

November 28, 2005

On November 28, 2005, the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:38 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

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| Region I: | Bernard F. Pettit |
| Region II: | Ammon G. Morgan, Jr., Janet A. Stokes, and Donna L. Williams |
| Region III: | Joseph P. Ciresi, Ed Cummins, and Richard J. Schroeder |
| Presiding Officer: | Michael V. Masciandaro |
| Superintendent: | Dr. Marsha R. Hurda |
| Business Manager: | Tim Anspach |
| Solicitor: | Marc Davis, Esq. |
| Student Rep.: | Kiley Morsch |

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

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Masciandaro announced that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Directors will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 7:30 in the High School cafeteria to consider the professional employee bargaining agreement and other issues deemed necessary by the board.

Mr. Masciandaro announced that the Board of Directors met in an executive session on Wednesday, November 23, 2005 and again tonight prior to the regular meeting.

Mr. Masciandaro announced that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school, which is yet to be named. The ceremony will take place on Saturday, December 3, 2005 at 10:00 at the Winnies Tract of Land located north of Ridge Pike on Sunset Road.

Mr. Cummins asked Mr. Masciandaro to clarify for the public the reasons for the executive sessions on November 23 and November 28. Mr. Masciandaro said the executive sessions were held to discuss contract negotiations.

I. DISTRICT GOALS

Mr. Pettit asked about the response the district is getting regarding the Future Planning Center. Dr. Hurda said the center is open and staffed by guidance counselors. Dr. Hurda said the center has two televisions and a VCR which was donated by Dr. Hurda said the plan is to have the center open one night a week which presently is Wednesday night which is the same night the high school library is open so that students and their parents can come in and seek college information as well as information on financial aid.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Susan Criss commented on taking the soda machines out of the schools. She is an aerobics coordinator at the YMCA and is also a certified personal trainer who has worked with many people reading many articles which state that up to two cans of soda a day increases the risk of Type II Diabetes in children. She feels we have an obligation to set a nutritional standard by removing the soda machines from the schools.

Maureen Shields, Spring-Ford Senior High School Teacher, thanked the outgoing board members for their service to the community; on behalf of the 9th grade faculty she thanked Mr. Patrick Nugent for his diligence in working with Mr. Jeffrey Kollar and commented that the entire faculty is very happy with the 9th Grade Center. Ms. Shields said the entire 9th Grade Staff is looking forward to working with the incoming board members and they are very happy to have Dr. Hurda at the helm working on all the goals the district is presently implementing. Ms. Shields reminded the public that school board members are volunteers and their service to the community is exceptional and they care enough to donate their time. She thanked the board for all their service and looks forward to a successful school year.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Masciandaro clarified that the board is recognizing the students named below and not him alone. Mr. Masciandaro presented Daniel C. Barbieri, Matthew M. D'Alonzo, Lauren M. Flasher and Maura T. Medaglia with a certificate from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

- A. Michael Masciandaro to recognize and congratulate **Daniel C. Barbieri, Matthew M. D'Alonzo, Lauren M. Flasher, and Maura T. Medaglia** as commended students in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. These individuals were among the 34,000 students out of more than 1 million who scored in the commended range on the PSAT/NMSQT test.

Mr. Edward Murray reported that since May we have been trying to structure a refunding transaction so that the school district can realize savings in the form of interest rate savings by doing a synthetic advance refunding of it's 1997 bonds. There has been some difficulty with the Department of Education since the structure we proposed is a fairly new structure. The original legislation never addressed how reimbursement would be treated. Mr. Murray and our bond council from Fox Rothschild wrote a letter to PDE asking them to clarify how they would treat this refunding transaction. PDE responded that they did not have a concrete answer because there was no provision in the law to

consider this type of transaction. Mr. Murray reported that after further discussions there is a way to do the advance refunding and acquire the same amount of savings that were previously discussed and this would involve adding another layer to the transaction. The Department of Education will reimburse a loan agreement. PDE suggested that we issue the refunding through an authority with a loan agreement which would be evidence of debt and would be reimbursable. Mr. Murray asked if under those guidelines he should proceed with the transaction. The savings would be \$1,250,000 as of today if we go ahead with this transaction now which is different from what we had talked about before. Mr. Masciandaro asked what risk we run with interest rate movements since we probably cannot do this until the new board is seated and we bring them up to speed with this transaction. Mr. Murray said he is unclear how the delay would hurt us as future interest rates are not known right now. Mr. Schroeder said we should get the packets regarding the transaction out to the new board members and asked if the third party has any place in setting the interest rates, Mr. Murray said the third party has no say in the interest rates. Mr. Schroeder asked if Mr. Murray's firm would go out and solicit this transaction with a third party and Mr. Murray said they have found two parties who are interested and their fees for doing this transaction have been taken into account with the \$1,250,000 amount. Mr. Masciandaro said if it is okay with the board members that after the reorganization meeting on 12/5/05 and the new board members receive the information would Mr. Murray be available on that date to discuss this transaction so that the board can consider the option in December rather than wait until January. Mr. Davis said that Rob Walpert from Fox Rothschild could attend and discuss the technical questions but not the schedules that Mr. Murray's firm prepares. Mr. Masciandaro asked that a presentation be placed on the board agenda for 12/5/05. Mr. Davis asked that the new board members receive the financial assumptions from Mr. Murray so that they can call him with any questions. Mr. Murray said he could forward electronically the presentation material which explains the structure for the new board members so that they could have time to ask their questions prior to the meeting on 12/5/05. Mr. Anspach asked if the board moves forward with this in December how long would it take to move the process forward with the bond refinancing. Mr. Murray said the transaction would not be closed until the middle of January but the rate would be locked in the day after the board agrees to move forward.

- B. **Ed Murray**, of Boenning & Scattergood, Inc., will present an update on the options for refinancing bonds.

Mr. Masciandaro, on behalf of the Spring-Ford Area School Board of Directors, recognized the outgoing board members: Ed Cummins, Richard Schroeder and Janet Stokes.

- C. Michael Masciandaro to recognize the following outgoing board members for their leadership and dedication giving unselfishly to the community, students staff of the Spring-Ford Area School District:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ed Cummins | 2001 - 2005 |
| Richard Schroeder | 1997 - 2005 |
| Janet Stokes | 1997 - 2005 |

Mr. Schroeder thanked all his colleagues both past and present. He also thanked the Spring-Ford Administration at all levels, the teaching staff, and all the support groups. Mr. Schroeder wished his fellow board members great success in the future.

Mr. Cummins echoes everything Mr. Schroeder said but wanted to point out individuals who he feels deserves particular recognition for their years of service. He thanked Mr. Schroeder for the time he has put into the community over the last thirty years. Mr. Cummins thanked Mr. Masciandaro for his level headedness and for bringing the board together enabling them to make great things happen. Mr. Cummins thanked Mr. Ciresi for doing everything he said he was going to do and more. He thanked Mr. Nugent for becoming a great leader. Mr. Cummins also thanked Dr. Hurda for being a compassionate person as well as being a leader who was able to bring together a mass of people like no one else could ever do. He thanked Dr. Hurda for having a positive influence on everyone she comes in contact with and he feels this district is going to benefit from her leadership for as long as she is here.

Mrs. Stokes said the last eight years have been for the most part a positive experience. When she first started back in 1997 the district enrollment was about 4700 students and today we are over 7000. Mrs. Stokes feels the district has done a remarkable job of keeping up with the growth. Mrs. Stokes commended Bruce Cooper, the Maintenance Department, Dr. Coale, and Dr. Hurda for being instrumental in bringing all these projects in on time and under budget. Mrs. Stokes said we have reduced class sizes in the K-3 grades, introduced foreign languages at the middle school levels, provided more extra curricular activities to accommodate our growing enrollment and passed the board seat reallocation plan so the voters in Limerick and Upper Providence have a fair and equal voice on who sits on the school board. Mrs. Stokes said an eye opener for her has been the hostility of local politics in this area. Mrs. Stokes feels Mr. Grispon has targeted her with nasty letters. She does not understand people using fake names on the internet who write nasty things about school board members and administrators who serve the community. She finds this hurtful and hopes that in the future it stops. Mrs. Stokes said she has the highest regard for Tim Anspach, Shirley Rhoads, Bruce Cooper, Barry Ziegler, Flossie Chomyn and Dr. Coale. She asked that the incoming board give serious consideration to the High School of the 21st Century and she feels that this is a real winner for Spring-Ford. Mrs. Stokes does not feel we can achieve the same quality program if we continue at the Western Center for Technical Studies. She wished the best of luck to Dr. Hurda, the administrators, all of the staff and the incoming board.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve items A-B and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The administration approved the October 17, 2005 work session minutes.
- B. The administration approved the October 24, 2005 board meeting minutes.

V. FINANCE

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve items A-D minus item D4 and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. Administration approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **NOVEMBER**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2003:**

1. WINNIES PROJECT

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| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Bursich Assoc. Inc. | Professional Services | \$ | 189.85 |
| DLR Group | Professional Services (2 Inv.) | \$ | 5,703.18 |
| Fox Rothschild LLP | Professional Services (4 Inv.) | \$ | 3,421.62 |
| Haines & Assoc. | Professional Services | \$ | 502.50 |
| Spring-Ford A.S.D. | Reimburse General Fund | \$ | 536.32 |
| *Limerick Township | Construction Entrance Permit | \$ | 200.00 |
| *Limerick Township | Sanitary Sewer Permit | \$ | 225.00 |
| *Limerick Township | Gas Service Permit | \$ | 125.00 |
| *Limerick Township | Storm Sewer Permit | \$ | 125.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 11,028.47 |

2. INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----|----------|
| Bursich Assoc. Inc. | Professional Services | \$ | 500.00 |
| Fox Rothschild LLP | Professional Services (4 Inv.) | \$ | 8,499.70 |
| U. Providence Twp. | Professional Services | \$ | 296.27 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 9,295.97 |

3. 9th GRADE CENTER

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---|----|------------|
| Adams Bickel | Applic. #14-General Contractor | \$ | 179,873.96 |
| Archie Heflin Plumb | Plumbing Work (3 Inv.) | \$ | 7,485.00 |
| Automated Installat. | Mounting/Wiring 8 programable Thermostats (incl materials) | \$ | 1,000.00 |
| Dick Blick | Ingento Paper Cutter | \$ | 199.98 |
| Boyertown Supply Inc | Gas Appliance Connector | \$ | 582.00 |
| Boyertown Supply Inc | Misc. Plumbing Supplies | \$ | 631.78 |
| Brodart Automation | Misc. Library Supplies | \$ | 49.25 |
| Calico Industries, Inc. | Small Kitchen Equipment | \$ | 3,734.65 |
| Carboni Taylor, Inc. | Library Furniture | \$ | 14,721.48 |
| DLR Group | Professional Services | \$ | 8,622.02 |
| John DiBattista | Build Porch Roof/Frame in Door | \$ | 2,830.00 |
| Ferguson Supply Co. | Misc. Plumbing Supplies (3 Inv.) | \$ | 663.46 |
| Thomson Gale | Encyclopedias - Library(3 Inv.) | \$ | 546.70 |
| Gopher | Physical Education Equipment | \$ | 1,286.34 |
| Grainger | Miscellaneous Supplies (3 Inv.) | \$ | 542.09 |
| J & L Building Mater. | Misc. Construction Supplies | \$ | 478.24 |
| Kelvin Electronics | Indust. Tech. Equip/Supplies | \$ | 543.38 |
| Lowe's | Cabinets – Special Ed. Class | \$ | 1,202.00 |
| Marshall Cavendish | Encyclopedias -1 Set Library | \$ | 459.95 |
| Nasco | F.C. S. Supplies (2 Inv.) | \$ | 228.46 |
| Nystrom | Wall Maps | \$ | 3,177.01 |
| Peter Lumber Co. | Misc. Construction Supplies | \$ | 1,235.74 |
| Spring-Ford A.S.D. | Reimburse General Fund | \$ | 7,254.54 |
| Sweetwater | Keyboard/Voice Synth Module | \$ | 3,889.51 |
| Trevdan Building Sup | Misc. Construction Supplies | \$ | 578.01 |
| Sam Tell & Son Inc. | Small Kitchen Equipment | \$ | 341.60 |
| Troxell, Inc. | 54 Panasonic Combo DVD/VCR | \$ | 5,478.30 |
| Wabash Valley | 10 Trash Receptacles | \$ | 3,099.26 |
| Washington Music | Tenor Saxophone/Music Dept | \$ | 974.00 |
| *Archie Heflin Plumb | Plumbing Work (2 Inv.) | \$ | 3,535.00 |
| *Grainger | Dry Air System & Supplies | \$ | 1,514.11 |

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| *Robert E Little Inc. | Ariens Snowblower | \$ | 2,194.00 |
| *Officenter | 11 Lux Steel Exec Chairs | \$ | 9,522.71 |
| *Officenter | 9 Savvy High Perform Chairs | \$ | 2,897.52 |
| *Sam Tell & Son | Small Kitchen Equipment | \$ | 49.20 |
| *Porter's | 5 Minolta Cameras-Tech Ed | \$ | 1,999.95 |
| *Sportime | Physical Education Equipment | \$ | 370.97 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 273,792.17 |

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

Traffic Signal

Sukonik/Greenstein Condemnation

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----|--------|
| Fox Rothschild LLP | Professional Services | \$ | 535.11 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 535.11 |

Phase II – Design Athletic Fields

Brooke Elementary School-Re-Roofing Project

New District Office

School of the 21st Century

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|----|----------|
| Sweet Steven Tucker | Professional Services (2 Inv.) | \$ | 1,798.00 |
| | TOTAL | \$ | 1,798.00 |

- C. Administration 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:

- Weekly Checks prior to Work Session
October
Check No. 106654-106759 \$ 946,038.40
November
Check No. 106760-107017 \$1,019,582.52
- Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting
Check No. 107018-107061 \$ 44,290.41
- Board Checks held for approval
Check No. 107062-107264 \$ 208,006.73

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve item D4 and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Schroeder abstaining.

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| 4. | <u>Plotts Checks</u> Check No. 107265 | \$ | 1,305.35 |
| 5. | <u>Scott Foresman Checks</u> Check No. 107266 | \$ | 156.34 |
| 6. | <u>Athletic Fund-October</u> Check No. 297589-297714 | \$ | 21,600.54 |

Mrs. Stoked made a motion to approve items E-I and and Mr. Cummins seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- E. The administration approved the High School Activities account (listed on monthly bank statements) for 2005-2006. Each activity group has completed signature records and listing of officers that are available in the business office for the State Auditors.
- F. The administration approved the 8th Grade Center Activities account (listed on monthly bank statements) for 2005-2006. Each activity group has completed signature records and listing of officers that are available in the business office for the State Auditors.
- G. The administration approved the 7th Grade Center Activities account (listed on monthly bank statements) for 2005-2006. Each activity group has completed signature records and listing of officers that are available in the business office for the State Auditors.
- H. The administration approved the closure of the School Store Student Activity in the 8th Grade Center.
- I. The administration approved the establishment of the Class of 2009 in the High School Activity Account.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve item J and Mrs. Stokes seconded it. Mr. Morgan said he is concerned with the five year transportation contract which amounts to over 25 million dollars. He wondered if there was still hope that this could be put out for competitive bids for possible further savings. Mr. Masciandaro asked Dr. Hurda to address this issue. Dr. Hurda deferred to Tim Anspach since he was the one most actively involved in this contract. Mr. Anspach said that he along with Shirley Rhoades did a comparative survey of transportation contracts with various districts from the area. Their research found that we are mostly below those contracts and they used that information to negotiate a five year contract. Mr. Anspach said that we not only have to look at the dollar amount but also the type of service we have been receiving and any complaints the board may be receiving from the public. Mr. Anspach our past relationship with the contractor leaves no doubt in his mind and he would not be recommending a five year contract unless he felt strongly about this. Mr. Morgan said we are seven months out from the expiration of the current contract and wondered if we could take one last look at it. Mr. Anspach said the last time we went through this process it was a very

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labor intensive issue and he wanted to make sure the district was protected. They wanted to avoid us getting into a situation where we are locked into a five year contract and we start having problems. Mr. Anspach feels that a lot of time was spent looking at the contract and rates to come up with this recommendation. Mr. Morgan said that while he appreciates the efforts he also wonders about the numerous school districts running busses through the district that have school district names on them and whether or not we could pursue this with Custer's given that we are their only customer. Mr. Anspach said he believes this discussion had come up from a prior board and there may have been a liability issue since the busses would have our name on them but in actuality they are not owned by us or maintained by us. Mrs. Stokes said that Mr. Schroeder had suggested this several years ago and at that time we were told it would cost us thousands and thousands of dollars to replace Custer's name on existing busses with Spring-Ford. Mr. Schroeder commented that the Community Relations Committee could possibly look into vendors advertising on a bus along with the Spring-Ford name. Mr. Pettit said that the Spring-Ford name on busses could present some potential liability problems and he is opposed to advertising by vendors on the busses. Mr. Masciandaro said this issue needs to be moved forward on tonight as this topic was on the agenda to be handled by the Finance Committee in September and a lot of consideration was put into this. Mr. Masciandaro asked if Mr. Morgan still wanted to make a motion to table this issue. Mr. Schroeder commented that as a school district we make demands on the bussing company as far as bus safety issues. Mr. Schroeder also commented that we are already below the comparative bids of other districts and he feels we would be very hard pressed to find lower figures. Mr. Pettit said he agreed with Mr. Anspach in that it is hard to put a cost on past performance. Mr. Pettit said he would like to look into putting seat belts on busses. Mr. Masciandaro said that seat belts are not a cost issue but more of a safety issue. Mr. Anspach said the National Transportation Association recommends educating students on the loading and unloading of busses where most accidents and deaths occur. He said that traveling by bus is still the safest transportation and there are padded seats which are made to cushion a student in the event of an accident. Mrs. Williams said she agrees with Mr. Morgan and we should delay this in order to have additional time to look at it.

Mr. Morgan made a motion to table item J until the January 2006 board meeting in order to allow further discussion and define what we have. Mrs. Williams seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-6, with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Morgan voting yes, Mr. Cummins, Mrs. Stokes, Mr. Masciandaro, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Ciresi voting no.

Mr. Schroeder addressed the question asked by Mrs. Williams regarding what the negative impact would be if we did not move forward with this tonight. Dr. Hurda said she was not aware of a negative impact but as a district we wanted to act in good faith with Custer's Garage since this recommendation came to us from the Finance Committee to move forward with this contract. Dr. Hurda asked Mr. Anspach whether or not

waiting a month would make a difference. Mr. Anspach said his concern would be that the six month window to bring in a new contractor would create a logistic nightmare for the new vendor since a stipulation in our agreement states that the business must be established in the Spring-Ford School District. Mr. Masciandro asked if we are legally obligated to give Custer's Garage notice by January. Mr. Anspach said January 5th is the date by which we must give them notice. Mr. Anspach said we have to give intent so that the current vendor can move on and the new vendor can get established. Mr. Anspach said he did go to the Finance Committee and request established parameters and he feels that the goal has been met. Mr. Morgan asked if there any provisions in the contract from Custer's side in the event we grow and need more busses year to year, would they get any more money or is it a straight 3 ½ % per year over a five year period. Mr. Anspach said there is a provision where we must give them notice of how many busses we need by a certain date so that they can plan in order to have those busses on time. Mrs. Rhoades said we pay on a daily rate for the number of busses we order. Mr. Morgan said the 3 ½ % is basically the operating budget for the year. Mr. Anspach said this figure represents the amount needed to pay for the cost increase for the new busses, the salary increases, operational costs and all those types of costs. Mr. Schroeder said he believes a new vendor could not come into this market and provide us with a certain amount of new busses on time and on schedule under the terms we specify in our agreement on short notice.

The motion passed 6-2, with Mrs. Williams and Mr. Morgan voting no.

- J. The administration approved a 5 year transportation contract with Custer's Garage beginning with 2006/2007 and ending 2010/2011. The contract is an increase of 3.5% each year for 5 years.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve items K-M and Mrs. Stokes seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

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

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Checks No. 6013 - 6054 | \$226,401.80 |
|------------------------|--------------|

- L. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:

General Fund

- Money Market – October 2005
- PSDLAF – October 2005
- PSDMAX – October 2005
- Checking Account – October 2005
- PLGIT Account – October 2005
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – October 2005
- Payroll Account – October 2005
- Tax Account – October 2005

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – October 2005
- 7th Grade Activity – October 2005
- 8th Grade Activity – October 2005
- High School Activity – October 2005
- Athletic Account – October 2005

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – October 2005
- Note of 2004 – October 2005

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – October 2005
- Debt Service Fund – October 2005
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – October 2005

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – October 2005
- Cafeteria Checking Account – October 2005
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – October 2005
- Investment Account – October 2005

M. Administration approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Sandecky's Puppets** – Tarentum, PA. Provide a presentation of "The Candy Cane Mystery" at Oaks Elementary on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 2:30. Funding will be paid through the Oaks Elementary PTA and shall not exceed six hundred twenty five dollars (\$625.00).
2. **Benmor Enterprises** – Bushkill, PA. Provide two (2) forty five minute presentations at Limerick Elementary in connection with the Science and Language Arts Curriculum. Funding will be paid through the Limerick Elementary Science Budget and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
3. **Deborah Heiligman** – New York, NY. Provide a presentation in connection with "Author Day" at each of the six (6) elementary schools. These presentations will take place between February 27 and March 6, 2006. Funding will be paid through each buildings School and Parent Association and shall not exceed seven thousand nine hundred eighty-seven dollars and thirty-two cents (\$7,987.32).
4. **Trudy Phillips/Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy** – Schwenksville, PA. Provide six (6) one hour presentations on "Winter Secrets...Animals in Winter" at Brooke Elementary. Funding will be paid through the Brooke Elementary Home and

School Association and shall not exceed four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00).

5. **Creative Health Services** – Spring City, PA. Provide two (2) one hour staff training sessions entitled “Overview of Mental Disorders in Children and Adolescents”. The cost of the training is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per session. Funding will be paid through the 2005-2006 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00).
6. **Renfrew Center Foundation** – Philadelphia, PA. Provide two (2) one-and-one-half-hour staff training sessions entitled “Overview of Eating Disorders”. The cost of this training is two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per session. Funding will be paid through the 2005-2006 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
7. **Donna W. Rafuse** – Linfield, PA. Provide Speech Therapy for up to ten (10) hours per week for thirty-one (31) weeks at Brooke Elementary and Spring City Elementary. The cost of this contract is fifty dollars (\$50.00) per hour and will run from October 26, 2005 to June 16, 2006. The total cost shall not exceed fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$15,500.00). This contract was necessitated due to the resignation of one of the District’s Speech Therapists. The cost of this contract will be paid through funds allocated for salary and benefits of the therapist who resigned.
8. **Lansdale Tutoring & Testing** – Lansdale, PA. Provide Algebra and Math Instruction at the Spring-Ford High School for an IEP student, four (4) days per week at one hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$128.00) per hour for a total of one hundred twelve (112) hours. The contract shall be in effect from 11/14/05 to 6/30/06. Funding will be provided from the 2005-2006 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed three thousand one hundred thirty-six dollars (\$3,136.00) plus mileage @ 0.485 per mile.
9. **Jenifer Wurster** – Chalfont, PA. Provide communication support services for a special education student. Services will be provided over the course of seven (7) weeks for seven (7) hours per week @ twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) per hour. Funding will be provided from the 2005-2006 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand seventy-eight dollars (\$1,078.00).

NEW FINANCE

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve items N-P and Mrs. Stokes seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- N. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2005 – 2006 school year:

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| Limerick Township | No. 12 |
| Royersford Borough | No. 21-25 |
| Upper Providence Township | No. 31-33 |

- O. The Board approved the following **additions and deletions** from the per capita tax for the 2005 – 2006 school year:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Royersford Borough Additions | No. 1-112 |
| Royersford Borough Deletions | No. 1-139 |

- P. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2005-2006 school year:

Permit No. 1320 – 1383

VI. PROPERTY

A. **Ninth Grade Center**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve items A-C and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. Mr. Schroeder commented that he appreciated Ms. Shields' comments on the 9th Grade Center and he hopes that everyone enjoys the facility.

1. **Change Order # 7 – 9th Grade Center**

Administration approved of Change Order # 7 to install Type M electrical fixtures and conduit for special systems in the Weight Room and Trainers Room, in lieu of what was specified, due to a change in the ceiling for a total increase of \$4,748.35.

B. **District Office**

1. Administration approved the Spring-Ford Area School District to retain Foreman Architects/Engineers Inc. of Zelienople, PA for renovations and additions to the Bechtel Dairy Building, the proposed site of the new District Office.

C. **Winnies**

Mrs. Williams asked if we worked out who was paying the \$15,000, the district or DLR. Mr. Masciandaro said this is the district's expense.

1. Administration approved for Foreman Program and Construction Managers to act as a consultant on the Winnies Project, reviewing architectural drawings/specifications and monitoring the start-up of the project. The amount of this agreement is not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00).

VII. PERSONNEL

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

Administration approved the following:

A. Resignations:

1. **Dr. Mary Ann Rudy**, 9th Grade Center; Reading Specialist, effective June 15, 2006 for the purpose of retirement.
2. **Deanne Snelling**, 5/6th Grade Center; Math/Science Teacher, effective tentatively January 23, 2006.
3. **Sheryl Millard**, Flex School; Food Service Worker, effective with the last day of work on November 18, 2005.
4. **Sarah Sweeney**, High School; Long Term Substitute: Spanish Teacher, effective with the last day of work on December 2, 2005.
5. **Nancy Clark**, Spring City Elementary School; Playground Assistant, effective with the last day of work on October 28, 2005.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Scott Burr**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Grade 1, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective February 7, 2006.
2. **Stephanie Fidler**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Kindergarten Teacher, for an extended leave for the remaining 2005/2006 school year.
3. **Autumn D. Herbst**, High School; Mathematics, effective tentatively January 29, 2006 for the remaining 2005/2006 school year.
4. **Brandy L. Miller**, 7th Grade Spanish Teacher, for an extended leave for the remaining 2005/2006 school year.
5. **Jennifer L. Moyer**, Intermediate School, 5/6th Grade; LA/Social Studies Teacher, effective tentatively February 16, 2006 for the remainder of the 2005/2006 school year.
6. **Treasure Maack**, 7th Grade Center; Health & Physical Education, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective tentatively December 17, 2005.
7. **Janine Schwartz**, Oaks Elementary School, Reading Specialist; for an extended leave for the remaining 2005/2006 school year.
8. **Martin Coleman**, Royersford Elementary School; Custodian, effective October 31, 2005.
9. **Debra Mohr-Kehs**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, effective October 20, 2005.

C. Professional Employee:

1. **Deanne Snelling**, 7th Grade Center; Gifted Support position, compensation will be set at \$55,000, MS+18, step 8, effective date tentatively January 24, 2006.

D. Temporary Professional Employee:

1. **Alane Rey**, Intermediate School, 5/6th Grade Center; Math/Science, compensation will be set at \$37,000, BS +18, Step 1, prorated, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective date tentatively January 24, 2006.

E. Long Term Substitute Employee:

1. **Lauren Carr**, Brooke Elementary School; Grade 2, compensation will be set at \$39,000, MS, Step 1, prorated, with benefits, effective November 28, 2005.

F. Support Staff Employee:

1. **Anthony Kuklinski**, High School; School Police Officer, compensation will be set at \$25.00 per hour with benefits, effective December 6, 2005.

G. New/Revised Job Descriptions (attached):

1. Bookkeeper
2. Assistant Bookkeeper

H. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Craig Kehl**, 9th Gr. Boys' Basketball Coach, Code D, \$3,967
2. **Craig Kehl**, 9th Gr. Fall/Winter After School Detention –Marking Period 1, Code E1/4, \$759.50
3. **Craig Kehl**, 9th Gr. Fall/Winter After School Detention – Marking Period 4, Code E1/4, \$759.50
4. **Aimee Cantello**, 9th Gr. After School Detention, Marking Period 2 & 3, Code E1/2, \$1,519
5. **Deanna Williams**, Fall Cheerleading Coach, \$2,293, Code G, \$2,293
6. **Nicole Gerenyi**, Theatre Ensemble/Thespian Society Advisor, Code I, \$1,569
7. **Courtney Amersbach**, Winter Track Coach Advisor, Code J, \$1,233
8. **Bethany Haring**, Production/Lighting Director, Code J, \$1,233
9. **Nicole Gerenyi**, Stage/Scenery All Productions, Code K, \$925
10. **Karen D'Orazio**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Winter, Code LB, \$569
11. **Bethany Haring**, Assistant Play Director, Code LC, \$337

I. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center:

1. **Daniel Miscavage**, Boys' Basketball Coach, Code F, \$2,679
2. **William Racich**, Volleyball Intramurals, Code LC, \$337

3. **William Racich**, Intramural Track, Code LC, \$337
4. **William Racich**, Fitness Training Session 1, Code LC, \$337
5. **William Racich**, Fitness Training Session 2, Code LC, \$337
6. **William Racich**, Fitness Training Session 3, Code LC, \$337

J. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 7th Grade Center

1. **Todd Reagan**, Boys' Fall Basketball Intramural Coach, Code LC, \$337

K. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Jenna Barone | Elementary Education |
| 2. Paul DeJohn | English |
| 3. Lynn Fitzpatrick | Elementary Education |
| 4. Thomas Gard | English |
| 5. Monica Gerhart | Elementary Education |
| 6. Adele Lanyon | Health & Physical Education |
| 7. Michael Leader | Citizenship 7-12 |
| 8. Kimberly Lightcap | Elementary Education |
| 9. Gretchen Reppert | Elementary Education |

L. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Doris L. Ash | Food Service |
| 2. Doris Bauman | Food Service |
| 3. Nancy Clark | Support |
| 4. Mary Cullen | Support |
| 5. Deborah Devine | Support |
| 6. Kathy Dwyer | Support |
| 7. Tracy Frazier | Support |
| 8. Tamara Fry | Support |
| 9. Rosa Kappenstein | Support |
| 10. Diane Rice | Support |
| 11. William H. Rowe, Jr. | Custodian |
| 12. Charlene Szabo | Support |
| 13. Jacqueline Wilson | Support |

VIII. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

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

Administration approved the following new courses to be implemented in the 2006-2007 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the processes of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of courses in the students' course guide.

NEW COURSES FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2006-2007

A. ART DEPARTMENT

1. Graphic Design (Major)

- a) **Rationale:** Graphic Design Major will take full advantage of Adobe Creative Suite which includes 5 professional design computer programs: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, In Design, Go Live, and Acrobat. From tight computer illustration, to manipulating and transforming photographs, to multiple page layouts, to advanced animation and web design, it will all be covered in this modern day art course.

Graphic Design as a minor is currently being taught with only Adobe Illustrator and there is only enough time to scratch the surface of the program's power. Graphic Design Major will also allow more in-depth conversation about the creative thought processes, design essentials, and how to enhance the visual impact of design.

This course will serve as a solid foundation to students moving on in the world of Graphic Design.

b) Cost:

- 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) \$ 675.00

B. BUSINESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

1. Advanced Computer Applications (Major)

- a) **Rationale:** SFHS currently offers Computer Applications which covers Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Each program has 3 lessons numbered 1-3. Advanced Computer Applications cover the same four software programs, but it has lessons numbered 4-6 for each program. This class will better prepare the students for the technology they are going to face and need in college or in their careers. Not only will it enhance their skills for college and a career, but it will enable them to use technology for their high school classes on things such as projects, papers, presentations, etc.

b) Cost

- 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) \$ 675.00
2) Initial Texts (\$54.75 x 60) \$3,285.00

2. Introduction to Microsoft Office (Minor)

- a) **Rationale:** This ninth grade introductory course that would be offered to the student who has varied keyboarding abilities and previous computer experience. The course would be different from

Introduction to Document Processing because it would include the basic elements of the Microsoft Office Suite. These elements include Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher, as well as integrated applications.

b) Cost

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) | \$ 675.00 |
| 2) Initial Texts (\$48.75 x 30) | \$1,462.50 |

3. DELETE Document Processing (Major)

- a) Rationale:** Many students take this course not knowing the extent of work involved and exactly what it entails. The applications covered in this course are covered more extensively in the Computer Applications course for those students who require more in-depth training. The Document Processing Minor touches on these topics and accommodates those students who do not need in-depth training. The Document Processing Minor would remain in the curriculum.

C. FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

1. Child Development (Major)

- a) Rationale:** To provide additional full-credit course options for students in grades 10-12 since the opening of the 9th Grade Center and the realignment of current courses to specific buildings. This course will give the students an understanding of early childhood development and education. This will culminate in the preparation for and participation in the play school program provided for preschoolers.

b) Cost:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) | \$ 675.00 |
| 2) Initial Texts | \$1,500.00 |
| 3) Initial Materials | \$2,500.00 |

D. GIFTED DEPARTMENT

1. Science in the 21st Century (Minor)

- a) Rationale:** Gifted students do not currently have the opportunity to take a science minor. This course would allow students with an interest in science to explore topics that may not be covered in science major classes. Students will also, through discussion of these topics, be exposed to a broader view of science than what is offered through just one discipline, such as chemistry or biology.

The discussion of current science developments in this course will enable students to make informed decisions on topics they may encounter in the news, or in political debates. Students will have the

background knowledge and perspective necessary to interpret media coverage of science research, and to understand how new developments in science will affect their lives.

b) Cost

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) | \$ 675.00 |
| 2) Initial Texts (\$60.00 x 30) | \$1,800.00 |

E. SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

1. Microbiology Track I (Major)

a) Rationale: Our Spring-Ford student enrollment is continually growing. The addition of courses to our science curriculum allows students to diversify their studies. The course of study in Microbiology is not only interesting, but pertinent to their lives. For example, microorganisms such as *Escherichia coli*, (which causes gastroenteritis, severe enough at times to prove fatal) and BSE (mad cow disease) are in the news frequently. The course will not require a double lab period each cycle, but there would be heavy emphasis on working in the lab and getting hands-on experience with microorganisms.

b) Cost:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) | \$ 675.00 |
| 2) Initial Textbooks | \$2,790.00 |
| 3) Initial Materials | \$2,100.00 |
| 4) Initial Equipment | \$ 500.00 |
| 5) Other (CD Rom with Text) | \$1,290.00 |
| 6) Recurring Annual Cost | \$1,970.00 |

F. SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

1. Dual Credit World Civilization I: to 1500 (Major)

a) Rationale: World Civilization I: to 1500 would provide our seniors with the opportunity to earn a college credit, take an accelerated, intellectually challenging social studies elective, and have a preview of “the college experience”, all within the walls of Spring-Ford High School. It will be limited to seniors and deserves honors weighting because of the sophisticated nature of its content.

The course would be taught using a combination of lecture, same way as the course is usually presented in college. Students would take a midterm and final exam, complete short research papers, and participate in class discussions.

The content, the teaching materials and the instructional methods would be appropriate for a college class and should distinguish this class from the existing elective called Ancient World.

b) Cost

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hours) | \$ 675.00 |
| 2) Initial Texts (\$80.00 x 30) | \$2,400.00 |

G. WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

1. Advanced Placement Spanish, French, German (Major)

a) Rationale: Due to the realignment of World Languages classes beginning study in 7th grade, students should have the opportunity for intensive study of languages by their Senior year. This course will not replace Spanish 5, but will offer a more in-depth treatment of the principles of Spanish Language. Although students presently may opt to study for and take the Spanish Language AP test, enough students have shown an interest in AP level Spanish courses to warrant a class. Numbers may not support an entire AP French/German course, but we would want the opportunity to offer AP courses in all languages.

b) Cost:

- 1) Initial Curriculum Development (20 hrs.x3 courses) \$2,025.00

IX. CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve items A-Y and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Cummins voting no.

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

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **John S. Grispon, Joseph Petrowski, Board Members and Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"Ready, Set, Govern! Fast Track"* at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia, PA on Saturday, December 10 and Sunday, December 11, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$1192.00 from the 580 account.
- B. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"Managing Multiple Priorities"* at the Wyndham Hotel in Reading, PA on Monday, December 12, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$200.00 from the 580 account.
- C. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"Responding to Requests for School District Records: The Right to Know Act and Beyond"* at the Bucks County IU in Doylestown, PA on Wednesday, November 30, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$117.00 from the 580 account.

- D. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend "*PASA New Superintendents' Academy*" in Harrisburg, PA on Thursday, January 19 and Friday, January 20, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$540.00 from the 580 account.
- E. **Dr. Leticia Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*PASPA Certification Academy*" at the Great Valley School District in Malvern, PA on Friday, November 11, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$80.00 from the 580 account.
- F. **Dr. Leticia Rodriguez**, Director of Human Resources, to attend "*PASPA 20th Annual Conference*" at the Marriott in Harrisburg, PA from Wednesday, March 1 through Friday, March 3, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$748.50 from the 580 account.
- G. **Tim Anspach**, Business Manager, **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, **Bruce Cooper** Director of Planning and Facilities, and **Barry Ziegler**, Supervisor of Planning and Facilities to attend "*PASBO Conference*" in Hershey, PA from Tuesday, March, 7 through Friday, March 10, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$3584.00 from the 580 account.
- H. **Kathleen Parker**, Food Service Coordinator, to attend "*USDA Commodity Processing Food Show and Seminar*" at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA on Thursday, December 15, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$60.00 from the 580 account.
- I. **Judy Kuhns**, Technology Integration Specialist, to attend "*Pete + C PA Educational Technology Expo and Conference*" in Hershey, PA from Sunday, February 19 through Tuesday, February 21, 2006. The total cost of the conference is \$689.00 from the 580 account.

HIGH SCHOOL

- J. **Ken DeAngelo**, Head Track Coach, to attend "*US All-Star Clinic*" at the Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ on Thursday, December 15 and Friday December 16, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$330.00 from the Athletic Budget.
- K. **Bruce Brobst**, Health Teacher, to attend "*HIV Update, A Workshop for Educators*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$135.00 - \$35.00 from the 580 account and \$100.00 from the substitute account.
- L. **Wendy Emery**, Secretary, to attend "*QuickBooks 2004 Level I*" at the Exton Training Center in Exton, PA on Friday, November 18, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$251.00 from the 580 account.

9TH GRADE CENTER

- M. **Heather Steinmetz**, Guidance Counselor, to attend "*Cyber-Bullying*" at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$12.00 from the 580 account.

- N. **Gretchen Lavigne**, Learning Support, to attend *"Boosting Reading Achievement Through Effective Instruction in Word Study"* at PATTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, December 14, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$118.00 - \$18.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$100.00 from the substitute account.

8TH GRADE CENTER

- O. **Dana Walker and Nancy Meyer**, Learning Support Teachers, to attend *"Make and Take for the PASA"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$329.00 - \$79.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$250.00 from the Special Education Budget.
- P. **Maria Kardick**, Librarian, to attend *"Copyright Scholar Meeting"* in Washington, DC on Wednesday, November 9, 2005. There is no cost for this conference other than \$100.00 from the substitute account.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- Q. **Theresa Weidenbaugh**, Principal, to attend *"Montgomery County Principals and Supervisors Association's Annual Winter Workshop"* at the Blue Bell Inn on Thursday, December 1, 2005. The total cost of this workshop is \$40.80 from the 580 account.
- R. **Vicki Maumus**, School Psychologist, to attend *"ADHD, Anxiety Disorders & Depression in Children: Diagnosis and Treatment"* in Lancaster, PA on Tuesday, November 29, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$83.00 from the 580 account.
- S. **Deanne Snelling and Connie Willauer**, Gifted Support Teachers, to attend *"PA Association for Gifted Education (PAGC) 2006 Conference"* at the Valley Forge Hilton in Valley Forge, PA on Thursday, April 6 and Friday April 7, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$568.20 - \$443.20 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- T. **Megan Seip**, Emotional Support, to attend *"Autism and Asperger Syndrome: Classroom Strategies That Really Make a Difference"* at the Drexel Brook Events Center in Drexel Hill, PA on Friday, February 10, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$344.30 - \$219.30 from the Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

BROOKE

- U. **Susan Pronchik**, School Counselor, to attend *"PA School Counselors' Conference"* in Lancaster, PA from Wednesday, March 1 through Saturday, March 4, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$263.05 from the 580 account.

LIMERICK

- V. **Stephanie Cooper**, Teacher, to attend “*Effective Differentiated Instructional Strategies to Maximize Student Learning*” in King of Prussia, PA on Friday, January 6, 2006. The total cost of this conference is \$327.77 - \$202.77 from the 580 account and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

OAKS

- W. **Francine Caputo**, Psychologist, to attend “*Overview of Response to Intervention: A School Wide Framework for Success*” in Harrisburg, PA on Wednesday, November 2, 2005. The total cost for this conference is \$99.62 from the 580 account.

ROYERSFORD

- X. **Matt Bornais and Mary DeAngelis**, Teachers, to attend “*Teaching About Pennsylvania’s Natural Resources*” at the Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA on Thursday, November 17, 2005. The total cost of this conference is \$143.00 - \$43.00 from the 580 account and \$100.00 from the substitute account.

UPPER PROVIDENCE

- Y. **Dr. Melissa Patschke**, Principal, to attend “*PDE Liaison Meeting – PAESSP*” in Camp Hill, PA on Friday, December 9, 2005. The total cost of the conference is \$77.90.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to approve items A-C and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

The following field trip was approved:

- A. Kris Jennings and Yvonne O’Dea, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music Teachers to take the Spring-Ford Area Middle School Concert, Parade, Jazz Ensemble and the 8th Grade Gold N Blues Bands to Williamsburg, Virginia to attend “Music in the Parks”. The students will leave after school on Thursday, April 27, 2006 and return Saturday night, April 29, 2006. The purpose of this trip is so that the students can be evaluated by a panel of nationally recognized judges and observe other music programs from the eastern seaboard.

The students will be traveling on Krapf’s Busses and will be staying in a hotel in Williamsburg, Virginia close to the site of the competition. In addition to the adjudications, the students will stop at the Maryland House Rest Area, tour three local schools, and visit Busch Gardens. The cost of the trip will be no more than \$225.00 per person and fundraising efforts are being made to reduce the cost of the trip per individual.

- B. Approval was granted to engage the services of Pamela Price, Director of Board Development Services, of the Pennsylvania School Board Association, for a Board In-Service. The total cost of the Board In-Service is one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400.00) plus expenses, not to exceed one thousand seven hundred dollars (\$1,700.00).
- C. Administration approved the revisions made to the Spring-Ford Area School District's current Strategic Plan.

NEW OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve items D-E and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- D. Administration approved the Spring-Ford Area School District's Improvement Plan as mandated by The Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- E. Administration approved the job description for the Coordinator of Public Outreach.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve item F and Mrs. Stokes seconded it. Mrs. Williams asked if this motion was going to remove all fruit drinks that are non fruit based and have the same amount of sugar as soda. Dr. Hurda said the discussion last week centered on soda but there was some discussion whether we could substitute what is in the vending machines with a more nutritious drink. Mrs. Williams asked if Mrs. Stokes could clarify this motion. Mrs. Stokes said her issue was the soda machines where students have access to them but she does not have a problem with the machines being in the faculty rooms. Mrs. Stokes said that she does not feel that we should advocate soda for children. Her hopes were to start with the soda machines and then let the Healthy Choices Committee work through the rest of the issues. Mrs. Williams asked Mrs. Stokes for her rationale on this issue and whether it was the amount of sugar contained in soda or the carbonation. Mrs. Stokes said her concern was the sugar issue and Mrs. Williams said if sugar is the issue we need to look at all the products in the machines that contain sugar. Mrs. Stokes said she is in favor of removing all the sugar products from the machines. Mrs. Williams said by removing the machines we will lose \$1, 929.48 per month from the machines and we need to find out how much of those sales are from water since water is not the issue. Mr. Anspach said the juice in the machines in the high school cafeteria does meet the cafeteria guidelines for nutrition, but soda does not and that is why it is not in the cafeteria machines. Mrs. Stokes said that although we cannot stop kids from drinking soda, we can make it more difficult for them and she would like to see the machines removed. Mr. Masciandro commented that we have a Healthy Choices Committee in place that this was delegated to and he would like for the board to hear from them. Dr. Hurda said she spoke to Dr. Morrill, who oversees the Healthy Choices Committee, and this item has been brought up as an issue but no recommendation has come out of that organization as of yet. Dr. Hurda asked Dr. Betts who is on the Healthy Choices Committee to come forward and give her ideas on the topic. Dr. Betts said she was asked to prepare a report and that is still in the process but her opinion is that the schools should not be selling soda. She suggested that we could replace all the juice and soda products with water and flavored water to see how it goes. Mr. Anspach said Coke offers

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plenty of choices and they wanted to talk to the Healthy Choices Committee to present their alternatives. Mr. Cummins said he feels this is a parenting issue and parents should educate kids on what they should drink. Mr. Pettit said sometimes we do take a place of a parent in the schools. He also feels that soda should be removed from the schools. Mr. Pettit asked about 100% fruit juices would that be a better alternative. Dr. Betts said it would be a step in the right direction but the best option for kids is water and milk. Mr. Anspach asked about diet soda and Dr. Betts said Aspartame is the number one sweetener in diet soda and Aspartame has been linked with bladder cancer and bladder problems. Dr. Betts said this would be a feather in Spring-Ford's cap as we would be the maverick in this area. Mr. Ciresi said he would rather see us move forward with a policy regarding all healthy food issues. Mr. Schroeder said the difference between a soda and juice is the carbonation. Carbonation within a product enhances the bloodstreams ability to absorb the sugar calories in the system and retains them. Mr. Schroeder feels we need to check out what would be the appropriate substitutes and we should wait for the recommendation from the Healthy Choices Committee. Mr. Masciandaro said he agrees with what Mr. Schroeder said and he referenced board goal number 13 to reduce childhood obesity. He would like to see a set of specific recommendations from the Healthy Choices Committee to the board. Dr. Betts asked if there are any particular issues the board wants the Healthy Choices Committee to investigate. Mr. Masciandaro and Mr. Ciresi both said the recommendations should cover all healthy choices which promote healthy lifestyles to combat the growing epidemic of childhood obesity. Mr. Ciresi said he would like the Healthy Choices Committee to come back to the board in January with a presentation on this along with recommendations on how to move forward with this. Mr. Ciresi said he would like to make a motion to table this until the board can have a full recommendation to the board. Dr. Hurda said that there are many things that have been done in the district regarding healthy choices. Dr. Hurda said that there are guideline that we are mandated to follow since we participate in a federal lunch program. Dr. Hurda said that there are specific ramifications that must be considered when you look at doing away with certain food products in terms of revenue being brought into the district. Our school food program is self supporting and we need to sell food in order to make some profit. Dr. Hurda feels that we need to look at other options and choices that would be palatable to children. Dr. Hurda said she would like to see Coke provide us with other options in lieu of soda that may be healthy and still generate revenue. Mr. Schroeder said there are new models on how to provide nutritious food to children. These models have been very successful. He feels we need to think outside the box and not limit ourselves to soda and chocolate bars. Mr. Pettit said he agrees with Mr. Ciresi and Mr. Schroeder in that we should look at the whole nutritional program; but rather than wait he feels we should start with the soda machines and then have Dr. Betts come back to the board in January with a plan. Mrs. Stokes said this discussion is in the right direction but feels we are making it more complicated right now than it needs to be. She feels we should start with this step and get rid of the empty calorie juices and juices. Mr. Ciresi said he wanted to move forward with his motion to table this issue until after a full presentation in January. Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro called for a role call vote: Mr. Morgan voted yes, Mr. Ciresi voted yes, Mr. Schroeder voted yes, Mr. Pettit voted no, Mrs. Stokes voted no, Mr. Cummins voted yes, Mrs.

Williams voted yes, and Mr. Masciandaro voted yes. The motion passed 6-2 in favor of tabling item F.

- F. Administration recommends a motion, pending further review of the district's contractual obligations to the vendors, to remove soda machines from all areas of the schools where students have access.

XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Julie Mullin, Upper Providence Township, thanked the three outgoing board members for being accessible and getting her the answers to questions she has asked. She thanked them for the time and effort they have put into the district and feels they will be greatly missed.

Gail Wellington, Limerick Township, said she has lost 30 pounds by eliminating Pepsi from her life. She thanked the outgoing board members for their service. She asked what is being done about an assistant superintendent. Mr. Masciandaro said the process is ongoing and there is no decision as of yet. Mrs. Wellington asked if there is a timescale projection. Dr. Hurda said they are in the middle of the search and once we have a candidate who is approved by our board we are then looking at approximately 60 -90 days before their district releases them. Dr. Hurda said we more than likely will not have an assistant superintendent until March or April.

Bruce Bailey, Upper Providence Township, said the three board members leaving tonight are a great loss to the community. He feels the board works very hard and put in an incredible amount of hours. Mr. Bailey said when Mr. Cummins came onto the board there were a lot of divisions in the district and it is not that way now. Mr. Bailey told Mrs. Stokes that she has fought a lot of battles and although not all were won she made a great positive difference to the district and community. Mr. Bailey said when he came into the district Mr. Schroeder was already on the board and although there was a lot of divisiveness and he believes that over time everyone realized that even though issues are not seen the same way everyone can work together. Mr. Bailey hopes that the outgoing board members will still come to the board meetings and lend their advice and expertise. Mr. Bailey asked if the meeting to be held on Wednesday night regarding contract issues was a public meeting and Mr. Masciandaro said it was a public meeting but it was not a discussion meeting but the board will be considering a contract at that time. Mr. Bailey asked if that meant that there was a contract about to be ratified and approved by both sides and Mr. Masciandaro said that we have a contract in principal. Mr. Cummins added that both he and Mr. Schroeder will be very involved and stay involved.

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, asked that when we revisit the soda issue we have all of the stakeholders present in order to make an educated decision. She also asked that we consider asking the booster organizations for their input as we need to look at the athletic events, the theater events and the music events. Mrs. Bryant also asked what will happen when a student brings soda into school, will we have a discipline policy to cover this. Mrs. Bryant said these issues may seem trivial but they will occur and we must consider every aspect and involve every stakeholder as part of the discussion. Mrs. Bryant

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wished the outgoing board members good luck and hopes that they continue to believe in public education.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit said that he joins the previous accolades for the three departing board members. He feels they have done a magnificent job and he is very pleased and proud to have served with these three individuals.

Mrs. Stokes made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Schroeder voting no.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary