

On October 22, 2012 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and Willard D. Cromley
Region II: Clara M. Gudolonis, Dawn R. Heine and Julie A. Mullin
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert
Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

The following Board Member was absent: Joseph P. Ciresi

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

The 50th Birthdays of Mr. DiBello and Dr. Goodin were celebrated with songs from the Jazz Vocal Ensemble.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello invited the public to come out and celebrate the flavor of our community at the third annual Taste of Spring-Ford on Thursday, October 25th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. here at the high school. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/tasteofspringford. Mr. DiBello announced that trained professionals and law enforcement experts will give a presentation on "Protecting Your Children From Sex Offenders" at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 8th in the Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center auditorium, located at 400 S. Lewis Road in Royersford. Mr. DiBello cautioned that due to the subject matter it is recommended that no one under the age of 18 attend the presentation. For more information, visit the district's website. Mr. DiBello announced that the Spring-Ford Area School District is excited to celebrate American Education Week's conclusion with a Community Bus Tour. This free ride will give those who attend an opportunity to tour the district's schools and see first-hand the important contributions the Spring-Ford Area School District is making to ensure the community's future. The event starts at 8:50 a.m. on November 16th. For more information, visit the district's website.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments from the public.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Kollar thanked the Board and stated that it is his honor to recognize twelve seniors in the Class of 2013 tonight for academic excellence. Dr. Kollar stated that it has been a pleasure to have worked with this class since their freshman year and he is happy to

report that they continue to perform exceptionally well. Dr. Kollar reported that last year as juniors the Class of 2013 achieved the highest PSSA scores to date for a junior class at Spring-Ford and this year they have the highest number of semi-finalists to be named in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Dr. Kollar stated that the class has been strongly supported by the School Board, administration, staff, community and parents. He thanked everyone on behalf of the students for the support. Dr. Kollar explained the process the students went through as part of the National Merit Scholarship Program. He introduced the six seniors who were named as Semi-Finalists. The Board and Dr. Goodin recognized the six students.

- A. Recognition of **Nikhil Bhat, Kayla Dwyer, Nicholas Goman, Amanda Jurewicz, Megha Keshav** and **Rachel Schwarz** on being named as "Semi-Finalists" in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. These individuals were among the 16,000 highest performers out of more than 1.5 million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) last October.

Dr. Kollar stated that we are also honoring six other seniors for their outstanding performance in the same National Merit Scholarship Program and each of these students has been named as a Commended Student. Dr. Kollar introduced the six seniors. Dr. Goodin and the Board recognized the six students.

- B. Recognition of **Andrew Carr, Christina Maziarz, Marybeth Moscirella, Sarah Payonk, Eric Rife,** and **Julianne Wu** on being named as "Commended Students" in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. These individuals were among the 34,000 students out of more than 1.5 million students who scored in the commended academic achievement range on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Mr. DiBello stated that at last week's meeting the possibility of having one of the district's legislative representatives come to a Board meeting to answer a few questions that the Board may have with regards to the Charter School Bill. Mr. Dressler as a result had reached out to Senator Dinniman's office and invited him to come this evening to provide some background on Bill 1115 which was just recently tabled. Mr. DiBello introduced Senator Dinniman.

Senator Dinniman congratulated the students on being named as Commended Students and Semi-Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program and stated that Spring-Ford must be a very fine district to have that many students to honor. Senator Dinniman reported that the Bill passed the Senate by a wide margin but did not pass the House so anything that does not pass in this session is dead and we start again in the next session although the issues are not over. Senator Dinniman stated that the Bill was a compromise. He reported that the Bill rejected the notion of a state-wide authorizer but this issue will be back. Senator Dinniman said that the first issue in this Bill was a 90 day window and in that 90 days any group that had a multi-charter could apply and would now be served by the State Board of Education which was only 3 charters in the state which were Kipp and Mastery in Philadelphia and Propel in Pittsburgh. The second issue they tried to get into the Bill was the wording that no charter school could have a reserve that was greater than what the district had. The third thing was making sure that charter schools had total transparency. Senator Dinniman reported that what they did in this Bill was to put all members of the charter schools trustees under the State Conflict of Interest

Act. All of their proceedings were put under the Sunshine Act and everything had to go onto their website for public inspection. Senator Dinniman gave background on the history of the Bill and the various provisions which included fiscal transparency, academic accountability, the prohibiting of charter schools keeping a surplus, no state-wide authorizer and only a 90 day opening for 3 charter schools in the entire state. Senator Dinniman further reported that one of the tragedies of the bill not being considered by the House was the provision regarding the spending for special education. Senator Dinniman stated that Spring-Ford is one of the finest districts in the state when it comes to special education students. Senator Dinniman stated that they were concerned with the excessive amounts of money that cyber-charter schools were getting in terms of special education because that is where the profit comes if you are running a for-profit school. Senator Dinniman reported that established a commission to review all of special education funding including special education cyber funding. The plan was to eliminate the straight 16%. Right now no matter how many students you have in special education the state says it is only equal to 16% of your student body. The plan was to give school districts the amount of money that was equal to the number of students that were special education. Senator Dinniman stated that he feels that PSBA has misled school districts with some of this bill. He added that the difficulty now is that we got a compromise and depending on what happens with the upcoming election he cannot guarantee there will be a compromise next time. Senator Dinniman stated that the opposition to the bill came from some of the most fervent supporters of charter education as well as from the teacher's union in the City of Philadelphia. PSEA was essentially supportive of the bill and remained neutral which should demonstrate that it was pro-public school and education. Senator Dinniman stated that these issues will now be faced all over again and he will do his best to protect public education when they return in January. Senator Dinniman said he wants to work with the district and he would not be here if that was not the case.

Mr. DiBello thanked Senator Dinniman for coming out this evening and putting some clarity around the bill along with his perspective on the goals of the bill.

Mr. Dressler asked if the bill was piggybacked onto a special education bill and Senator Dinniman replied yes it was. Mr. Dressler asked about the procedure for doing that as it is difficult for anybody to vote against special education bill. Senator Dinniman stated that was not the reason it was put on the special education bill. Senator Dinniman commented that he introduced the special education bill two years ago and again this year by Senator Brown. Mr. Dressler asked what the point was for putting the two bills together and Senator Dinniman said this often happens in legislation as it speeds the process along and they were put together last June when the legislators were trying to speed up the session. Mr. Dressler stated that his point is that many people would have supported the special education part of the bill whereas there was a lot of heat in reference to the charter school part of the bill. Senator Dinniman reported that when he and Senator Brown reintroduce this bill they will do so independent of any other bill. Senator Dinniman commented that the original bill was to end the 16% and give the money based on the number of special education students and to create a system with charter schools that would be multi-structured so if you were dealing with hearing and speech with special education you would get less money than if a student was on the severe end of the autism scale. Senator Dinniman stated that they really were trying to figure out the problem but what happens in the legislature is that they water things down and mix things up. Senator Dinniman said that they will be back in January and they will

try to get the special education bill through because it is a good approach and they have to get it through.

Mr. Pettit asked for clarification that they were not going to attach the charter school bill to another bill and Senator Dinniman replied that they hope not but what happens up there is that things get attached and put together. Senator Dinniman promised that any time an issue comes up involving transparency, getting money back from the budget, to the crucial matter of who authorizes charter school, he will get back to the School Board. Senator Dinniman spoke about the authorization issue in the charter school bill and stated that in his judgment what should be done is that the state should leave alone those districts that perform well and reward them and focus in on the districts that do not do well. Senator Dinniman stated that Spring-Ford is very fortunate for the educational leadership that is here because in the State of Pennsylvania today for every 5 students who enter the 9th grade only 4 will graduate which is a 20% dropout rate in our state's high schools. Mr. Pettit asked if Senator Dinniman voted for the bill and he replied yes he voted for the bill because he felt it was the best compromise they could get. Mr. Pettit commented that unfortunately this is costing our district \$120,000 - \$130,000 minimum in money that we do not receive as a result of children who reside in our district and attend charter schools. Mr. Pettit said this should be ended and he can understand the concern over Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and those areas where the children do not have much of a chance in public schools but that is not the case here in the suburbs. Mr. Pettit stated that there should be an amendment pushed to limit it to those two areas or failing areas rather than imposing this tremendous cost because how many teachers could we hire with that \$126,000 but we are not getting that opportunity and it is a very distressing situation. Senator Dinniman replied that Mr. Pettit was correct but understand that right now you have, in his opinion, a governor and a legislature that are at war with public schools saying that because of a failures they are attacking all public schools. Senator Dinniman stated that we need to stand up for public education.

Mr. DiBello stated that ultimately we are looking at putting out about \$2 million in the 2012-2013 school year in charter/cyber school payments and in his opinion they are a business as they are not like a parochial school. Mr. DiBello commented that the charter/cyber schools owned by business men, the money is embezzled out of charter schools by business people. Mr. DiBello added that the Auditor General in Pennsylvania came out and said that we are losing \$1 million a day in charter/cyber schools which equates to \$365 million per year. Charter schools are business, auditor general said losing \$1 mill per day. Mr. DiBello stated that we have schools in the suburbs like Spring-Ford that are pushing education and are held to high level standards that charter schools are not held to. Mr. DiBello said from his perspective even if the bill passed the way it is being proposed, it does not get to the heart of the situation. Mr. DiBello questioned why we are being forced to take contributions from our taxpayers and give it to the businessmen who run businesses which is what a charter school is. Senator Dinniman stated that the exclusion was the non-profit charter schools and Mr. DiBello argued that these are also businesses and the executives that run them are paid large salaries. Mr. DiBello stated that from the Board's perspective we really need energy put towards what is important to the districts in Pennsylvania which is PSERS and the unfunded mandates which cost us millions of dollars. Mr. DiBello said he appreciates everything Senator Dinniman is doing and he appreciates him coming out tonight but there needs to be more forums with school board representatives. Senator Dinniman replied that there is no question that what Mr. DiBello is saying is correct and it is a fiscal crisis. Senator Dinniman stated that what Spring-Ford is facing is being faced

by almost every school district and we have 12 school districts now that are in essence bankrupt, 35-40 districts that will be on the verge of bankruptcy and districts who will be unable to pay their teachers. Senator Dinniman said that this has become an utter crisis and they are trying to get all of those schools identified but the Department of Education is giving them a lot of grief on that and they do not want to see any student on the street and every teacher is paid. Senator Dinniman announced that what is good is that the Moratorium on Reassessment Bill passed the House unanimously but ended up not getting out of the Senate Finance Committee as a result of the work of Senator Brubaker who is from Lancaster County.

Mr. DiBello thanked Senator Dinniman for coming out and stated that they would like to meet sometime and Senator Dinniman said sure, anytime, he is happy to come out and talk with the district. Senator Dinniman concluded by saying, "Understand that in this state there are those who are at war with public education. The battle is not going to be easy and we are all going to have to stand up to save the most precious thing in American Democracy, our public education system."

C. **Senator Andrew Dinniman**, to discuss **Senate Bill 1115** and the Charter School Impact on School Districts.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

A. The Board approved the August 27, 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

NEW APPROVAL OF MINUTES

B. The Board approved the September 17, 2012 Work Session minutes.

C. The Board approved the September 24, 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property
No report.

Joseph Ciresi

2nd Tues. 6:00 p.m.

MCIU
No report.

Thomas DiBello

Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin

Dr. Goodin reminded the public that the Superintendent's Parents' Advisory meeting will be Wednesday evening at 6:30 in the Hurda Learning Center. Dr. Goodin congratulated the students who were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program saying we have a find group of students and are pleased that they are doing well.

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Cromley asked that Item D-2 be separated. Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-D1 and E-J and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. RESIGNATIONS:

1. **Patricia Glass**, 7th Grade Center; Kiwanis Builder's Club – ½ contract, effective September 18, 2012.
2. **Kay E. Stokes**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Music Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day October 31, 2012.

NEW RESIGNATIONS:

3. **Kelly Clarke**, 5/6th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, effective date to be determined.
4. **Eric Houck**, 8th Grade Center; Boys' Baseball Coach, effective October 15, 2012.
5. **Jamie Scheck**, High School; Baseball Intramurals, effective October 10, 2012.

B. LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

1. **Patricia Bateman**, Spring City Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective September 16, 2012.
2. **Debra L. Cavello**, District Office, Clerical Assistant, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective September 18, 2012.
3. **Shannon Hetrick**, Limerick Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective tentatively November 11, 2012.
4. **Donald Kollar**, Evans Elementary School; Head Custodian, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective September 10, 2012.
5. **Elaine M. Moore**, Evans Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective September 15, 2012.
6. **Dianne Ricci**, High School; English Teacher, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective tentatively January 8, 2013.
7. **Susan Wedemeyer**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Food Service Employee, for an unpaid leave of absence, effective September 13, 2012 for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days as per the Food Service Employees' Plan.
8. **Patricia A. Wynn**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, leave of absence per Board Policy for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, effective September 20, 2012.

9. **Mary Jane Yost**, Brooke Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, for an uncompensated leave of absence, effective November 12, 2012.

NEW LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

10. **Jennifer Basom**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for an *extended* leave per Board Policy, effective January 28, 2013 until the end of the 2012/2013 school year.
11. **Jennifer R. Giangiulio**, 10-12th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively February 24, 2013 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.

C. TEMPORARY PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEE:

1. **Lucinda King**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, replacing Marla Glennon who resigned. Ms. King will remain at the High School for the 2012/2013 school year. Compensation will be set at BS18, Step 1, \$43,500, prorated, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective September 21, 2012.

D. LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEE:

1. **Krista Brooke**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, replacing Lucinda King who will remain at the High School for the 2012/2013 school year. Compensation will be set at M, Step 2, \$45,700, prorated, with benefits, effective October 8, 2012 through the end of the 2012/2013 school year.

NEW LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEE:

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item D-2 and Mrs. Heine seconded it.

Mr. Cromley stated that he wanted the public to know that he is not opposed to this individual or their qualifications but is opposed to the financial aspect.

Mr. DiBello questioned the reason for bringing this staff member in at the M+18 level. Dr. Goodin replied that it has to do with her past experience in the district.

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

2. **Stephanie Fidler**, Oaks Elementary School; Gifted Teacher, replacing Ellen Luchette who will be on a leave of absence, effective October 17, 2012 through April 30, 2013. Compensation will be set at M+18, Step 1, \$49,000, prorated, with benefits.

E. SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEES:

1. **Mohamed Mansour**, 5/6/7th Grade Center; IT Support Technician-10 month position. Compensation will be set at \$18.91 per hour with benefits, effective October 1, 2012.
2. **Tara Santangelo**, Spring City Elementary School; R.N., replacing Susan Vukovich who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$27.25 per hour with benefits as per the Registered Nurses' Plan, effective October 29, 2012.

3. **David Schaeffer**, High School; IT Support Technician-10 month position. Compensation will be set at \$18.91 per hour with benefits, effective October 1, 2012.

F. EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS: High School

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. German, Kelly | SADD Club Advisor | \$402.00 |
| 2. Green, Kimberly | Gay-Straight Alliance Club Advisor | \$402.00 |
| 3. Leyland, Timothy | Asst. Girls Soccer Coach | \$2,394.60 (year 1) |
| 4. Parker, Karen | Academic Decathlon Coach | \$1,028.00 |
| 5. Rosario, Marvin | Asst. Girls Volleyball Coach | \$3,073.70 (year 2) |

NEW EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS : High School

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 6. Breiner, Tara | Asst. Cheerleading Coach (Fall) | \$1,533.00 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|

G. EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS: 7th/8th Grade

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Eddowes-Kiernann, Annette | Band Front & Majorettes, Gr. 7/8 | \$1,471.00 |
| 2. Jarema, Matt | Kiwanis Builder's Club, Gr. 7 | \$552.00 (1/2 contract) |
| 3. Seward, Kate | Winter Play Director, Gr. 8 | \$1,471.00 |

H. EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTRACTS: Elementary

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Heffner, Keith | Science Coordinator | \$1,104.00 |
|--------------------------|---------------------|------------|

I. PROFESSIONAL STAFF SUBSTITUTES:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Belisario, Emily | Elementary Education, Special Education, Mid-Level English |
| 2. Latch, Nicholas | Elementary Education, Early Childhood, Special Education |
| 3. Palaia, Alyssa | Elementary Education, Special Education |
| 4. Stonelake, Jessica | Elementary Education, Early Childhood |

NEW PROFESSIONAL STAFF SUBSTITUTES:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5. Gross, Christine | Elementary Education, Social Studies, Mid-Level Science, Mid-Level English |
| 6. Logic, Heather | Elementary Education |
| 7. O'Donnell, Benjamin | Social Studies |

NEW PERSONNEL ITEMS

J. SUPPORT STAFF SUBSTITUTES:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Huntington, Stacey | School Nurse |
| 2. Kimble, Rose Marie | Instructional Assistant |

VI. FINANCE

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

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

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

1. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Capital Projects Checks held for Board approval

*Check No. 32744 - 32755 \$ 27,159.29

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

C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work Session

September

Check No. 147423 – 147487 \$ 907,363.13

ACH 121300095 – 121300097 \$ 164.62

October

Check No. 147488 – 147629 \$1,405,525.74

ACH 121300098 – 121300107 \$ 913.10

2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

*Check No. 147680 – 147736 \$ 661,471.10

*ACH 121300129 – 121300134 \$ 2,079.55

3. Board Checks held for approval

*Check No. 147630 – 147679 \$ 48,096.53

*ACH 121300108 – 121300128 \$ 6,115.25

4. Athletic Fund

September

Check No. 304907 – 305070 \$ 60,165.03

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

1. **The Devereaux Foundation – Villanova, PA.** Provide transition and employment Services for the 2012-2013 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$7,900.00.

2. **American Red Cross – Philadelphia, PA.** Provide initial training and recertification of staff in CPR and First Aid. Funding will be paid through Medical Access Funds and shall not exceed \$3,000.00.

3. **TLS Teaching Learning Succeeding, LLC – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide consultation and training to assist with the implementation of the PA Common Core State Standards, support the development of the Spring-Ford Instructional Framework, assist to align the instructional framework with the supervision/evaluation system, construct a content crosswalk between the instructional framework and the 3-year induction program, support the development of a differentiated supervision/evaluation system, provide training in differentiated instruction practices- curriculum clarity, instructional engagement, and the use of formative assessment. Funding will be paid from the Curriculum and Instruction Budget and shall not exceed \$5,750.00.
4. **Kid Power Cares Inc. – Wichita, KS.** Provide two (2) assemblies for students at Evans Elementary School entitled, “Kid Power Operation Lunch Line 3D”. Funding will be provided through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$1,350.00.
5. **Thom Stecher & Assoc. – Malvern, PA.** Provide three (3) full-day, district-wide, professional development training sessions for staff on November 20, 2012, February 13, 2013 and April 18, 2013. Funding will be provided through the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$5,000.00.
6. **Bureau of Lectures & Concert Artists, Inc. – Lawrence, KS.** Provide an assembly for students at Brooke Elementary School entitled, “Wonders of the Rainforest”. Funding will be paid by the Brooke Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$245.00.
7. **Great Valley Nature Center – Devault, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies for kindergarten students at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled “Colonial Times, Life Before Video Games” and “Eggs-Traordinary Spring”. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$458.00.
8. **Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a presentation for second grade students at Oaks Elementary School entitled, “Dinosaur Dig”. Funding will be paid by the Oaks Elementary Parents Teachers Association and shall not exceed \$525.00.

NEW INDEPENDENT CONTRACTS

9. **Kristin Pedemonti – Allentown, PA.** Provide four (4) assemblies for students at Upper Providence Elementary School and one (1) staff presentation entitled “Every Day Super Heroes”. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$1,800.00.
10. **Progressions School – Stowe, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 180 days at a rate of \$138.50 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$24,930.00.

- E. The Board approved **Resolution #2012-32** for the advance refunding of the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2006 in order to provide a debt savings of approximately \$1,026,388.
- F. The Board approved the materials for PlanCon Part K, Project Refinancing, for the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012 to Advance Refund a Portion of GOB, Series of 2003, GOB, Series of 2004, and Fund Capital Projects. These materials have been reviewed and approved by the Division of School Facilities, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, Pennsylvania Department of Education. (Attachment).
- G. The Board approved the materials for PlanCon Part K, Project Refinancing, for the Partial cash defeasance of the General Obligation Bonds, Series A of 2007. These materials have been reviewed and approved by the Division of School Facilities, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal Management, Pennsylvania Department of Education. (Attachment).
- H. The Board approved the acceptance of the independent audit from Maillie, Falconiero & Company on the accounting procedures of the District Cafeteria Services.

NEW FINANCE

- I. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – September 2012
- PSDLAF – September 2012
- PSDMAX – September 2012
- Checking Account – September 2012
- PLGIT Account – September 2012
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - September 2012
- Payroll Account – September 2012
- Tax Account – September 2012

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – September 2012
- 7th Grade Activity – September 2012
- 8th Grade Activity – September 2012
- High School Activity – September 2012
- Athletic Account – September 2012

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – September 2012

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – September 2012
- Debt Service Fund – September 2012
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – September 2012

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – September 2012
- Cafeteria Checking Account – September 2012
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – September 2012
- Investment Account – September 2012

- J. The Board approved the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:
SEPTEMBER
 Check No. 10938 - 10975 \$ 373,231.68
- K. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:
 Permits No. 4172 – 4243
- L. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2012-2013 school year:
- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|
| Limerick Township Exonerations | No. 034 – 040 |
| Royersford Borough Exonerations | No. 081 – 085 |
| Spring City Borough Exonerations | No. 017 – 021 |
| Upper Providence Township Exonerations | No. 105 – 263 |
- M. The Board approved the following **additions/deletions** to the per capita tax for the 2012-2013 school year:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Limerick Township Additions | No. 009 – 011 |
| Limerick Township Deletions | No. 542 – 719 |
| Royersford Borough Deletions | No. 001 – 200 |
| Upper Providence Township Deletions | No. 001 – 022 |
- N. The Board approved a confidential settlement agreement **#2012-05** and release agreement with the parents of a special needs student and the authorization of payment of \$60,000.00 in full satisfaction of claims and costs.

PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the lease agreement with ePlus for the purchase of laptop and desktop computers, thin clients, and server hardware to replace computers scheduled to be refreshed during the summer of 2012. The lease will include approximately 240 laptops, 50 desktops and 50 thin client devices. Also included in the lease will be server and storage equipment to support approximately 500 virtual desk-tops and applications to be deployed in classrooms and computer labs. In order to move the process forward this motion was previously approved by the Board on 5/29/12 with approximate amounts. The exact amounts are now known therefore we are seeking approval of the adjusted amounts. The total equipment value is \$880,062.10 (5/29/12 - Approx. \$650,000) and will be divided into four annual lease payments of \$225,934.97 (5/29/12 - Approx. \$167,000). Funding will come from the Technology Budget.
- B. The Board approved the funding of a lease agreement for the purchase of classroom technologies for Evans Elementary School, the Intermediate School (Grades 5 & 6) and the 7th Grade Center. This lease purchase will provide computing devices for use by students and will include, but may not be limited to, laptop computers, desktop computers and tablet devices. The specific requirements for these technologies are being developed by teachers and administrators and will be tied to specific, documented instructional activities and standards. The total asset value for this

lease will not exceed \$310,000, which will be paid in four annual payments not to exceed \$85,000. Funding will come from the Technology Budget.

VII. PROPERTY

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

- A. The Board approved having the all-weather track at Coach McNelly Stadium re-stripped, as per the Capital Improvement Plan in 2013, due to wear. This will include all markings on the track. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account and shall not exceed \$9,500.00.

VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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

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

9TH GRADE CENTER

- A. **Todd Roussey**, Technology Education Teacher, to attend "*Technology & Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania (TEEAP) Conference*" in Camp Hill, PA on November 8, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$296.79 (\$146.79 from the 580 account for registration and mileage and \$150.00 from the substitute account).

8TH GRADE CENTER

- B. **Michael Siggins**, Principal, and **Kory Parsia**, Science Teacher, to attend the "*National Blue Ribbon School Ceremony*" at the Omni Sheraton Hotel in Washington, D.C. from November 11 through November 13, 2012. Mr. Siggins and Mr. Parsia will be attending on behalf of the district in order to receive the 8th Grade Center's National Blue Ribbon Award. The total cost to attend this ceremony is \$1,647.00 (\$1,347.00 for travel, lodging and meals and \$300.00 from the substitute account).
- C. **Jill Caceres**, Spanish Teacher, to attend the "*American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention and World Language Expo*" at the Philadelphia Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA on November 16, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$150.00 from the substitute account. Ms. Caceres is paying all other expenses.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- D. **Nick Lemuell**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Bullying, Sex & Tech Workshop*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on December 4, 2012. There is no cost for this workshop and no substitute is needed.

OAKS ELEMENTARY

- E. **Linda Fulmer** and **Donna Rowlands**, Teachers, to attend “*SmartBoard – Train the Trainer Workshop*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on July 31, 2012 and August 1, 2012. The total cost for this training is \$380.00 for registration from the 580 Account. No substitutes were needed as the conference took place during the summer months.
- F. **James Westlake**, Music Teacher, to attend “*District II (PMEA) Professional Staff Development Conference*” at the Montgomery County Community College on November 6, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference as Mr. Westlake is paying all expenses. No substitute is needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- G. **Dr. Tina Weidenbaugh**, Principal, **Sandra Frost-Horvath**, School Nurse, and **John Hughes**, School Counselor, to attend “*BrainSTEPS Team Member Summit*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on October 24, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$167.50 for mileage and a substitute.
- H. **Dr. Jeanmarie Mason**, Special Education Supervisor, **Rob Moyer** and **Kathleen Kotch**, House Principals, to attend “*Caron’s Student Assistance Program Certification Training*” in Plymouth Meeting, PA from November 7 through November 9, 2012. The total cost of this training is \$855.00 for registration from the 580 Account. No substitutes are needed.

NEW CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

- I. **Ashlee Adams**, Teacher, to attend “*ABA Supports – Intensive Skill Training*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA from December 12 through December 14, 2012. The total cost for this training is \$471.45 (\$21.45 for mileage and \$450.00 from the substitute account).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Mullin made motion to approve Items A-D, F and Mr. Cromley seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board gave permission for the High School Girls’ Lacrosse Team to accept the Invitation to participate in the KSA Events Lacrosse Spring Training to be held at the Ed Radice Sports Complex in Tampa, Florida from Tuesday, March 26 through Saturday, March 30, 2013. The program will include varsity level competition with the team being scheduled to participate in one (1) approved scrimmage and two (2) regular season contests, which are part of the 2013 schedule that allows a maximum of 18 contests and 2 scrimmages as per PIAA by-laws. The cost per student-athlete will be approximately \$699.00 plus airfare. The Girls’ Lacrosse Program and staff will conduct fundraising events to help defray the costs. Student-athletes will not miss any school days as the trip takes place during spring break vacation. There will be no cost to the district except for transportation to and from the airport.

- B. The Board gave permission for Kris Jennings, Music Director, Robert Bennett and Emily McGranahan, Music Teachers, to take the Spring-Ford Middle School Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, 7th/8th Grade Chorus and Gold N Blues to perform at the 2013 Music in the Parks Festival in Williamsburg, VA from Friday, May 10, 2013 through Saturday, May 11, 2013. The Middle School Music Department will be traveling by chartered bus and staying at the Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA. The cost of the trip shall not exceed three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) per person. The Spring-Ford Music Association will conduct fundraising events to help defray the costs. Students will miss one school day and will be responsible for any missed work. The only cost to the district will be \$300.00 for substitutes for Friday, May 10, 2013 for Mr. Bennett and Mrs. McGranahan.
- C. The Board gave permission for Seth Jones, High School Band Director, Emily McGranahan, High School Orchestra Director, and Yvonne O’Dea, High School Choral Director to take the High School Music Department to Shannon, Ireland from March 14, 2014 through March 20, 2014 for the purpose of performing at the 2014 Limerick St. Patrick’s Day Parade and the Limerick International Band Parade and Competition. The Music Department will be traveling and touring through World Projects. The cost of the trip is estimated at \$3,000.00 per person including airfare. The Music Association will conduct fundraising events to help defray the costs. Students will miss five days of school and will be responsible for all missed work. The total cost to the district will be \$2,250.00 for substitutes for Seth Jones, Emily McGranahan and Yvonne O’Dea for the five days.
- D. The Board approved of the following annual reports of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.
1. Evans Elementary Home and School Association
 2. Limerick Home and School League
 3. Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association
 4. Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
 5. Spring City Elementary Home and School Association
 6. Spring-Ford 5th-6th Home and School Association
 7. Spring-Ford Middle School Home and School Association
 8. Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club
 9. Spring-Ford Music Association Inc,
- E. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:
1. Policy #348 – ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
 2. Policy #448 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
 3. Policy #548 – CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES – Unlawful Harassment
 4. Policy #829 – OPERATIONS – Electronic Signatures
 5. Policy #831 – OPERATIONS – Screening of Employees and Contractors for Exclusion from Participating in Federal Health Care Programs

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

- F. The Board gave permission for the High School Varsity and Junior Varsity Boys' Baseball Team to accept the invitation to participate in the KSA Events Baseball Spring Training to be held at the Walt Disney World-ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida from Tuesday evening, March 19, 2013 through Saturday March 23, 2013. The program will be for varsity level and junior varsity level competition with the teams being scheduled to participate in one (1) approved scrimmage and two (2) regular season contests which are part of the 2013 schedule, which allows a maximum of 20 contests and 2 scrimmages per PIAA by-laws. The total cost per student-athlete is approximately \$900 plus airfare. The High School Baseball Program and staff will conduct fundraising events from October 2012 through March 2013 to help defray the costs. Students will miss three school days, March 20-22, 2013 and will be responsible for any missed work. The total cost to the district will be \$1,350.00 for substitutes for the three days for the coaches (Bruce Brobst, Jamie Scheck, Ryan Souder).

X. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Fitzgerald gave an update on the trial regarding SEI which occurred last Thursday and Friday saying that he is going to be brief and vague as the record is still open in the matter. Mr. Fitzgerald reported that the judge who heard all of the testimony on Thursday and Friday is still keeping open the possibility that he is going to get in his car and head out to Egypt Road and take a look at the property himself. Mr. Fitzgerald said they are not opposed to this and welcome the judge to do that. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that all reports when he was there on Thursday was that things went as well as we could expect. The expert for SEI had staked the position that the building was so unique that you would not be able to find anything anywhere else in all of industry, was impeached on cross examination by Fox Rothschild to the point where SEI felt that they needed to bring back their expert on Friday to clarify his position that it actually wasn't unique.

Mr. Pettit asked if there was any idea when the judge may act and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that the indication at this point, assuming that the record is going to close within the next week or so and the findings of facts and conclusions of law to be done sometime later in November and at that time it is anyone's guess but Mr. Fitzgerald is guessing late winter or in the spring before we hear something.

Mr. DiBello said he is working with administration on the agenda for the November meetings and one of the things he would like to bring up to the Board is to have on the agenda a presentation by the High School Guidance Department and Career Center so that they can separate things they are hearing versus what may or may not be occurring within those areas.

XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Kathy Regan, Limerick Township, asked what the rationale is behind class sizes and how they are increasing because it seems to have increased a lot since last year. Dr. Goodin replied that we are operating within the ranges that the Board set. Dr. Goodin said we have moved up to the upper level of the ranges. Mrs. Reagan stated that this is concerning because we just won the National Blue Ribbon and fought for years to keep class size down and we are finally seeing the effect of that.

Mr. DiBello stated that the Board over the last several years due to the budget situation had to look at what was best for the district not only from an education standpoint but also from an expense standpoint. The Board worked with the Administration, the Principals, the Director of Curriculum and put a lot of time and research into what was a reasonable class size that we would feel comfortable moving to while keeping within some boundaries. Mr. DiBello stated that in their research they found no articles that have been written that talk about class size with regards to what is optimal and what is not. Mr. DiBello added that there was a time in Spring-Ford when we were able to look at class sizes of 14 or 15 but right now from a budget standpoint we are not able to have those same luxuries right now. Mr. DiBello stated that we are still lower than some of our surrounding districts as far as class size is concerned. Mr. DiBello spoke about co-teaching saying that in some classes where there are 25 students there may be two teachers and one aide in the room.

Mrs. Regan asked what kind of follow-up there was going to be as she does not think the Board realizes what is happening on a day to day basis. Mr. DiBello stated that they do realize what takes place on a day to day basis and we are still performing at very high levels from an AYP perspective. Mr. DiBello commented that as everyone heard from Senator Dinniman if you only have this much money and you have these expenses you have to try to stay within. You cannot go to the community with a 9% tax increase and a high tax increase such as this is what would be required to reduce the class sized back down to that 15-16 level and hire additional staff. Mr. DiBello stated that the money is just not there and we are trying to keep the quality of education. Mr. DiBello talked about some of the positive changes taking place such as the House Principal System to provide better support for students as they are moving through their career at Spring-Ford. Mr. DiBello stated that he believes we will continue to progressively move forward and he thinks that next year and the year after are going to be a very challenging time for Spring-Ford financially due to PSERS and health care increases but we will do our best to maintain the high quality of education. Mrs. Regan said she just wanted to make sure there was not a disconnect and Mr. DiBello replied there is not a disconnect. Mrs. Regan stated that what she is hearing and what she is seeing are two different things. Mr. DiBello responded that everybody see things and the Board always welcomes parents to come and talk at the various meetings held in the district and through the surveys sent out to parents.

Mr. Dressler stated that he believes the administration would be happy to give us any data that correlates class sizes with class performance as time goes on and it can be forwarded onto the Curriculum Committee to look at and try to make the appropriate adjustments within the budgetary restrictions we are stuck with.

Mrs. Mullin reported that this subject came through the Curriculum Committee and it was discussed in January of 2011 and it was after articles were pulled and research done and it did not show a correlation between class size and student performance. At the January Curriculum Committee meeting they went back to the 1998 guidelines which were K-2nd grade the targeted class range was 19-22 students, 3rd and 4th the range was 20-25 students, and for 5-8 the targeted range was 23-25 students. Mrs. Mullin stated that she has kids in the district and she knows that 3-4 grade are running right at 25 the high end of the range. Mrs. Mullin stated that the discussion was based on input from building principals, teachers, the curriculum director at that time, and the superintendent at that time. Mrs. Mullin stated that could they be revisited, sure, but that is where the last set of class size ranges came from which was in January of 2011.

OCTOBER 22, 2012

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary