

On October 26, 2009 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:33 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I:	Bernard F. Pettit
Region II:	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 the Spring-Ford Intermediate School will unveil and dedicate a student-created mural on Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the school lobby. With the help of a professional artist, about 170 students have created tiles for the three-panel mural titled "Growth and Transition". Spring-Ford Intermediate School is the third school district building to install such a mural.

I. PRESENTATION

Dr. Donahue reported on the assessment scores from the 2008-2009 school year. The PSSA Math Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) proficiency target for 2009 was 56% and the Reading proficiency target was 63%. Dr. Donahue pointed out that at every grade level where the test was administered; the district's numbers exceeded the state average. Dr. Donahue reported that overall the district made AYP. The 7th Grade Center was noted as "Making Progress". The High School overall exceeded the state targets with the exception of the IEP subgroup in reading and the Economically Disadvantaged subgroup in math and reading. Due to these subgroups the High School did not make AYP and received a "Warning".

Mrs. Weller, reported on K-8 initiatives the district has in place which include Curriculum-based Common Assessments, Differentiated Instruction and Response to Instruction and Intervention (RTI).

Mr. Nugent reported on the SAT scores over the past three years saying that Spring-Ford's scores have consistently increased every year and have remained higher than the state average. Mr. Nugent spoke about the SAT subject tests saying many

students do participate in this testing but the numbers have dropped due to Springfield becoming an official ACT testing site. Mr. Nugent stated that the ACT also has a writing component to it and if students take the ACT with the writing component then colleges will not ask them to take the SAT subject test. Mr. Nugent reported that the ACT is more of a curriculum based test administered in the southern or western part of the country whereas the SAT is more a reasoning test that is given in this part of the country. Mr. Nugent spoke about the Advanced Placement (AP) courses the high school offers, the steps teachers must take to become an AP teacher and how our students scored on the AP tests. Mr. Nugent reported on the number of high school students who have been named as Commended Students, Semi-Finalist and Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Mr. Nugent also reported on the students who have been named as Outstanding Students, Semi-Finalist and Finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Mr. Nugent spoke about the addition of the Future Planning Center at the high school and the College Career Coordinator and the compliments he receives from visiting universities and colleges. Mr. Nugent presented information on the wide range of colleges past students have been accepted at and he credits much of this to the Future Planning Center, the College Career Coordinator, the emphasis on growing the Advanced Placement Program and the PSAT Program. Mr. Nugent spoke about some of the 9-12 initiatives that have been instituted such as phasing out track 2 classes, common assessments which provides a venue for younger teachers to work with the more veteran teachers in a collaborative effort, a co-teaching model which allows students to receive the same education in every classroom whether they are an IEP student or a regular education student and the development of a "Getting Results Plan".

Mrs. Williams stated that in looking at all of the various plans we have put into place in order to increase our college participation and to raise the bar she would just like to say hats off to everyone involved. Mrs. Williams commented that we are making such fantastic progress and she is glad that the district committed the financial resources and that we are constantly challenging our students and offering them opportunities.

Mr. Dehnert said he feels it would be important for us to compare ourselves not only to the state but to peer schools as well particularly as we get to the high school level. Mr. Pettit asked if the information Mr. Dehnert spoke of is available and Dr. Hurda responded yes.

Dr. Hurda commented that one thing that is important to recognize is that in the district today at every level there is ongoing dialogue on ways to improve instruction and ways to use data to have an impact on student achievement. Dr. Hurda stated that PSSA scores are one important measurement because this is how the state measures the district. Dr. Hurda said when you look at the achievement of our elementary students it is significant, 4 years ago the 8th Grade Center was a school that was on the warning list and 2 years ago the 7th Grade Center was on the list, both for specific subgroups. Dr. Hurda reported that today the 7th and 8th Grade Centers scored in the top 10% of all of the schools in the state. Dr. Hurda said this is significant and shows that when you focus your attention on data, on reaching the needs of all students, on differentiating instruction, on common assessments, on co-teaching, on RTI, and on student achievement, it makes a difference. Dr. Hurda congratulated Dr. Donahue, Mrs. Weller and all of the building principals on being instructional leaders in the district.

Mr. Grispon asked about the IEP subgroups in 11th grade and wondered if you were a student in this subgroup and you read at an 8th grade level, then what level is the test that you would have taken. Dr. Hurda responded that the test would have been an 11th grade level test. Dr. Hurda stated that this is one of the points that educators have argued all along, the difference between grade levels grows exponentially. Dr. Hurda said the system is a bit crazy in that the federal and state government both mandate that students be taught at their instructional level yet it is mandated that these same students be tested at their grade level. The State of Pennsylvania has offered numerous alternatives to this as have other states but the Federal Government has rejected them. Dr. Hurda stated this is the whole idea of "No Child Left Behind" but if you are teaching students at an 8th grade level but testing them at an 11th grade level then clearly some students are being left behind. Mr. Grispon asked if there was any hope that the Federal Government would change and allow school districts to test students at their instructional level, Dr. Hurda said they have not seen this as of yet. She reported that the State of Pennsylvania is now moving toward the Keystone Graduation Exams which would eliminate the 11th Grade PSSA but will require that students be proficient in 5 or 6 subject areas on tests and curriculum developed by the state in order to graduate so when you put that kind of power in 5 or 6 tests then some accommodations will have to be made for students who are identified as special needs.

Mr. Pettit pointed out that it is an unfair playing field for the grading but this is something that is consistent throughout all the school districts and his suspicion is that we would see a similar result from the other schools as well. Dr. Hurda stated this is why it is so misleading when you hear that a school is on the "Warning List" as this is an unfair representation when you look at the overall population. Dr. Hurda said it is also unfair when a subgroup is targeted and the finger is pointed at them as to why a school or grade did not make AYP.

- A. Overview of the 2008-2009 Spring-Ford Area School District Assessment results.
- Dr. Kenneth Donahue, Assistant Superintendent
 - Mrs. Johnna Weller, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
 - Mr. Patrick Nugent, High School Principal

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Clara Gudolonis, Limerick Township, questioned the meeting dates for the Committee Meetings which are listed on the front page of the agenda. Mrs. Williams reported that the dates listed were in error and would be corrected on the agenda and on the website. Mrs. Gudolonis asked about the disposition of the old administration building and the discussion last week pertaining to the roof leaking and replacing the entire roof on the building. Mrs. Gudolonis stated that she feels it would be more fiscally responsible to patch the roof until we know what we plan on doing with the building in the long run. Dr. Hurda stated that it is important to note that the roof is not leaking just a little bit but there are actually buckets up in the ceiling right now collecting the water. Mrs. Gudolonis asked if this just started and Dr. Hurda responded no it was leaking while we were housed there. Mrs. Gudolonis asked if anything had been done at the time to try and patch the roof and Mr. Cooper replied that the roof has been patched over time. The district held off putting a new roof on because administration was working out of the building and there was a fear that there could be some damage to paperwork and files if the roof was removed and during repair process a storm came through the area. Mr. Cooper stated the slate roof is now so brittle that it cannot

be walked on safely in order to do any patching. Mrs. Gudolonis asked what the plan is for the next couple of months and Mr. Cooper said until he receives a decision from the Board things will have to continue as they have been but if the roof keeps leaking on the wood trusses then we will lose them and the sub-framing. Dr. Hurda said the discussion last week was that there has not been a decision as far as future plans for the building, an appraisal had been done on the building and this was discussed. Mrs. Gudolonis asked when an appraisal was approved and when it was done, Dr. Hurda replied that it was done several years ago. Dr. Hurda reported that there was an adjustment in the value of the property and just recently Mr. Cooper had someone come by to take a look at the property. Dr. Hurda said all this information must be analyzed, the Property Committee has discussed all of the recommendations and last week we talked about filing a mandate waiver so that if we are going to do repairs on the building we have the ability to do them in-house rather than go out for bid. Dr. Hurda emphasized that no decision has been made and any decision made would have to be done right here at the Board table.

Mrs. Gudolonis asked if things were going to continue as is until a new Board is in place and Mrs. Williams said she does not know that because if there is a problem and the Board can come to some kind of action prior to the new Board coming on then it will be done. Mrs. Williams indicated that there are no plans for this but obviously if there are pails, buckets and leaking then something needs to be done. Mrs. Gudolonis commented that this is something that has been going on for quite some time and Mrs. Williams said we still would not wait, if we have action then we are going to take it. Mrs. Gudolonis stated with regards to appraisals, they cost money and an up to date evaluation can be gotten from realtors at no charge to the district. Mrs. Williams and Dr. Hurda responded that we did this already. Mrs. Gudolonis asked when this was done and Dr. Hurda said a month or two ago.

Joe Ciresi, Limerick Township, asked what the top SAT score is in each category and Mr. Nugent replied 800. Mr. Ciresi asked if when the report is put out in response to Mr. Dehnert's request comparing Spring-Ford to local school districts if we could also compare us on a national level as well. Dr. Hurda commented that we do not have access to scores outside of the state but suggested that possibly Mr. Nugent could contact school districts outside of Pennsylvania to get an idea of how we rank compared to them. Dr. Hurda indicated that we might be able to find out what the state averages are for a comparison. Mr. Ciresi asked about the 19% of the 11th grade who scored below proficient and roughly how many students this represents. Dr. Donahue replied if you looked at the percentages for students who scored basic and below basic the combined number for math would be 35% and the combined number for reading would be 32%. Mr. Ciresi asked what percentage of the students are in the IEP subgroup and Dr. Hurda said each year the number varies as it depends on the number of students identified as special needs students. Dr. Donahue reported that we have approximately 70 students who have been identified as special needs students.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved the September 21, 2009 Work Session minutes.
- B. The Board approved the September 28, 2009 Board Meeting minutes.

IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Michael John

Michael reported that last week was spirit week at the high school where the sophomore, junior and senior classes competed against one another for participation points. Spirit week led up to the main event last Saturday where the Spring-Ford Rams beat the Boyertown Bears in the homecoming football game. Michael commented that even though the parade and bonfire were cancelled due to weather conditions, the school spirit was not dampened.

Personnel Donna Williams As needed

Mrs. Williams reported that the Personnel Committee has met with a number of personnel groups and conversations are ongoing.

Community Relations Donna Williams Quarterly as needed

No report.

Curriculum/Technology Bernard F. Pettit Quarterly as needed

Mr. Pettit reported that the Curriculum Committee met on October 7th where Mr. Spohn reported on email archiving software and suggested his preference of the Mimosa Program over the Symantec Program. Mr. Pettit reported that the cost is within the Curriculum/Technology budget and it is required to provide a safety net in the event of a crash. Other topics discussed were summer course participation and Mr. Pettit reported that there were 360 participants in the non-tech courses and 263 in the tech courses. Mr. Pettit stated that administration has expanded the new professional orientation to 3 days and we had 19 attendees at this year's program. Mrs. Weller provided the committee with an update on the curriculum review cycle and increasing the AP courses that are offered, this addition must be completed by September because it will require additional teachers and additional space. The Curriculum Committee also discussed the Guidance Counselor Program and the importance of the College Career Counselor. Mr. Pettit reported that the Committee discussed the PSAT scores and the Academic Support Program for those who are not meeting the criteria as required. The Committee discussed the possible new courses for the 2010-2011 school year with a recommendation for a course in finance as well as AP language and composition. The Committee discussed the senior exit survey which is done 1 year post graduation and again 5 years out. The Committee finally talked about the government courses offered at the high school and the fact that they do comply with the state's academic standards for civics and government.

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

No report.

Finance John S. Grispon 2nd Thurs. 7 p.m.

Mr. Grispon reported that the Finance Committee met on October 12th and discussed assessment appeals which are a big concern to the district, the new projected retirement rate which is 8.4%, the cost index for 2010-2011 which is 2.9%, and the new garden authority rental reimbursement in the amount of \$698,000. Mr. Grispon reported that local auditors were in and are completing their audit. The Committee

discussed the 1st year stimulus budget which is \$1,741,000 and how it will be allocated and finally the state budget which has now been passed.

Policy **John S. Grispon** **2nd Mon. 7 p.m.**

Mr. Grispon reported that the Policy Committee met on October 12th and discussed the student fundraising policy which is on the agenda for approval, the property records policy which is on as a first reading, the school calendar policy which is on as a first reading, eligibility of non-resident students which will be reviewed and on next month's Policy Committee meeting agenda, the name and classification policy which is on the agenda as a first reading, the philosophy of education policy which is on as a first reading, the anti-discrimination and harassment policy which is on as a first reading, the electronic records policy which is on as a first reading and the attendance policy which is also on as a first reading.

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

Mr. Weber reported that the Property Committee met on October 12th and discussed the ongoing High School Project which is on schedule, the 10th Avenue Project, the mandate waiver was recommended for discussion at the Board table and is now on the agenda, the rails for Coach McNelly Stadium which is now on the agenda, and the parking lot for the 9th Grade Center which is also on the agenda.

WCTS **Grispon, Morgan, Williams** **1st Mon. 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Williams reported that the Western Center Technical Studies JOC met on the 1st Monday of October and discussed the construction project which is moving along and looking absolutely beautiful. Mrs. Williams reported that the retention basin that is there now is sending storm water down the street so we are actively working to solve that and reports are that this takes about a year for a retention basin to work itself out. Mrs. Williams stated that the construction has not presented any problem for the classes taking place there. Mrs. Williams commented that there is a beautiful part on the front of the building that will be a restaurant, Mr. Davis stated that zoning will not allow it to be used for a public restaurant but more as a restaurant that will occasionally be used as a showcase of the culinary student's skills and this would be open to the public.

V. PERSONNEL

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-I and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

A. Resignation:

1. **Lisa Rossi**, High School; Part-time Food Service, effective with the last day of employment, October 16, 2009.

New Resignations

2. **Nikki Adamowicz**, 8th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day, December 4, 2009.
3. **Elizabeth D. Evans**, 7th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, effective with the last work day, November 6, 2009.

4. **Jean A. Novis**, Brooke Elementary School; Librarian, for the purpose of retirement, effective with the last work day December 23, 2009.

B. Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy:

1. **Courtney J. Briddes**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective, intermittently, September 21, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.
2. **Kate Daniels**, High School; Athletic Trainer, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective, tentatively, October 19, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.
3. **Victoria Karalius**, High School; Spanish, for a Professional Development Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 27, 2010 until the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
4. **Lisa L. Knaub**, 5/6th Grade Center; Math/Science Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective, intermittently, October 6, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.
5. **Amy Parsia**, 5/6th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective, tentatively, December 16, 2009 until the end of the 2009/2010 school year.
6. **Jean M. Taddeo**, 8th Grade Center; Spanish Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective, October 6, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.
7. **Nicole Tenthoff**, 9th Grade Center; Social Studies Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective, tentatively, February 15, 2010 until the end of the 2009/2010 school year.

New Leaves of Absence in accordance with Board Policy

8. **Bernadette M. Kucewicz**, 8th Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective November 18, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.
9. **Beverly E. Reimund**, 5/6th Grade Center; LA/Social Studies Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective retroactive October 2, 2009 for up to a maximum of twelve weeks.

C. Temporary Professional Employee:

1. **Michael Siuchta**, High School; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$45,500, MS, Step 3, effective October 14, 2009.

D. Support Staff Employee:

1. **Patricia A. Young**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$14.80 per hour with benefits as per the Assistants' Plan, effective October 19, 2009.

New Support Staff Employees

2. **Carrie Edwards**, 10/12 Grade Center; 3-hour part time Food Service Worker, compensation will be set at \$14.39 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective October 27, 2009.
3. **Robert Feliciano**, Evans Elementary School; Custodian-third shift, compensation will be set at \$16.57 per hour with benefits as per the Custodial Plan, effective October 27, 2009.
4. **Tonia Leonard**, Flex Building, 3-hour part time Food Service Worker, compensation will be set at \$14.39 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective October 27, 2009.
5. **Johanna B. McLaughlin**, 10/12 Grade Center; 3-hour part time Food Service Worker, compensation will be set at \$14.39 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective October 27, 2009.

E. Playground Assistants:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Diane Byrd | \$10.60/hour |
| 2. Elizabeth Brull | \$10.60/hour |
| 3. Patricia Costello-Falcone | \$10.60/hour |
| 4. Julia Glaser | \$10.60/hour |
| 5. Sherri Molishus | \$10.60/hour |
| 6. Joan Vattimo | \$10.60/hour |

F. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ashley Bosak | Health & Physical Education |
| 2. Carol M. Crossman | Elementary Education |
| 3. Mary K. Carr | Elementary Education |
| 4. Amanda Deering | Elementary Ed./Early Childhood |
| 5. Jessica L. Denkowski | Elementary Ed./ Early Childhood |
| 6. Kelly DiLullo | Elementary Education |
| 7. Alicia Forgione | Special Ed./Elementary Ed./Mid-Level Math |
| 8. Lisa A Gainor | Biology |
| 9. Sarah Hamilton | Special Ed./Elementary Ed. |
| 10. Josh Lauer | Social Studies |
| 11. Sandra Kaufman | Music |
| 12. Meghan Miller | Elementary Ed./Special Education |
| 13. Kristen Mohr | Elementary Ed./Special Education |
| 14. Susan H. Moomaw | Elementary Education |
| 15. Lindsey Reigner | Elementary Education |
| 16. Stephanie Sawyer | Elementary Education |

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| 17. Stephen Schreiber | Health & Physical Education |
| 18. Dana Swetkowski | Elementary Education |
| 19. Katrinia Widdoss | Social Studies |

New Professional Staff Substitutes

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 20. Patrick Egan | Social Studies |
| 21. Kimberly Smith | Elementary Education |
| 22. Deborah Stuart | Elementary Education |
| 23. Nicole Zawada | Elementary Education |

G. Support Staff Substitutes:

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| 1. Kristen Beaver | Support |
| 2. Linda McCabe | Support |
| 3. Patricia Pearson | Registered Nurse |
| 4. Rachel Weller | Support |

New Support Staff Substitute

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| 5. Sheryl Millard | Food Service |
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H. Personnel Information Item

The individuals listed below have completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employees and are, therefore, approved for tenure status:

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|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Jill Caceres | Spanish |
| 2. Michele B. Miller | Biology |
| 3. Mary Jane Yost | Special Ed/Elementary Education
Early Childhood Education |

New Personnel

I. Extra-Curricular Contracts:

High School

1. **Aimee Cantello**, Stage/Scenery (1/2 position), \$533.50
2. **Aimee Cantello**, Assistant Play Director, \$388.00
3. **Kaitlin E. Troutman**, Majorette/Twirler Co-Instructor, \$1,070.00

7th Grade Center

4. **Jamie Rotunda**, Assistant Football Coach, \$3,481.00

VI. FINANCE

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

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated. Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Item A and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 5-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

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

Bursich Assoc., Inc.	Professional Services	\$	501.60
Earth Engineering Inc.	Professional Services	\$	11,351.25
Goshen Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #5- HVAC Contractor	\$	147,490.74
Limerick Twp.	Professional Services	\$	978.69
Limerick Twp. Mun. Auth	Professional Services	\$	4,585.96
*APEX Plumbing	Applic. #2- Plumbing Contractor	\$	34,155.00
*ER Stuebner, Inc.	Applic. #4- General Contractor	\$	657,517.63
*EI Associates	Professional Services	\$	566.62
*Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$	446.50
*MBR Construction Serv.	Applic. #5- Electric Contractor	\$	200,686.00
	TOTAL		\$1,058,279.99

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

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

1. **NEW DISTRICT OFFICE**

Spring-Ford A.S.D.	Reimburse GF-File Rails (24)	\$	275.36
	TOTAL	\$	275.36

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

Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$	90.00
	TOTAL	\$	90.00

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

- D. Checks:

1.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>		
	<u>September</u>		
	Check No. 132777 – 132893	\$	555,354.64
	<u>October</u>		
	Check No. 132894 – 133119	\$	811,890.57
2.	<u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>		
	Check No. 133246 – 133341	\$	902,142.26
3.	<u>Board Checks held for approval</u>		
	Check No. 133120 – 133245	\$	173,707.04
4.	<u>Athletic Fund</u>		
	<u>September</u>		
	Check No. 301705 – 301882	\$	21,897.22

- E. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
1. **Spring-Ford Counseling Services – Royersford, PA.** Provide student assessments based on the Student Assistance Program (SAP) referrals and student support groups for the 2009-2010 school year. Funding will be split between the 2009-2010 Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant (\$1,260.00) and the General Fund (\$10,740.00) and shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00).
 2. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for the 2009-2010 school year and will include multiple disabilities support, speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and health services. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed forty thousand five hundred thirty-nine dollars (\$40,539.00).
 3. **Creative Health Services – Spring City, PA.** Provide student assessments based on the Student Assistance Program (SAP) referrals and student support groups for the 2009-2010 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Safe & Drug Free Schools Grant and shall not exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).
 4. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide five (5) assemblies at Royersford Elementary School for kindergarten classes entitled “Winter Secrets”. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and shall not exceed five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00).
 5. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide five (5) assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School for kindergarten classes entitled “Winter Secrets”. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Upper Providence Elementary Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00).
 6. **Prismatic Magic LLC – Fort Worth, TX.** Provide two (2) laser science assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Elementary Science Account and shall not exceed one thousand two hundred thirty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$1,232.50).
 7. **Puppets Pizzaz – Richboro, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School for kindergarten and first grade classes. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00).
 8. **Full Effect Production – Cliffwood, NJ.** Provide three (3) assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled “The Turtle Stage Show”. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800.00).

9. **Academic Entertainment – Snohomish, WA.** Provide two (2) assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled “Nutrition: The Magic of 50 A-Day with Brian Richards”. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed five hundred ninety-five dollars (\$595.00).
10. **Ray Owens – Gettysburg, PA.** Provide four (4) assemblies at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled “The Song Buccaneer”. Funding will be paid by the 2009-2010 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand five hundred ninety-five dollars (\$1,595.00).

New Independent Contracts:

11. **Claire Choutka – Limerick, PA.** Provide a Functional Behavior Analysis for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for a maximum of twenty (20) hours at a rate of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00).
 12. **Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation – Camp Hill, PA.** Provide two (2) week-long series of lessons including a mobile agricultural education science lab program, all supplies and a certified teacher at Limerick Elementary (November 30 – December 4, 2009) and Royersford Elementary (December 7 – December 11, 2009). The contract also includes preparatory in-service programs at Royersford Elementary (October 20, 2009) and Limerick Elementary (October 21, 2009). Funding will be paid from the 2009-2010 Elementary Science Budget (\$2,300.00), Limerick Elementary Home and School Association (\$1,150.00) and Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (\$1,150.00) and shall not exceed a total of four thousand six hundred dollars (\$4,600.00).
 13. **Dr. James Cianciulli – Eagleville, PA.** Conduct neuropsychological testing and provide 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 one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00).
- F. The Board approved the High School Activities account (listed on the monthly bank statement) for 2009/2010. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
 - G. The Board approved the 8th Grade Center Activities account (listed on the monthly bank statement) for 2009/2010. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
 - H. The Board approved the 7th Grade Center Activities account (listed on the monthly bank statement) for 2009/2010. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
 - I. The Board approved the establishment of the Class of 2013 High School Activities Account.

- J. The Board approved transferring \$698,922.00 to the Capital Reserve Account. This amount represents the rental subsidy received from PDE on the payment of the variable rate principal on the New Garden Authority G.O.B. 2000 (\$7,790,000.00) from the Capital Reserve Fund in March 2008.

New Finance

- K. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

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

Activity Accounts

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

Bond Funds

- Note of 2007A – September 2009

Other Funds

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

Cafeteria Fund

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

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

October

Check No. 9094 – 9143

\$ 273,955.28

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

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 035 – 038
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 068 – 076
Spring City Borough Exonerations	No. 028 – 029
Upper Providence Township Exonerations	No. 072 – 083

VII. PROPERTY

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

Dr. Hurda explained that the mandate waiver is a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education which would allow the district, in this case, to do any renovations or repairs that may be necessary on the previous district office in-house. Mr. Davis added that this would allow the district to not have to be responsible to live with the \$5,000 cap. Dr. Hurda commented that in essence it would allow the district to save money since some of the work which would have been done through a bidding process can now be done by our own staff. Dr. Hurda reported that we have used a mandate waiver before in other instances.

The motion passed 6-0

- A. The Board approved going out, receiving bids, and awarding to the lowest responsible bidder the completion of all work associated with the concrete curbing at the 9th Grade Center parking lot. Funding will come from the High School Construction Project Fund and shall not exceed thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00).

New Property

- B. The Board approved completing and filing a mandate waiver for the necessary maintenance/renovations to the previous administration building located at 199 Bechtel Road, Collegeville, PA. The waiver would provide the district with relief from some of the bidding requirements and would also allow the district to complete the work in-house.
- C. The Board approved moving forward with the purchase and installation of ADA compliant railings at Coach McNelly Stadium. The railings will be purchased and installed through a state contract. Funding will come from the 2009-2010 Maintenance Budget and shall not exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

- A. The Board approved the purchase of Nearpoint Enterprise Content Archiving software from Mimosa Systems in the amount of \$28,020.00. The price includes maintenance and support for 3 years. This software will enable the archiving of e-mail and other electronic documents as required by law and in conjunction with Spring-Ford's Retention Policy. Funding will come from money budgeted for this purpose in the 2009-2010 Technology Fund.
- B. The Board approved the purchase of two DL-360 G6 servers from Hewlett Packard at a cost of approximately \$6,542.00 per the CoStars-3 IT Hardware Contract. These servers are required by the archiving software. Funding will come from money budgeted for this purpose in the 2009-2010 Technology Fund.

- C. The Board approved the purchase of a P4300 4.8TB SAS Starter Storage Area Network with redundancy and backup from Lefthand Networks in the amount of \$42,640.00 per the CoStars-3 IT Hardware Contract. The storage is expandable as needs grow and will house the e-mail archive and other electronic documents in the archiving agenda item. Funding will come from money budgeted for this purpose in the 2009-2010 Technology Fund.

IX. PSBA REPORT

John S.Grispon

Mr. Grispon reported that the IRRC approved Keystone Exams regulation. While PSBA did not support certain changes under the final form regulations, the association will now focus its efforts on its opportunities to participate in the implementation of the plan by choosing representatives for the Local Assessment Validation Committee and the other committees that are created by the regulations. The association will also be closely monitoring the implementation of the regulations to ensure that it matches the wording of the proposal.

Mr. Grispon also reported that the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is seeking a new facility saying the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU), an educational service agency supporting the Montgomery County schools, is exploring options to relocate the organization to a more adequate facility in order to accommodate its programs and the needs of the schools. The MCIU employs approximately 550 people and provides nearly 200 services to the 22 districts of Montgomery County as well as more than 170 nonpublic schools. Currently located on Main Street in West Norriton, the MCIU provides professional development trainings to thousands of educators each year, special education services, technology and information services, as well as legislative, human resources, business office, and communications support through its 9 divisions. Centrally located in Montgomery County, the MCIU also serves as the host for hundreds of education-related meetings each year, including parent groups, job-alike groups and administrative meetings.

“Unfortunately, the current facilities are simply inadequate for our existing and future programmatic needs. Remodeling the existing site is not an option, so we are actively exploring the purchase of a new or existing building,” said Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director/CEO of the MCIU.

According to a facility assessment study conducted by the architectural and engineering firm, RHJ Associates, the existing 81,380 square foot building is not structurally viable for remodeling due to its space constraints and the lack of parking. RHJ Associates estimates that the current facility, originally constructed in the late 1950s, is short 165 to 250 parking spaces. Additionally, there are features of the building that are undesirable and not easily remedied, such as the positioning of the building on the site. There is not enough available land on or adjacent to the site to complete necessary improvements.

“The MCIU is in a situation where we are unable to accommodate trainings for more than 100 people at one time and are forced to either rent other facilities or turn away educators interested in attending professional development,” Dr. Shiveley said. “Additionally, we struggle on a daily basis to find meeting rooms for the groups we serve as well as our own staff.”

The facility assessment was presented to the MCIU Board in April 2008, at which time the Board agreed for the MCIU to search for a new facility. It was recommended that the new facility should be 120,000 square feet with 950 parking spaces. Since that time, the Administration and Facilities Committee of the Board have toured a number of potential facilities, but not found any that meets all of the MCIU's specifications. The MCIU anticipates creating a funding plan that will have minimal impact on the school districts. The MCIU plans to finance over 30 years through a bond issue, using building reserve funds and revenue from expanded services to cover building costs.

"Acquiring a more adequate facility will help the MCIU actualize its mission to serve the needs of our school districts and nonpublic schools," Dr. Shiveley said.

X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-L and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

Dr. Hurda commented on Item H saying Jeff Moyer, a Physical Education Teacher, at the 5/6 Grade Center is being recognized by the PA State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as the 2009 State Heart Award Winner for his commitment to "Hoops for Heart". Dr. Hurda said this is a prestigious award and she wanted to publicly acknowledge him for his outstanding effort.

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. **Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, and **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*Furloughs & Demotions Under the School Code*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on Thursday, October 29, 2009. The total cost of this webcast is \$120.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- B. **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, to attend the "*2009 American Association of School Personnel Administrators Conference*" in Hartford, CT from Tuesday, October 13 through Thursday, October 15, 2009. There is no cost to the district as all fees are being paid by the Pennsylvania Association of School Personnel Administrators. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Dr. Leslie T. Morrill**, Supervisor of Staff Development, to attend the "*Evaluation Clinic Refreshers, Part I and II*" in Pottstown, PA on November 30, 2009 and May 26, 2010. There is no cost to the district for this clinic as all fees (\$114.20) are being paid by the 2009-2010 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant. No substitute is needed.

- D. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend the *"PASBO Annual Conference"* in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, March 9 through Friday, March 12, 2010. The total cost of this conference is \$1,724.14 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Mary Palladino**, Teacher, to attend the *"AP Statistics Workshop"* in Radnor, PA on Saturday, November 7, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$190.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- F. **Khrystin Herb**, SAP Coordinator, to attend the *"Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals – Board Meeting"* in State College, PA on Friday, January 21, Saturday, January 22, Monday, March 8 and Tuesday, March 9, 2010. As a Board Member and representative for Spring-Ford Area School District all expenses are covered except for \$450.00, the cost of a substitute.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- G. **Jenifer Smith**, Speech Clinician, to attend *"Caseload Determination in Speech & Language Support Programs"* in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, November 13, 2009. The only cost to the school district is \$14.00 for mileage. No substitute is needed.
- H. **Jeff Moyer**, Teacher, to attend the *"2009 PA State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) Annual Convention"* in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21, 2009. Mr. Moyer is receiving the 2009 PSAHPERD Heart Award for his service and dedication to Hoops for Heart. The total cost for this conference is \$333.50 - \$183.40 from the 580 account and \$150.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- I. **Wendy Pflugler**, Librarian, to attend the *"Kutztown University 2010 Children's Literature Conference"* in Kutztown, PA on Saturday, April 17, 2010. The total cost for this conference is \$50.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- J. **Elena Kinney**, Vocal Music Teacher, to attend *"Enhancing Early Literacy Skills Through the Use of Music"* in St. Davids, PA on Monday, November 23, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$199.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- K. **Carol Frankel**, Special Education Supervisor, **Todd Bowers**, **Andrea Rees**, **Ann Ricci**, **Deanne Snelling**, and **Connie Willauer**, Gifted Support Teachers, to attend "*Crafting Actionable Measurable GIEP*" at the Chester County Intermediate Unit" on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The total cost for this in-service day conference is \$313.75 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- L. **Kristin Beideman**, Secondary Guidance Counselor, and **Virginia Prevost**, Elementary Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Section 504 Service Agreements*" at Upper Perkiomen School District on Thursday, October 16, 2009. The total cost for this conference is \$60.28 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Items A, C and D and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. Mr. Dehnert commented on Item B6 saying he believes we need to look at not archiving all email so that we do not have the cost of storing all of this information as some of it may not be necessary. Mr. Grispon stated that this will be taken into consideration at the next Policy Committee meeting. The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The following policies were approved:
 - 1. Policy #229 – PUPILS: Student Fund Raising
 - 2. Policy #705 – PROPERTY: Safety
- B. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:
 - 1. Policy #001 – LOCAL BOARD PROCEDURES: Name and Classification
 - 2. Policy #101 – PROGRAMS: Philosophy of Education
 - 3. Policy #204 – PUPILS: Attendance
 - 4. Policy #248.1 – PUPILS: Anti-Discrimination and Harassment
 - 5. Policy #706 – PROPERTY: Property Records
 - 6. Policy #801.1 – OPERATIONS: Electronic Records Retention
 - 7. Policy #803 – OPERATIONS: School Calendar
- C. The Board approved the following annual reports of income and expenses as required by Policy #229 – Student Fund Raising.
 - 1. Brooke Elementary Home and School Association
 - 2. Evans Elementary Home and School Association
 - 3. Limerick Elementary Home and School League
 - 4. Oaks Elementary School Parent Teacher Association
 - 5. Royersford Elementary Parent Teacher Organization
 - 6. Spring City Elementary Home and School Association
 - 7. Upper Providence Elementary Home and School Association
 - 8. Spring-Ford Intermediate School Home and School Association
 - 9. Spring-Ford Middle School Home and School Association
 - 10. Spring-Ford Athletic Booster Club
 - 11. Spring-Ford Music Association, Inc.
 - 12. Spring City American Legion Baseball, Inc.

New Other Business

- D. The Board approved for the District to participate in the H1N1 Vaccine Provider Program as administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

XII. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis reported that the Board met in an executive session to discuss the real estate assessment appeals of the Smith Kline and SEI properties. Mr. Davis said last month he reported to the Board that Limerick Township had asked him and representatives of 10th Avenue bypass to meet with them but the day before the meeting the developer indicated he could not make the meeting. Mr. Davis said he received a phone message that everything was okay except for now there was an issue of a sewer line. Mr. Davis reported that he called back but unfortunately over the past three week period he has not received a return phone call so he sent a letter asking for an explanation. Mr. Davis said as of yet he has not received a response and he will contact the township if he does not hear something shortly.

XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mr. Ciresi, Limerick Township, commented on Item C under Other Business, saying he knows that the Board has done a lot over the years to thanks these organizations for their service and he expressed his thanks to the organizations as well. Mr. Ciresi asked about the MCIU investigating options for a new building and he asked if all 22 Boards will vote at the upcoming meeting and Mr. Grispon responded no. Mr. Ciresi asked if our representative will be given direction by our Board on how we wish to vote. Mr. Grispon stated when the final product comes up then whoever is our representative serving on the MCIU Board should bring it back here for discussion. Mr. Grispon reported that he will do his job as the representative until the end of November.

Dr. Hurda commented on Item D under New Other Business saying that the Board has given their approval for the district to participate in the H1N1 Vaccine Provide Program. Dr. Hurda reported that there has been a lot of discussion across the state and country on how school district's are responding. School districts have been asked to be provider sites and with the approval tonight we will move forward in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health in providing the vaccine to our student population. Dr. Hurda said she believes at this point that have asked for 5,000 doses of the vaccine although we do not know how many we will get or the particulars of how it will be administered. Dr. Hurda stated that it is important for our community to know, as everyone wonders where they can get the vaccine and where it will be available, that after tonight we will submit the final paperwork which will move us forward in terms of getting on the list to receive the vaccine.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve and Mr. Grispon seconded it. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary