need to make it clear that as a Board we are committed to doing something with the District Office and the employees that sit there. Mrs. Williams said her concern is that every time we move forward to making the basket we put the ball down on the ground and what is going to happen is we will get to the \$3.5 million and then someone will still say we should go out beyond the scope and look at rentals in another area. Mrs. Williams commented that her feeling is that until we get some kind of answer regarding PDE and what is required for us to lease then we don't do anything and if at that point we want the Ad Hoc Committee to look into this then we can do that. The Ad Hoc Committee was identified as the three senior members from each region.

Mr. Masciandaro asked if the Board was moving ahead with this or not. Mrs. Williams said she is asking the Board to wait until we have a definition from PDE on whether or not we will have to go to an Act 34 Hearing. Mr. Masciandaro said this could be part of what the Ad Hoc Committee looks into.

Mrs. Williams said we should make this into a motion saying "Is it the will of the Board to go out now and begin to look at leasing properties"? Mr. Grispon said the wording "only if the Ad Hoc Committee does it" should be placed in the motion. Mr. Pettit said it should not just state leasing but other options as well. Mrs. Williams asked what other options and Mr. Pettit replied all options, the Ad Hoc Committee could look at this along with any suggestions the public may have. Mr. Pettit said as long as it does not prevent us from moving forward there is nothing to lose by giving it to the Ad Hoc Committee to consider. Mrs. Williams said she would like an answer from Mr. Pettit on what other options and Mr. Pettit answered let the Ad Hoc Committee determine that.

Mrs. Masciandaro said he would offer a motion and Mrs. Williams replied that she believed there was already one on the floor. Mr. Grispon commented that a motion was not necessary as the Board President can assign this charge to the Ad Hoc Committee. Mrs. Williams said if everyone is in agreement then that is what we will do.

Dr. Hurda commented that just a month ago she made a very strong case for the conditions at the District Office and because she feels very strongly about this she is taking steps now to move the 4 employees who are currently housed in the basement out of that area into a more suitable work environment that will not be in the current building. Dr. Hurda said they will move into some open classroom spaces somewhere in the beginning of October until this whole thing gets settled because we have an obligation to do so.

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis said the architect mailed him the plans for the land development for the New District Office and he in turn delivered them to Administration. Mr. Cooper will deliver them to the township in the next few days. Mr. Davis introduced his colleague, Mark Fitzgerald, who joined the firm in the summer and came to them with a lot of background in educational law so it is a face that the Board will see as part of the Fox Rothschild Group.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Julie Mullin, Upper Providence, spoke about the Skyward System saying it is an awesome system but it is only as good as the person entering information into it. Mrs. Mullin said there are some teachers who enter grades right away and then others who go the whole marking period and enter nothing. Mrs. Mullin suggested that it would be wonderful if there was consistency when using the system.

Ed Cummins, Spring City, questioned who the architect was that had been hired for the PlanCon process for the High School Addition Project. Mrs. Williams said they are in the process of a contract. Mr. Cummins asked if E.I. Architects had been hired yet and Mrs. Williams said they have preliminarily been working on this project for us. Mr. Cummins asked if they have been paid yet and Mr. Davis said his recollection is that they were paid to do a Feasibility Study, \$20,000.00 and they were paid for PlanCon A&B. Mr. Davis said the District will receive a credit on the project for this. Mr. Cummins asked if they are doing work above and beyond what the Feasibility Study is and Mr. Davis said they are proceeding at their own risk. Mr. Cummins asked if any other architects have been interviewed for the project as this was always standard procedure since 1990 when he started coming around. Mrs. Williams responded that all she can say is that they were approved to do a Feasibility Study and have moved forward from that time. Mr. Cummins commented that he hopes the Board makes very sure and certain that warranties are in place against things that happened in the past with this architect. Mrs. Williams said the issue before involved a sub-contractor. Mr. Cummins asked if the contract would be made public and Mr. Davis said the public always has the right to look at a contract approved by the Board. Mr. Cummins commented that this year we have many more knee and ankle injuries than we have in the past and in talking with the coaches they have said the conditions of the fields have contributed to this. Mr. Cummins said if you want to prevent that and stay competitive then the logical thing is, if you want to conform with Title 9, to put a new practice field in the girl's field hockey and the stadium. Mr. Cummins said the stadium would be for multi-use as the band can use it and the soccer teams can use it also for night games. Mr. Cummins said there will be consequences, as many parents have come to him since he was a former Board member, if student athletes continue to get injured. He urged the Board to consider this seriously.

Michael Masciandaro, student representative, commented that the practice fields and the stadium game fields go hand in hand so if you turf one you have to turf the other. Michael said you cannot practice on one type and then play on another. Mr. Cummins said when you go from field to field like that there is an another risk of getting injured because of the different style of shoes you need and different movements that take place.

George Carter, Oaks, wondered if we have received the final results from PSSA tests yet. Dr. Donahue responded yes. Mr. Carter asked what the results showed and Dr. Donahue said generally the results have been good as the elementary schools are at about ninety percent proficiency, eighth grade was around ninety to ninety-one percent, the lowest level was the eleventh grade as math was around 65% which was typical for Montgomery County, while reading was around seventy some percent. Dr. Hurda said it is tough to answer this without the data in front of you as we just received this information and Dr. Donahue will give a presentation at a future Board meeting. Dr. Hurda confirmed that a school report card will be placed on the District website as soon as all the information is filtered in.

Scott Marburger, Upper Providence, said he is looking for a little help and has spoken to Dr. Donahue about bussing and special needs. Mr. Marburger said he has been through a dilemma with his wife and a three month premature child. His wife was in a car accident, a cousin was killed, and his five year old daughter who was just starting kindergarten was in the car as well. He said he needs help with having the bus come to the house as he has no one who can take his daughter to the bus stop. Mr. Marburger said his daughter attends Holy Family because Spring-Ford does not offer a full day kindergarten program. Mr. Marburger described his wife's medical condition and procedures she has gone through. Mr. Marburger explained that he has adjusted his work schedule to work weekends so that he can be home during the week but that is coming to an end in October. Mr. Marburger said he knows the District's policy is that the busses stay on their regular routes but is asking for leniency for about six months. Mrs. Williams said the Board has had notification of this issue from Dr. Hurda and the job of Dr. Hurda is to enforce the Board's policy. Mrs. Williams said in light of the fact that Mr. Marburger came here this evening she will discuss this with her colleagues to see if there is anything they can do.

Mrs. Williams asked the Board members to think about District Goals they would like to see adopted for this new school year.

Mr. Ciresi said in discussing the fields one of the fields he has a concern about is the one at the Flex School. Mr. Ciresi asked where we were with the status and if we need to move with a motion in October to do anything with the field. Mrs. Williams commented we cannot keep putting as many feet on our grass fields as we use to and expect them to keep bounce back. Mr. Ciresi said one thing discussed was the possibility of taking half of the field out of use for a season or a year and still balance what we have at that building. Mr. Ciresi said he believes it was suggested that possibly the principal could come up with a plan to move some of the Physical Education classes off of the field to give it a chance to re-grow. Dr. Hurda said this would be difficult to do.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grispon made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 9:24.

APPROVED DISTRICT GOALS

1. Formulate a plan to provide a quality in-house alternative education program for students within the Spring-Ford School District.
2. Provide a quality career and technical education for students in grades 10-12 focusing on what is both educationally and economically feasible.
3. Develop a long range comprehensive secondary school facilities plan.
4. Develop and implement a transition plan for students and parents as children move through grades 4-8.
5. Track and monitor key measures for student success: graduation rates, drop out rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates and the feedback from past graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary