

On September 28, 2009 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

- Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
- Region II: Ammon G. Morgan, Jr., and Julie A. Mullin
- Region III: Mark P. Dehnert, John S. Grispon, and Robert A. Weber
- Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams
- Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda
- Business Manager: Tim Anspach
- Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
- Student Rep.: Michael John

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams announced that parents are invited to attend an Open House at the 9th Grade Center on Thursday, Oct. 1st, from 7 to 9 p.m. The event will give parents a chance to follow their child's schedule, meet teachers and learn more about the 9th grade program. The Alumni Association is sponsoring a dinner dance on October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Royersford VFW, for tickets call 610-705-6000 and ask for Mr. Anspach.

I. PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Williams reported that tonight's presentation is a result of last month's meeting where the impasse of the state budget was discussed and a suggestion was made to contact our state legislatures inviting them to a board meeting. Mrs. Williams stated that Representative Thomas Quigley, Senator Andy Dinniman, and Representative Timothy Hennessey are present to talk briefly about the budget and answer any questions the Board or public may have.

Senator Andrew Dinniman, representative of the 19th Senatorial District and also the Minority Chair of the Senate Education Committee, reported that as of last week the basic education formula increased by 2% over last year's amount. Senator Dinniman commented that school districts with higher income levels are not being compensated as much as those with lower income. He reported that he tried to get the basic education formula up to 3% but was unsuccessful. Senator Dinniman said the special education formula will remain about the same as last year. Senator Dinniman stated that there are three separate categories within the federal formula and one is based on Title 1, which will not be coming to Spring-Ford. The second category is based on

Special Education IDEA Funds and from that he believes we should be getting \$1,739,487.50. The third category is Title II-D which is Technology and although it is not much it will be approximately \$5,100.00. Senator Dinniman reported that Governor Rendell would like to get the budget done by this Sunday but it is not likely that this will happen.

Mr. Pettit thanked the representatives for coming and asked what the total amount of special education funds are from the federal government to the state and Mr. Dinniman responded Pennsylvania receives \$359,529,721.52 for a two year period. Mr. Pettit commented that something does not seem quite right as Spring-Ford has an extremely strong special education program and only receive \$800,000 a year or approximately \$1.7 million over two years out of the \$359 million allotted to Pennsylvania. Mr. Dinniman said Spring-Ford's amount is based on whatever their IDEA formula is, he asked Mr. Anspach for this formula. Mr. Anspach reported that the formula actually went away and now everyone gets the same 15% and it does not matter how many kids you have or the cost to educate them. Mr. Dinniman reported that he has a bill in the Senate right now that would change the 15% formula currently used. The new formula would be based on the number of special education students in the district.

Mr. Masciandaro thanked the representatives for coming this evening and said that he did not want the point Mr. Pettit made to be lost. Mr. Masciandaro stated that with funding the way it currently is, districts do not have much incentive to have a high performing special education program. Mr. Masciandaro commented that Spring-Ford does have a very strong special education program and we actually draw people into the district because of this and we are proud of that. Mr. Masciandaro stated that from a state perspective we really need support on this as it is tough to justify to the public why we should spend a disproportionate amount of our funds on special education when we are not being compensated for this by the state. Senator Dinniman said his aim is to have the formula based on the student numbers. He explained that one of the reasons for the formula going to a straight across the board 15% was due to the fear that some districts were putting students into special education who should not be there. The new bill will allow districts to go above the 15% but will have some criteria built into it in order for this to happen. Senator Dinniman stated that Spring-Ford should do fine with meeting the criteria.

Mrs. Williams asked Senator Dinniman to explain the two million dollar cut in the proposed state plan in the area of career/technical education funding. Mr. Dinniman responded that he is not sure under the Perkins Act that the state can actually make these cuts as a waiver would have to be obtained and it is his understanding that only once in 19 years a state had obtained a waiver under the Perkins Act so we will have to just wait and see. Mrs. Williams asked if Spring-Ford, based on the current state plan, would be getting more or less money than last year. Senator Dinniman replied that Mr. Anspach would have to add up the figures to determine this but Spring-Ford will be getting 2% more from the state on the basic education formula. He added that the special education formula will remain the same as last year but the amount of Federal IDEA money which can only be spent on special education is new money that Spring-Ford did not get before. Senator Dinniman reported that they are also doing their best to make sure that the cuts that were going to parochial and private schools for books, equipment and scientific materials be restored as this would make a big difference in the budgets of public school districts.

Senator Dinniman said he was surprised to discover that there are only 3 states in the union that continue to elect school board members through by-partisan elections, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Mississippi. Mr. Dinniman said this type of election can become contentious, lame duck boards get in and this creates a great deal of concern because they can make decisions on building, programs and superintendents which then the new board coming in must live with. Senator Dinniman spoke about the bill that has been submitted which calls for the non-partisan election of school boards and he would love to get feedback on this.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he is not sure that in a representative republic you can ever legislate and insure that elected bodies do not make the wrong decision. Mr. Dehnert said he does not think that there is non-partisanship in anything in government whether it be school board, judges or any other issue. Mr. Dehnert stated that he is concerned that if you change the way school boards are elected that you could have 20 candidates running for 3 or 4 seats and then you may have people elected with very small percentages of the vote. Mr. Dehnert said he would like to see other changes such as requiring 2/3 votes for major decisions such as when hiring/firing a superintendent, raising taxes, building construction or anything that is a major expenditure. Mr. Dinniman said he appreciates the feedback.

State Representative Timothy Hennessey stated that this has been a strange budget year and in the 17 years he has served this has been the longest drawn out process. Mr. Hennessey summarized the budget process to date saying in February the governor spoke on how the state was going to be short on revenues and at that time there was a spend number in the budget of \$28.3 billion. The governor thought it would be \$1.6 billion short of this number but the economy got worse and it ended up \$3.3 billion short. Mr. Hennessey said if you listened to the tenor of the governor's speech you would have expected that you would have a much lower spend number and the governor suggested that ways could be found to raise revenue and spend \$29 million. Mr. Hennessey reported that this did not go down well with a lot of people and the Senate responded in early May with Senate Bill 850 which had a spend number of over \$27 billion. Mr. Hennessey stated the difference between the \$29 billion and the \$27 billion is what has taken months to try to narrow. Mr. Hennessey said it now appears from the details that are leaking out that \$28 billion will be the spend number. Mr. Hennessey reported that there is a meeting tomorrow to go over the details of the agreement. Mr. Hennessey commented that the information he is hearing that is leaking out is that a large part of the education formula is going to be weighted towards the urban schools. Mr. Hennessey stated that we will have to wait until the meeting tomorrow to find out exactly how Spring-Ford will be treated. Mr. Hennessey said he is under the impression that Spring-Ford will do fairly well in terms of special education and possibly not so well in basic education.

State Representative Tom Quigley, stated that the figures are not set in stone as the agreement has not been voted on as of yet. Mr. Quigley said if history is any indication then it does appear that Spring-Ford will get a 2% increase in the basic education subsidy. Mr. Quigley said the governor held a press conference today to say that he is not happy with the progress that is taking place and he is calling for Sunday to be the deadline. Mr. Quigley reported that a lot of concern has been raised with regards to the proposed tax on the arts, proposed 20% tax on the proceeds of the small games of chance that are primarily used by fire companies and VFW organizations to raise money. Mr. Quigley said the budget process is far from over

and they will hear more details tomorrow and be back in session on Wednesday. Mr. Quigley commented that he believes it will be tough to find 102 votes in the House of Representatives with the details that they have right now.

Mr. Masciandaro expressed his frustration with the district being criticized for having a fund balance and stated that it was because of the fund balance this year that we were able to weather the storm due to no state money coming in, which right now is up to about \$3 million owed to us. Mr. Masciandaro pointed out that under Act 1 we had to move our budget calendar up as the state required that the budget be passed by June 30th or the Board must meet every day until it is passed and yet the state does not have their budget passed for this year. Mr. Quigley stated that both he and Mr. Hennessey voted against Act 1 because of the budget timelines that were being imposed. Mr. Quigley said he agrees with Mr. Masciandaro that Act 1 and the budgetary guidelines were a bad move and not beneficial to anyone specifically school boards.

Mr. Hennessey said the state could have had a budget done on time but the problem would have been with the spend number and more than likely more would have been spent then than what will be spent now. Mr. Hennessey commented that both sides have been worn down by the process but they won't be imposing a broad based income tax or an increase in the sales tax. Mr. Hennessey said they fight for help for growing school districts and also to get additional help for programs like special education; the hope is that the end result is something that the school district can be happy with.

Senator Dinniman stated that he checked to see what every other state does and Rhode Island is one state that simply continues to spend at the current level until such time as a budget is passed. Mr. Dinniman reported that he considered putting in a bill that would do this statutorily in Pennsylvania but found this was not so easy as the Pennsylvania Constitution makes it clear that you cannot spend money until it is approved. Senator Dinniman said he agrees that this is atrocious as far as how long this process has gone and we need to make sure it does not happen in the future but the only positive aspect of this is that education has done better than any other category in the budget.

Mr. Grispon asked if the representatives knew when the budget would be passed and once passed how long it would take before the money flows to Spring-Ford. Mr. Hennessey responded that the governor had a press conference today saying he wants the budget done by Sunday. Mr. Hennessey commented that this may not happen as a lot of things could take place to make the budget crumble. Mr. Hennessey said they will get a sense tomorrow in caucus on how things will proceed as very little detail has been released and it is tough to say if the votes will be there or if they will have to start again. Senator Dinniman reported that all invoices have gone over to the treasury and checks are either ready or will be able to be printed immediately so it is said that the priority groups will be out within 3 days and the others within 10 days.

Mr. Shafer thanked all the representatives for coming. He asked if there was some way to parallel paths so that some funding could be released and some payments made while all the budget details are worked out so that school districts do not get hurt. Mr. Hennessey referenced a point Senator Dinniman had made earlier saying according to the Pennsylvania Constitution money cannot be released without authorization.

Mr. Anspach commented that the Basic Education Subsidy number we were given tonight shows that we are going to be \$272,000 short and the reason for this is due to the governor moving the State Accountability Grant up to ESBE (Elementary Secondary Basic Education) portion, he asked what happened to the State Accountability Grant and if it still existed. Senator Dinniman responded that the original governor's budget took the Accountability Grants and folded them in but the Republican Bill 850 kept them out and this is why right now you are short but the belief is that the district will get them back.

Dr. Hurda questioned whether the Classrooms for the Future money would be restored and Senator Dinniman responded as of last week the answer was yes as was Science in Motion and Dual Enrollment. Dr. Hurda stated that the governor had a commitment to try and equalize the per pupil spending throughout the Commonwealth, she asked where we stand right now with the proposed budget and if this is still being considered. Senator Dinniman replied that the \$300 million in federal stimulus dollars under SB 850 is not in there; the \$300 million was not extra dollars but was put into the Basic Education Formula. Senator Dinniman said the \$300 million was put in there to keep the goals of the costing out alive and well.

Ed Dressler, Oaks, questioned the new election formula for electing school board members saying it was referenced that if there were 20 candidates the top 3 might be elected, he asked if that implies that it would be an at-large election. Senator Dinniman replied no, it would not change region and at-large. Senator Dinniman said you could still have a primary but not a partisan primary or you could have no primary at all. Mr. Dressler said if there are 47 states that already do this then we would not have to reinvent the wheel and we could certainly model it after one of those states. Senator Dinniman said there are some states, New York for one, that even go the extra step of having the school board election at a different time than the general election simply to keep it out of the politics.

Mr. Weber thanked the representatives for coming and asked if there is anything in place to make sure that the delay in passing the budget does not happen again. Senator Dinniman said the only way to do this is to change the Pennsylvania Constitution to follow the Rhode Island model or follow that of some twelve other states where vital services or employee salaries are taken care of. Mr. Hennessey said one thought that occurred to him is to put a statute into place that says if they do not have a budget by June 30th then they must continue to meet in session and vote on some budget proposal every week.

Mr. Morgan asked where we stand with Property Tax Reform, Mr. Hennessey said there is the Property Tax Elimination Act which has been around and they keep trying to refine this but the most number of votes it has received is 77. Mr. Morgan asked for confirmation that this is not a dead issue and Mr. Hennessey confirmed this.

The Board recessed for a few minutes to personally thank the representatives for their time. The meeting reconvened at 8:52 p.m.

- A. State Representatives to provide an update on the PA State Budget impasse and its effect on public education.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- A. The Board approved the August 17, 2009 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the August 24, 2009 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel **Donna Williams** **As needed**

Mrs. Williams reported that the Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, September 22 and discussed upcoming labor contract negotiations.

Extracurricular **Robert Weber** **2nd Tues. 2 p.m.**

Mr. Weber reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 and discussed the fall sports report, the student-athlete report in conjunction with district growth, the eligibility policy and guidelines for athletics, and Policy #123 – Interscholastic Athletics and how it pertains to the recognition of championship programs. The Committee also reviewed a request from the President of the Spring-Ford Ice Hockey Organization asking the district to sponsor the program and make it an official school sponsored athletic team. The Extracurricular Committee stated that they will not sponsor the organization as a school program since ice hockey is not a PIAA sponsored sport.

Property/Facilities **Robert A. Weber** **2nd Weds. 7 p.m.**

Mr. Weber reported that the Property Committee met on Tuesday, September 8th and discussed the high school pedestrian improvement (flashing light), the transformer at the 9th Grade Center, the Royersford and Spring City chiller replacements, the High School Addition Project, the 10th Avenue rear exit at the high school, the usage of the old administration building, Oaks playground equipment, maintenance of the ponds, a railing at Coach McNelly Stadium, the purchase of a scanner for blue prints which is being proposed by the Maintenance Department, vinyl curtains on the bleachers, high school and 9th Grade Center self-storage rails, the Greenstein Property pump and the Spring City pond. Mr. Grispon asked about the railing for the football stadium and what was the rationale for not doing this project, Mr. Weber responded that the Committee did not make a decision yet as they are checking into seeing how many seats would be lost by adding the railing. Mr. Grispon commented that he feels the

railing is needed for handicap accessibility as there are some who have a hard time getting to their seats. Dr. Hurda recalled that the way it was left was that Mr. Cooper was going to check into this to determine how many seats would be lost by adding the railing and then report back to the Extracurricular Committee for further discussion.

V. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. **Jacqueline Cody**, 7th Grade Center; Science Coordinator, effective August 27, 2009.
2. **Laura George**, 8th Grade (Fall) Head Cheerleading Coach, effective August 31, 2009.
3. **Erin Lewis**, 10/12 Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, effective with the last work day September 25, 2009.

New Resignations:

4. **Don Cumo**, High School; Girls' Assistant Soccer Coach, effective September 22, 2009.
5. **Sheila M. Egleston**, 8th Grade Center; Winter Play Director, effective September 17, 2009.
6. **Doug Landis**, Head Junior High Wrestling Coach, effective September 22, 2009
7. **Thomas F. Melissen**, District Wide, Maintenance Employee, effective with the last work day, October 2, 2009.

B. Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy:

1. **Gary K. Kirby**, 7th Grade Center; Custodian, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective August 31, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
2. **Edward M. Koneski**, Bechtel Building; Maintenance I Employee, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective August 18, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
3. **Melissa A. Shimukonas**, Royersford Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively December 2, 2009 until the beginning of the 4th marking period, April 8, 2010.

New Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy:

4. **Joelle L. Bieber**, Brooke Elementary School; Physical Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively January 4, 2010 through April 7, 2010.
5. **Jessica A. Rusinski**, Royersford Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective tentatively December 8, 2009 through April 7, 2010.

C. Professional Employee as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

1. **Stefanie Emes**, Royersford Elementary School; Part-time (.50) Kindergarten Teacher, compensation will be set at \$30,500, MS, Step 10, prorated, effective September 25, 2009.

D. Temporary Professional Employee as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement:

1. **Michele M. Moser**, 7th Grade Center; Family & Consumer Science Teacher, compensation will be set at \$42,000, BS, Step 1, effective August 31, 2009.

E. Long Term Substitutes:

1. **Lellus Blazic**, Limerick Elementary School; Speech Therapist, compensation will be set at \$75,800, BS+18, Step 15, prorated, effective October 26, 2009 through the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
2. **Caren M. Yucha**, Limerick Elementary School; Speech Therapist, compensation will be set at \$43,500, MS, Step 1, prorated, effective September 14, 2009 through February 5, 2010.

F. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Carol Findley**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; 6 Hour Cafeteria Position, compensation will be set at \$14.39 per hour with benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective October 1, 2009.
2. **Kevin J. Murphy**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$14.80 per hour with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective August 25, 2009.

New Support Staff Employee:

3. **Cynthia T. Watras**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.80 per hour (degree rate) with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective September 21, 2009.

G. Extra-Curricular/Supplemental Contracts:

High School

1. **Danielle Blackledge**, Commencement Organizer, \$1,067
2. **Brittany Dunbar**, 9th Grade Student Council Advisor, \$1,421
3. **Sheila Egleston**, 9th Grade Head Cheerleading Coach, \$1,786
4. **Kevin Fry**, Assistant Soccer Coach-Girls, \$3,856
5. **Stephanie Krasucki**, Assistant Cheerleading Coach (Fall), \$2,436
6. **Christina McCoach**, 9th Grade Arboretum Club Advisor, \$388
7. **Heather Steinmetz**, 9th Grade Center Class Advisor, \$1,421
8. **Melanie Volpe**, 12th Grade Class Advisor, \$1,809

New Extra Curricular/Supplemental Contracts: High School

9. **Frank P. McGuigan**, Marching Band Conditioning Facilitator, \$3,089
10. **Drew Scheeler**, Assistant Volleyball Coach-Girls', \$4,242

7/8th Grade Center

11. **Elizabeth Croll**, Science Coordinator, \$1,070
12. **Maria Kardick**, 8th Grade (Fall) Head Cheerleading Coach, \$1,786
13. **Adam Swavely**, Assistant Football Coach, \$3,481
14. **Patrick Welch**, 8th Grade Boys' Soccer Coach, \$2,678

New Extra Curricular/Supplemental Contracts: 7/8th Grade Center

15. **Randel McKinley**, 8th Grade Girls' Soccer Head Coach, \$2,678
16. **Megan McDonald**, 7/8th Grade Assistant Soccer Coach, \$2,678
17. **Rhonda Zimmerman**, 7th Grade Head Cheerleading Coach-Fall, \$1,786

5/6th Grade Center

18. **Bevin Seislove**, 5th Grade Girls' Chorus, \$1,421
19. **Judy Yancheck**, Girls' Basketball Intramural Coach, \$388

Elementary

20. **John Gnias**, Evans Elementary School, Safety Patrol Advisor, \$565
21. **Janice Straubel**, Evans Elementary School, Science Building Coordinator, \$1,067

H. Playground Assistants: \$10.60 per hour

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| 1. Theresa Carfagno | Spring City Elementary School |
| 2. Maima Jones | Evans Elementary School |
| 3. Jean Novarina | Limerick Elementary School |

I. **Professional Staff Substitutes:**

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| 1. Jayne Bailey | Elementary Education |
| 2. Stefanie Emes | Elementary Education |
| 3. Tricia Fisher | Elementary Education |
| 4. Brian Johnson | Elementary Education/Mid-Level Math |
| 5. Charles Keagy | Elementary Education |
| 6. Nicole Leh | Elementary Education |
| 7. Ann M. Lee | Elementary Education |
| 8. Jennifer L. Morris | Elementary Education/Mid-Level Math |
| 9. Amanda L. Slater | Elementary Education |
| 10. Natalie Szabo | Social Studies |
| 11. Michelle White | Elementary Education/Early Childhood |
| 12. Melissa White | Elementary Education/Early Childhood |
| 13. Jayme M. Wyda | Elementary Education |
| 14. Crystal Zakszeski | Elementary Education/Special Education |

New Professional Staff Substitute:

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| 15. Amber Clark | Elementary Education |
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J. **Support Staff Substitutes:**

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| 1. Harold Nettles | Custodian |
| 2. Marlene F. Seyler | Registered Nurse |
| 3. Brett Wasdick | Custodian |

New Support Staff Substitute:

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| 4. Marlene Seyler | School Nurse |
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VI. **FINANCE**

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

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated. Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item A and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

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

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

A.D. Moyer	Culvert Pipes - Sidewalk	\$	161.15
Drumheller Construction	Set & Pour-Sidewalks/2 Ramps	\$	3,960.00
EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	1,093.93
Earth Engineering Inc.	Professional Services	\$	6,072.75
Goshen Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #4- HVAC Contractor	\$	70,837.56
Limerick Twp.	Professional Services	\$	979.46
Limerick Twp. Mun. Auth	Professional Services	\$	1,009.43
Martin Stone Quarries	Stone - Sidewalks	\$	937.16
Rental World	Equip. Rental - Sidewalk	\$	220.00
Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse G. F.-Salary/Benefits	\$	50,555.56
Trans-Fleet Concrete	Concrete-Sidewalks (3 Inv.)	\$	4,205.00

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U.P.S. Store	Drawing Copies (3 Inv.)	\$ 445.66
Vimco	ADA Cast (2) Handicap Ramps	\$ 340.00
*EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 4,864.12
*E.R. Stuebner, Inc.	Applic. #3- General Contractor	\$1,472,490.34
*MBR Construction Serv.	Applic. #4- Electric Contractor	\$ 435,079.00
	TOTAL	\$2,053,251.12

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items B-N and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. **NEW DISTRICT OFFICE**

Foreman Architects/Eng	Professional Services	\$ 4,020.07
Hutts Glass Company	Glass Plates (2) - Desk Tops	\$ 390.11
MYCO Mechanical, Inc.	Applic. #16- HVAC Contractor	\$ 17,392.50
*Officenter, Inc.	Dismantle/Reupholster/Install Tackboards (53)	\$ 2,877.14
	TOTAL	\$ 24,679.82

2. **10TH AVENUE BY-PASS**

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 540.00
	TOTAL	\$ 540.00

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. **Weekly Checks prior to Work Session**

<u>August</u>		
Check No. 132137 – 132237		\$1,034,260.45
<u>September</u>		
Check No. 132238 – 132502		\$1,931,908.21

2. **Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting**

Check No. 132713 – 132776		\$ 892,079.05
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3. **Board Checks held for approval**

Check No. 132503 – 132712		\$ 514,203.61
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4. **Athletic Fund**

<u>July</u>		
Check No. 301654 – 301655		\$ 736.38
<u>August</u>		
Check No. 301658 – 301704		\$ 19,728.58

- E. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Camfel Productions – Irwindale, CA.** Provide an anti-bullying assembly on December 23, 2009 at the 9^h Grade Center entitled “Balance of Power”. Funding will be paid from the 9th Grade Center Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed four hundred ninety-five dollars (\$495.00).
 2. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide two (2) Assemblies entitled “Winter Secrets...Animals in Winter” at Spring City Elementary School on January 22, 2010. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Spring City Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed two hundred twenty dollars (\$220.00).
 3. **Mobile Ed Productions, Inc. – Redford, MI.** Provide four (4) assemblies and one (1) workshop entitled “Lights, Camera, Action” at Brooke Elementary School on October 26, 2009. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed six hundred ninety-five dollars (\$695.00).
 4. **Walnut Street Theatre – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies for the 5th grade students entitled “The Boy Who Cried Bully” at the 5/6 Grade Center on November 4, 2009. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 5/6 Grade Center Assembly Budget and shall not exceed seven hundred twenty-five dollars (\$725.00).
 5. **Dr. James Stone – Warrington, PA.** Provide neuropsychological testing and an educational report for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00).
 6. **Ambler Day School – Ambler, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for one hundred eighty (180) days at a rate of one hundred thirteen dollars and five cents (\$113.05) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed twenty thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars (\$20,349.00).
 7. **Educational Based Services (EBS) – Concordville, PA.** Provide contracted Speech and Language Therapy for special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for seven (7) hours per day for a total of one hundred eighty-four (184) days at a rate of seventy dollars (\$70.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed ninety thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$90,160.00).
 8. **Royer-Greaves School for the Blind – Paoli, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for one hundred eighty (180) days at a rate of three hundred thirty-two dollars sixty-one cents (\$332.61) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed fifty-nine thousand eight hundred sixty-nine dollars eighty cents (\$59,869.80).

9. **Ken-Crest Services – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide transition and pre-employment training services for two (2) special needs students as per their IEPs. Services will be provided for one hundred forty-eight (148) days at a rate of one hundred two dollars (\$102.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed fifteen thousand ninety-six dollars (\$15,096.00).
10. **Duane DeWire – Northumberland, PA.** Provide the Spring-Ford High School Marching Band with current state-of-the-art visual design that will stage the music and color of the band for the 2009-2010 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 High School Extra-Curricular Fund and shall not exceed five thousand one hundred thirty-two dollars (\$5,132.00).
11. **Link Davis – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide thirty-one (31) presentations (one per district second grade class) in conjunction with each school's completion of the butterfly unit and seven (7) presentations (one per elementary school) for the district's gifted students in conjunction with the completion of a study of entomology at a rate of sixty dollars (\$60.00) each. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Elementary Science Budget and shall not exceed two thousand two hundred eighty dollars (\$2,280.00) for the thirty-eight (38) presentations.

NEW FINANCE

F. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – August 2009
- PSDLAF – August 2009
- PSDMAX – August 2009
- Checking Account – August 2009
- PLGIT Account – August 2009
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – August 2009
- Payroll Account – August 2009
- Tax Account – August 2009

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – August 2009
- 7th Grade Activity – August 2009
- 8th Grade Activity – August 2009
- High School Activity – August 2009
- Athletic Account – August 2009

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – August 2009

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – August 2009
- Debt Service Fund – August 2009
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – August 2009

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – August 2009
- Cafeteria Checking Account – August 2009
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – August 2009
- Investment Account – August 2009

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

August

Check No. 9009 – 9093

\$ 179,419.09

- H. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2009-2010 school year:

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 024 – 034
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 044 – 067
Spring City Borough Exonerations	No. 015 – 027
Upper Providence Township Exonerations	No. 036 – 071

- I. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2009-2010 school year:

Permits No. 2794 – 2802

- J. The Board approved the request from the Township of Upper Providence for the property located at 0 Goldfinch Circle to be exonerated from the payment of tax, since the property is listed as open space.
- K. The Board approved an addendum to the Berkheimer Agreement for collection of the school district's Act 511 Earned Income Taxes at a rate of 1.75% through December 31, 2011. The previous rate was 2.2%.
- L. The Board approved the MCIU Consortium Agreement with Provident Energy Consulting for the procurement of energy for pooled accounts in order to achieve cost reductions through retail markets (electricity, natural gas). This agreement will enable the district to lock in favorable rates (8%-10% savings) for the purchase of natural gas through the end of 2011. Spring-Ford will also be able to lock in fixed future rates on the purchase of electricity by the group consortium, if favorable conditions exist.
- M. The Board approved a settlement in connection with the real estate assessment appeal involving the property identified as tax parcel #37-00-04663-18-7, which is located in Limerick Township and owned by Chestnut Pointe Associates. The original assessment of \$13,910,770 was reassessed at \$11,938,000 (assessment difference \$1,972,770) equating to an overpayment in taxes to the school district for tax year 2009-2010 of \$45,511.80.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend “*2009 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference*” in Hershey, PA on Wednesday, October 14 and Thursday, October 15, 2009. The total cost for this conference is \$556.00 from the 580 account.
- B. **Pat Nugent, Tina Weidenbaugh, Teresa Carboy, Dave Willauer, Mitch Edmunds, Johnna Weller** and **Steve Bonetz**, Leadership Team Representatives, to make a presentation at the “*2009 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference*” in Hershey, PA on Thursday, October 15, 2009. There is no cost to the district for their attendance and presentation at the conference. The Leadership Team Representatives will be travelling by district van.
- C. **Dan Currie, Carol Frankel**, and **Sherry Sterling-Holt**, Supervisors of Special Education, to attend “*Eastern PA Special Education Administrators Conference*” in Hershey, PA from Wednesday, October 28 through Friday, October 30, 2009. The total cost to the district for this conference is \$185.00 for mileage as all other fees are being paid by the MCIU.
- D. **Julie Deutermann**, Home and School Visitor, to attend “*The 2009 PA School Social Work Conference: Bringing Services to Students in Schools*” at the Milton Hershey School on Friday, October 16, 2009. The total cost for this conference is \$226.49 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Jennifer Farischon**, Teacher, to attend “*National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention/Expo*” at the Philadelphia Convention Center on Friday, November 20, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$360.00 - \$210.00 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account.
- F. **Robb Colyer**, 12th Grade House Principal, and **George Desko**, Teacher, to attend “*Teacher Expectations & Student Achievement Coordinator (TESA) Training*” at the Holiday Inn in Philadelphia, PA on Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2009. This conference will focus on raising student expectations, improving student academic performance and strengthening classroom climate. Information obtained at this conference will support the work of the School Improvement Team in place at the high school. The total cost of this conference is \$1,035.00 - \$735.00 from the 580 account and \$300.00 from the substitute account.

8th GRADE CENTER

- G. **Khrystin Herb**, SAP Coordinator, to attend “*SAP Advisory Council Meeting*” in Harrisburg, PA on Tuesday, October 20, 2009. All costs associated with this meeting will be covered by The Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Programs. The total cost to the district will be \$150.00 for a substitute funded through the 2009-2010 Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant.
- H. **Khrystin Herb**, SAP Coordinator, to attend “*PA Association of Student Assistance Professionals Board Meeting*” in State College, PA on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2009. All costs associated with this meeting will be covered by The Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Programs. The total cost to the district will be \$150.00 for a substitute funded through the 2009-2010 Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant.

7th GRADE CENTER

- I. **Orathia T. Bradley**, Assistant Principal, to attend “*The Summit for Courageous Conversation*” at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD from Monday, October 12 through Wednesday, October 14, 2009. This conference will examine educational policies, programs and practices that empower educators to create schools that offer every student a world class education. The total cost of this conference is \$545.00 from the 580 account.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- J. **Jen Smith**, Speech Clinician, to attend “*Competent Learner Model (CLM) Training*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Thursday, October 1, 2009. The total cost of this training to the district is \$14.00 for mileage from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget.

SPRING CITY

- K. **Bridget Mullins**, Certified School Nurse, to attend “*Rethinking Childhood Obesity: Environmental & Psychosocial Effects*” in Philadelphia, PA on Wednesday, October 7, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$195.00 including substitute and is being fully funded through the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- L. **Carol Vogt**, Reading Specialist, to attend “*Keystone State Reading Association Conference*” in Hershey, PA from Sunday, October 25 through Wednesday, October 28, 2009. The total cost of this conference to the district is \$450.00 from the substitute account.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- M. **Wendy Taylor**, Literacy Coach, to attend “*The Daily 5 and the CAFÉ System*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday,

November 10, 2009. The total cost of this conference to the district is \$169.30 from the 580 account.

- N. **Michele J. Biehl, Jennifer Giangiulio, Treasure Maack, and Jon Markowich**, Teachers, to attend “*SAP Training*” at Caron’s Regional Office in Plymouth Meeting, PA from Tuesday, October 6 through Thursday, October 8, 2009. The total cost of this training to the district is \$3,181.10 including substitutes and is being fully funded through the 2009-2010 Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant.
- O. **Elise Reiter and Joan Staples**, Speech-Language Therapists, to attend “*Word Power: Designing Effective Vocabulary Instruction*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Monday, October 5, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$58.47 from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget.
- P. **Jamie Buckwalter**, Speech-Language Pathologist, **Kara Johnson and Janette Pymer**, Teachers, to attend “*Core Team Training – SETT*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, September 30 and Thursday, October 22, 2009. The total cost of the training is \$704.53 - \$104.53 from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and \$600.00 from the substitute account.
- Q. **All Elementary Kindergarten Teachers (24) and All Elementary Physical Education Teachers (7)**, to attend “*Building Better Brains Through Movement*” at Methacton High School in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The total cost of this in-service day conference is \$2,550.00 for registration and mileage and is being fully funded from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

- R. **Dr. Tina Weidenbaugh**, Principal, and **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to attend “*Response to Intervention: A Practical, Sustainable Approach*” in Philadelphia, PA on Monday, October 5, 2009. There is no cost to the district for this conference.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber asked that Item D be separated and Mr. Grispon asked that Item E be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items B-C and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Dehnert said he reviewed information that came home to the Board on Friday and there does seem to be some safeguard procedures in place with regards to fundraising but he feels that all of the fundraising groups for the school district and any using school district facilities should be covered under Policy #229 including any kind of booster organization. Mr. Grispon said the wording in the policy could be changed to add that wording. Mr. Dehnert stated that part of the policy should be that any fundraising activity should be approved by an administrator or athletic director in order to avoid possibly any fundraiser that may become controversial or not acceptable. Dr. Hurda replied that presently this is done, for example, if it is a home and school activity the building principal signs off on it, if it is a booster club activity then Mr. McDaniel

signs off on it, if it is a Music Association activity then one of our high school assistant principals is assigned to this group, and even SNAP has a high school administrator assigned to them so that there is always an administrator at the meetings and who ultimately will give authority for that fundraising activity. Dr. Hurda stated that she continues to feel that anything we can do to tighten up our policies and procedures is a good thing so perhaps we should go back to the Policy Committee and again take a good look at everything written in the policy and all the guidelines we have in place. Dr. Hurda said she wants to reassure the Board and the public that we do have checks and balances in place right now.

- A. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:
1. Policy #229 – PUPILS: Student Fund Raising
 2. Policy #705 – PROPERTY: Safety
- B. **Kris Jennings**, Music Director, **Jessica Moyer**, **Kay Stokes**, and **Suzanne Winkler**, Music Teachers, were approved to take the Spring-Ford Middle School Concert Band, Orchestra, Choral Groups and Color Guard to perform at the 2010 Music in the Parks Festival in Hershey, PA from Friday, May 7, 2010 through Saturday, May 8, 2010. The Middle School Music Department will be travelling by chartered bus and staying in a hotel in Hershey, PA. The music department will compete in Color Guard, Percussion, and Jazz Band Competitions. The cost of the trip shall not exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per person. The Spring-Ford Music Association will provide three (3) fundraisers throughout the school year for the students to earn money towards the expense of the trip. All costs incurred will be paid for by the students and chaperones attending the trip. The only cost to the district will be three hundred dollars (\$300.00) from the substitute account for two substitutes for Friday, May 7, 2010.
- C. The Board approved **John E. Eckstine, Jr.**, Director of Bands, to take the Spring-Ford Area High School Indoor Color Guard, Indoor Percussion and Jazz Band on a four (4) day competition to Wildwood, NJ to participate in the Tournament Indoor Association Championship from Thursday, April 29 through Sunday, May 2, 2010. The Music Department will be travelling by chartered bus and staying in a hotel in Wildwood, NJ. The cost of the trip shall not exceed two hundred eighty dollars (\$280.00) per student. The Spring-Ford Music Association will provide three (3) fundraisers throughout the school year for students to earn money towards the expense of the trip. All costs incurred will be paid for by the students and chaperones attending the trip. The only cost to the district will be three hundred dollars (\$300.00) from the substitute account for one substitute for two (2) days for Thursday, April 29 and Friday April 30, 2010.

Mrs. Mullin made motion to approve Item D and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Weber asked how many band members we have and was it approximately 120, Mrs. Williams said that was about right. Mr. Weber stated that the Thanksgiving Day Football Game is not the same without the band being there and he is not happy about them missing this two years in a row. Mr. Weber commented that he is also not happy that it will cost about \$20,000 for the band to stay overnight when they are less than 45

minutes away. Mr. Weber said he understands that we do not control their money however he has to ask himself where the money comes from and that is from fundraisers which are supported by our taxpayer's money. Mr. Weber asked if our taxpayers are going to be happy that the Music Association is going to spend \$20,000 for the students to stay overnight less than 45 minutes away. Mr. Weber said he is proud of the band and the fact that they will be participating in a nationally televised parade and the band will be recognized.

Mr. Grispon asked if we have a commitment from Mr. Eckstine to be at the Thanksgiving Game in 2010, and Dr. Hurda responded that last week Mr. Grispon you indicated that you had expressed your feelings to Mr. Nugent and she is confident that those feelings were conveyed to Mr. Eckstine. Dr. Hurda said we will have to wait until next year to see what happens but clearly there is sentiment that the band should be at the Thanksgiving Day Game but there is equal and opposite sentiment that the parade is a wonderful thing for the school district. Dr. Hurda stated this is why it is a great thing that this comes to the Board for this type of discussion and collectively the Board approves or disapproves it.

Mr. Shafer said whether it is band or athletics, when you have a program that does well you are going to get rewarded and asked to continue on and the season gets extended and of course the folks back home lose their athletes and band members for a little bit longer. Mr. Shafer said he is extraordinarily proud of the band being asked to participate in this and surely we will miss them on Thanksgiving but this is something that should get a resounding approval from the Board. Mr. Shafer stated this is an honor and he is not sure why it is being viewed as a negative. Mr. Grispon said he is not asking for this not to be approved but just for a commitment for next year for the band to be at the game. Mrs. Mullin replied that she is not sure that everyone wants the band to be at the game. Mr. Grispon said that is okay but he is just saying he would like them to be there.

Mr. Morgan asked what happens if every member of the band does not come up with the \$180.00 required to participate in the parade, Dr. Hurda said she is not sure but she would think that the Music Association would have the funding in order to try and make this opportunity available to all. Dr. Hurda said the cost is really the requirement for the band to spend the night before the parade in Philadelphia.

Mr. Masciandaro commented that he is not sure how a member of the administration should react to a single Board Member's request. Mr. Masciandaro recalled some of the course work the Board had gone to and stated that the Board can say their opinion individually but unless they speak as a majority there really is no power in that. Mr. Masciandaro said he felt a little uncomfortable, after reflecting upon this, that they were actually at the Board table taking some action to pass on some sentiments. Mr. Masciandaro stated that in his opinion if the Board wants to speak to this then they should vote on it. Mr. Masciandaro commented that he is very proud of the band but does not feel their purpose is the football game although it is part of the high school experience. Mr. Masciandaro said the band is at the top, at the pinnacle, and at one time they were not that great but we now have a consistent, tremendous program going on here. Mr. Masciandaro said we should be proud of them and thank them for all the work they have done here. Mr. Masciandaro asked that they speak about this as a Board and not as individuals.

Mr. Grispon stated that there is freedom in America and if he wants to tell a principal how he feels, outside of the Board meeting, then he has the right to do that.

Mr. Pettit commented that he agrees with Mr. Shafer and this is a great honor for our students, they are not there simply to support the football team although they do it very well but that is not their sole purpose. Mr. Pettit stated that there are about 8 more football games left for the band to perform for the football team. Mr. Pettit said this is a great honor to be nationally televised and they have been selected because they are very talented and Mr. Eckstine and the students have put in an awful lot of time practicing and this is a reward for them and we should not deprive them from this.

Mrs. Williams reaffirmed that every Board Member has the capability, outside of the Board meeting, to express how they feel but they only speak as a Board and the only power is at the Board table through what is being done today. Mrs. Williams said she understands both feelings and she agrees with both sides. Mrs. Williams stated she is very proud of the band but is torn as it is lovely to have the band there at the game. Mrs. Williams said when we tell our kids to always strive for better and better we then cannot turn away on an opportunity.

The motion passed 7-2 with Mr. Grispon and Mr. Weber voting no.

- D. The Board approved for **John E. Eckstine, Jr.**, Director of Bands, to take the Spring-Ford Area High School Marching Band to Philadelphia, PA from Wednesday, November 25, 2009 through Thursday, November 26, 2009 to participate in the nationally televised Channel 6 ABC-TV/IKEA Thanksgiving Day Parade. The band is required to stay in Philadelphia on Wednesday evening. The cost of the trip shall not exceed one hundred eighty dollars (\$180.00) per student and two hundred ten dollars (\$210.00) per chaperone. The Music Association will provide several fundraisers for students to earn money towards the expense of the trip. All costs incurred will be paid for by the students and chaperones attending the trip. There will be no cost to the district. No substitute is needed.

Mr. Shafer made a motion to approve Item E and Mrs. Mullin seconded it.

Mr. Grispon commented that only 63 students participated in the trip last year and with the cost being \$997.00 he is not sure how many students will participate this year, he asked if there is any way to make the trip more affordable so that more students can go. Mrs. Mullin asked who decides on the trip location and Mrs. Williams responded that for some reason the students all want to go to Disney World as it is kind of the ultimate playgrounds. Mrs. Williams said the Board has wrestled with this in the past as there is a policy which requires 75% participation so it is possible that this thing will just evolve its way out of existence and it is a shame that there is a tough economy. Mrs. Williams spoke of the participation percentages in previous years saying in 2008 it was 100 students in a class of 505 so that is about 20%, last year it was 63 students in a class of 534 so the percentage just is not there and we are nowhere near it. Mrs. Williams said this issue can be taken back to the Policy Committee on another day but this may just evolve itself out of existence. Dr. Hurda stated if you recall when we reinstated this trip there was discussion about what the Board policy said and there was a commitment to allow the students to have an opportunity to participate in the trip and then as we go along to re-evaluate it. Dr. Hurda said we have to look at the

number of students who participate this year as we make the plans for next year as this is a legitimate concern. Mr. Grispon stated he would like to see the students participate even if it is a one day trip, this is a class trip and we should have more of the class participating.

The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Grispon voting no.

- E. The Board approved of **Melanie Volpe** and **Kelly German**, Senior Class Advisors, taking the Class of 2010 on a five (5) day trip to Orlando, Florida from Tuesday, March 30, 2010 through Saturday, April 3, 2010 (Spring Vacation). The cost of the trip will be approximately nine hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$997.00) per student, less any senior class fundraising supplements. There will be no cost to the district. No substitutes are needed.

New Other Business:

Mrs. Williams reported that there is a correction on Item F and the cost per student-athlete should be \$649.00 plus transportation and not \$1,200.00. Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Item F and Mr. Grispon seconded it.

Dr. Hurda asked Mr. McDaniel to speak about the cost of transportation and if they receive a commitment early enough then they can begin the process of securing airfare which will be lower if purchased early. This will then determine the total cost per student-athlete. Mr. McDaniel reported that the first plan was to go during spring break but that week was filled so this is the week available for the students to go. Mr. McDaniel said this trip has added to the team's success because our team is down there in good weather practicing while other teams are up here during poor weather conditions, not able to practice. Mr. McDaniel said the cost of \$649.00 covers the athletes land package which includes hotel, 2 meals per day, the park hopper for all 4 days, all ground transportation, transfers to and from the airport, and a mug to use for all soda, juice and water while they guests at All-Star Resorts. Mr. McDaniel commented that the airfare cannot be booked until they have Board approval but there are some discounted airfare rates that can be secured if booked in advance.

The motion passed 9-0.

- F. The following athletic trip for the purpose of participation in training and scrimmages was Board approved. The scrimmages are part of the 2010 schedule that allows a maximum of 22 contests and 2 scrimmages as per PIAA by-laws.
 - 1. The High School Girls' Softball Team requests permission to participate in the Walt Disney Wide World of Sports Softball Spring Training, from Tuesday evening, March 16 through Sunday, March 21, 2010 in Orlando, Florida. The cost per student-athlete will be \$1,200.00. The Girls' Softball Program and staff will conduct fund raising events to help defray the costs. Student- athletes will miss three school days, March 17, 18, 19, 2010, and will be responsible for school work that is missed. The only cost to the district will be for substitutes needed for three days to cover Mr. Hughes and Mr. Corropolese, Varsity Coaches, who will be travelling with the team.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

No report.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Joe Ciresi, Limerick Township, asked what the thoughts were for the old administration building and Mr. Weber replied that the Property Committee discussed possible uses but nothing concrete as of yet. Mr. Dehnert stated that there was also some discussion on obtaining an updated appraisal on the building. Mr. Ciresi asked about the status of the Western Center for Technical Studies Construction Project and Mr. Morgan responded that the project is on schedule and that there is an issue with storm water management which is being addressed. Mr. Morgan reported that the students and teachers seem very happy with the progress. Mr. Ciresi questioned the status of the High School Project and Dr. Hurda answered that we are on a very tight schedule so that we can open that part of the building for the start of the next school year but we are on schedule as of right now, Mr. Cooper confirmed this. Mr. Ciresi commented on the band trip saying this is one of the most coveted events that the band could participate in on Thanksgiving Day outside of the Macy's Day Parade which is the top parade for any marching band. Mr. Ciresi said he agrees with Mr. Masciandaro in that there were years when we could have never hoped to get to this type of parade and he remembers a conversation with Mr. Eckstine about hoping someday to get to this parade. Mr. Ciresi said this is a wonderful opportunity for the band to be seen and for the district to shine not only in the local area but around the country. Mr. Ciresi stated he applauds the band for their hard work and the Board for approving this trip.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary