

On November 28, 2011 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: David R. Shafer  
Region II: Julie A. Mullin and Donna L. Williams  
Region III: Thomas J. DiBello  
Presiding Officer: Joseph P. Ciresi  
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin  
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach  
Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.  
Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

The following Board Members were late: **Mark P. Dehnert, Edward T. Dressler, Jr, and Bernard F. Pettit due to being at another meeting – arrived at 7:41 p.m.)**

The following Board Member was absent: **Clara M. Gudolonis**

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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Ciresi announced that on Friday evening, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Middle School will be presenting a performance of “*Annie Play Will Do*”. The show is a comedy about a mix up in a school production that leads to two plays going on at the same time... but the problem isn't discovered until the curtain opens! This hilarious play will take place in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door. Spring-Ford parents and students are invited to explore opportunities for the future at the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center's Open House, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Come tour the building, visit with instructors and students, and learn about the school's programs. The Western Center is located at 77 Graterford Road in Limerick. The Spring-Ford Educational Foundation will sponsor the American Family Theater production of “*Babes in Toyland*” on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at Spring-Ford High School 10-12 Grade Center in the Auditorium. Show times are at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.00. Mr. Ciresi reminded parents that a complete list of concerts, festivals and other holiday event listings are available by visiting Spring-Ford's individual school websites at [www.spring-ford.net](http://www.spring-ford.net).

#### **I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

Rick Schroeder, Spring City Resident and Former Board Member, questioned the motions under Property, commenting that the expenditures are listed in very general terms as far as materials. Mr. Schroeder asked if the numbers included estimated labor costs when the staff is involved on the do-it-yourself projects and Dr. Goodin replied that he did not think that we were accounting for staff when work is done in-house. Mr. Schroeder stated that he thinks it would be a good idea going forward, if the Board were to so choose, as he thinks it would help the business people and taxpayers alike to understand the real cost of the projects. Mr. Schroeder suggested that it could be listed in general terms the estimated hours at whatever the rate

may be so that there could be a general idea of what the total project costs are when we do these types of projects. Mr. Schroeder urged the Board to really get out and find a real savvy replacement for Mrs. Williams. He thanked her for all of her years of service and stated that it was fun to have an individual like herself sitting across from him as point – counterpoint is very important in Board deliberations so that all sides of issues are presented. He thanked her again for her service and urged the Board to pay attention and keep somebody in mind that can stay on top of the district's policy issues.

## II. PRESENTATION

Margaret Castellano stated that she is the coordinator and advisor for the Limerick to Limerick Exchange and they have just wrapped up the USA edition as of Saturday. Ms. Castellano thanked the Board for supporting this fabulous, cultural exchange. Ms. Castellano commented that the Irish students were absolutely blown away by our facilities, our staff and everything we have here. Ms. Castellano showed a slideshow of pictures taken while the Irish students were visiting. She stated that the goal was to give the Irish students American experiences so they took them to Washington D.C., Baltimore, Lancaster, Philadelphia, and New York City. Ms. Castellano stated that the visit here was very successful as the Irish students really felt the American spirit and they fell I love with Spring-Ford. Ms. Castellano thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Ms. Castellano for her presentation and stated that Mr. Malone had spoken very highly of Ms. Castellano and her colleagues.

- A. **Margaret Castellano**, Ireland Exchange Trip Advisor/Coordinator, to present an update on the Irish Exchange Program.

Mr. Ciresi stated that there is a presentation that is not listed on the Board agenda and as Mr. Schroeder had alluded to this is Mrs. Williams last Board meeting here at the table after 16 years of serving. Mr. Ciresi commented that the Board has a gift for her along with a PSBA certificate recognizing her for her 16 years of Board service. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mrs. Williams for her service saying that they have had some lively conversations and discussions at the Board table and she will be missed. He commented that she will more than likely be at future Board meetings in the audience as other Board Members have done and that she has all of the Board Member's phone numbers and should feel free to contact them at any time. Mr. Ciresi made the presentation of the gift and the certificate and announced that there was a cake in the back of the room in honor of Mrs. Williams.

Mrs. Williams thanked the Board for the gift and for their service and stated that she believes that our nation is at a time where public service is not held in high esteem and it should be. Mrs. Williams said that the Members of the Board have left their families, their loved ones, perhaps their jobs to be here this evening. Mrs. Williams stated that although it may sound tacky to say this, people are valued by what they are paid and this job pays absolutely nothing and everyone seated here chose to be here to spend the time caring about kids. Spring-Ford is all about kids. Mrs. Williams stated that she has been very humbled and very blessed to serve with many Board Members, too many to count, and no matter what the common core is that we are about kids. Mrs. Williams commented that sometimes it does not seem that way but it truly is. Mrs. Williams stated that she has been very humbled to serve during her tenure with dedicated administrators, her own children's teachers, a dedicated and caring staff from the support staff to the professional staff to the administrators to the Leadership Team to superintendents. Mrs. Williams thanked the public for allowing her the pleasure of 16 years of pure joy. Mrs. Williams stated that there were



whether there may be any legal issues surrounding this. Mr. Shafer stated that the last item discussed was the formal restructuring of the Committee which was also included in the Board's packets. Mr. Shafer stated that the Extracurricular Committee will have its administrative main contact be at the Assistant Superintendent level. Mr. Shafer reported that at various times throughout the year there will be reporting by a number of administrators who own certain areas of the extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Williams asked what the disposition was with regards to the hockey group and what was sent to them. Mr. Shafer stated that there had been a number of requests and there were four remaining items which were very specific and there was meeting that took place and the Committee responded to the group. Mr. Shafer commented that essentially the group was just seeking resolution and the Committee provided them with that. Mr. Shafer reported that one of the key notes was that they were asking to be acknowledged as a varsity sport and they are not. Mr. Shafer said he felt it was important for the Board to know that the items had been finally handled. Mrs. Williams questioned whether she was correct in her recollection that the group wanted to be recognized as a Spring-Ford School Sport and our position had been up to a certain point that they are not a PIAA Sport so therefore they cannot be in the yearbook and she questioned whether this was still holding. Mr. Shafer stated that he is not sure about that but he knows that we could not consider them to be a varsity sport for a variety of reasons supporting this.

Mr. Roche gave a listing of the four items that the hockey group had requested and the response that they were provided with. The first item was the request to allow team photos to be allowed in the yearbook with placement near the other sports and the response was that the group can continue to purchase a page in the yearbook as they have in the past and work with the yearbook group in terms of where the page would be placed but we would not dictate that it be placed with the sports as purchased pages typically go towards the back of the book. The second item was regarding awarding varsity letters and the response was no, that varsity letters would only be distributed to Spring-Ford Area school district sponsored sports teams which this is not at this time. The third request was to allow seniors to list ice hockey as a sport in their autobiography page listed in the yearbook and traditionally the autobiography section lists all events, clubs and activities which are sponsored by the district. Mr. Roche reported that there is another section of the yearbook which allows a senior to discuss plans for the future and provide a forum for students to provide other information and it was determined that students could list the ice hockey group in this section but not in the autobiography section. Mr. Roche commented that the final item was for the allowance of posters to advertise hockey and it was reiterated that the poster process needs to be submitted through the Business Manager's Office for approval for any outside groups and their request would be handled in the same fashion as all community groups in terms of poster approval.

Mr. Ciresi commented that he is not comfortable with dictating what the kids can write in their yearbook as far as their autobiography as it is their discretion. Mr. Ciresi stated that as long as they are not outside the realm of using profanity or anything like that then he does not feel that we can dictate that other than limit the number of words they can write but not what they can write. Mr. Ciresi felt that this is something that needs to be reviewed across the board unless other Board Members feel different. Dr. Goodin stated that his understanding is that they can still list ice hockey in their biography section and Mr. Roche clarified that it cannot be done in the autobiography section as this has been held traditionally to only Spring-Ford Area officially sponsored activities. Mr. Ciresi stated that he may be alone on this but he feels that a student's activities or whatever they may be

involved in, if they want to list it in there, it should be allowed and they could be given 30 words to list what they want to list. Mr. Ciresi commented that this is their yearbook and not ours to dictate or mandate what they should be able to put in it. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Davis about the hockey group not being able to have a picture in the yearbook saying he does not get this as well as their having to pay for a page. Mr. Davis replied that both issues Mr. Ciresi raised are policy issues and he cautioned the Board that by allowing this you could be opening a forum to a huge amount of community groups as the hockey group is since they are not a Spring-Ford School group. Mr. Davis gave examples of the American Legion Baseball Team which is not a school group and the Boy Scouts which is also not a school group although both have a large representation of Spring-Ford students. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mr. Davis for the clarification and stated that he understands this but he feels the yearbook still needs to be discussed.

Dr. Goodin commented that there is a section in the book where students can list outside activities and Mr. Roche stated that the autobiography section is very short and very segmented but there is a section about what students are doing in the future and that is where they have a lot more freedom to write whatever they want.

Mr. Dehnert reported that one of the things that Steve Lampmann, who is the spokesman, did was he brought information regarding what other districts do with the requests submitted by ice hockey clubs and more than half of the districts did what the clubs were asking of them so it was not like they were requesting anything that other districts do not allow.

Mrs. Mullin said she is torn by this as it is a good group and they have been very dedicated to Spring-Ford but you are opening the door to every other group out there like them. She questioned what would happen when groups like Spring-Ford Youth Basketball wants their picture in the yearbook and Legion Baseball wants their picture in there also. Mrs. Mullin stated that she believes there has to be a cut off somewhere. Mrs. Mullin again stated that she is torn by this because the group is definitely an asset to the community and they are something for Spring-Ford to be proud of but there are a lot of organizations that are going to step up if we open that door.

Mr. Dehnert commented that one thing they do that is different is that they are exclusively said one thing they do different is that they are strictly Spring-Ford students where the Legion Team has students from other schools as does the Basketball League.

Mr. Shafer stated that he does not want to stifle any healthy discussion but he report is that the issue has been closed but if any Board Member would like to bring it up they are welcome to come to an Extracurricular Committee meeting and there can be additional dialogue on it. Mr. Shafer stated that from his perspective they have reviewed this at great length and taken much into consideration including a great deal of administrator's time on this and it is by no means a position of in favor or not in favor. Mr. Shafer added that Mr. Lampmann has been nothing but professional but this is just one of those things that there are policies in place right now for good reason, not saying that it cannot be debated in the future, but based upon the policies that are in place right now the Committee came to this resolution.

Mr. Ciresi commented that whether it is with the hockey league or not he feels that the yearbook issue still needs to be reviewed. Mr. Ciresi stated that it could either go to the Community Relations Committee or back to the Extracurricular Committee but he feels it definitely needs to be reviewed. Mr. Ciresi said he understands the picture issue but the

yearbook thing is even beyond the hockey league as far as he is concerned. Mr. Ciresi added that he feels it is a district issue and we should not be telling the students what they can and cannot write only how many words they have to do it in.

Mr. Pettit stated that if it is a policy question then maybe it is something the Policy Committee might want to review and talk about. Mr. Pettit said he understands what Mr. Davis was saying about opening Pandora's Box but he was especially impressed with the fact that these were all Spring-Ford students on the team which could differentiate it from other organizations that have other members on the team.

Mr. Davis commented that he is not trying to dictate policy but he will also need to look at Title IX and the Board will have to give this some thought as well.

Dr. Goodin stated that we keep using the term policy but he is not sure it is as much policy as it is practice and how we have done things. Mr. Shafer added that the yearbook issue he does not believe is policy.

Mr. Williams stated that she honestly does not know if there is a policy for inclusion into the yearbook. Mrs. Williams recommended that all of the Board get a copy of the yearbook or some sample pages so that they can understand what Mr. Ciresi is talking about. Mrs. Williams commented that at one time our yearbooks use to say Hockey 9, 10, 11, Basketball 10, 11, etc. Mrs. Williams stated that this is a clear format and we cannot have people going off on a tangent with taking up a lot of page space. Mrs. Williams said look at the yearbook and see if you like the present format. Mrs. Williams stated that they are a wonderful group of kids and they do us a great honor but Title IX is a concern.

Mrs. Mullin questioned whether there were girls on the hockey team and the response was yes.

Mr. Ciresi stated that the yearbook issue can be sent back to the yearbook advisor to look at and see if they want to do something like this or not as he does not want to pigeonhole us and say that they have to do it that way, let it be up to them. Mrs. Williams stated that you have to have some structure and Mr. Ciresi responded that was fine but let the yearbook advisor with the committee decide what their structure will be.

Mr. Roche stated that in discussions with Mr. Nugent and the yearbook staff the question that comes up is where does it stop. Mr. Ciresi replied that as far as what he writes in his bio, there is no Title IX there, there is nothing. Mr. Roche said that it may not be a traditional bio, it is a listing. Mr. Ciresi stated that whatever it is you just say that they have twenty words and if they want to list that they worked at 7-11 for 4 years then that is up to them but just to limit it to what they did in the high school to him is not fair to the students because some of them may not have done anything in the high school but they did a lot in the community. Mr. Ciresi stated that his recommendation would be to go back and speak with the yearbook advisor, the kids and let's look at some other districts and how they handle it.

Mr. DiBello questioned whether the biographies are reviewed, edited and approved and the assumption was that they were. Mr. Roche said that he is not sure how much of a bio it is other than just a listing of accomplishments and tasks.

Mr. Pettit said at the risk of opening up a can of worms, the purpose of a committee is to make recommendations to the Board and not to act on their own. Mr. Pettit stated that he is

not sure if this is an example of acting on our own as a committee or if it is something that should have been brought to the whole Board. Mr. Pettit said he is just talking very generally about the purpose of committees to make recommendations and he is not sure he is seeing recommendations here. Mr. Shafer asked for clarification on what Mr. Pettit was referring to and Mr. Pettit said he sees the ice hockey thing as something that was done and he does not remember seeing any of that coming up to the Board to be discussed before letters were sent out. Mr. Shafer responded that this has been discussed since before his tenure on the Extracurricular Committee so he is not sure how much more could have been brought about. Mr. Shafer stated that he gets that it was a generalized statement but he is not sure what it is about. Mr. Shafer stated that he believes that the purpose of all committees is to do some of the heavy lifting so that the Board is not up there debating everything. Mr. Shafer stated that for this particular issue there were a number of requests that were vetted through administration and legal. Mr. Shafer stated that he is not sure that anything was changed as it was just clarification and a response was requested so the committee just acted on that measure. Mr. Pettit said on this particular issue he is not trying to be critical as he is just saying that committees review things and bring them up to the Board for discussion and/or resolution as actions are not usually taken by committees but by the Board at the recommendation of the committee.

#### **MCIU – PSBA**

#### **Tom DiBello**

Mr. DiBello reported that the MCIU Legislative Committee met and reviewed the general business operating budgets for 2012-2013. Mr. DiBello said the other main topic was the potential of moving the MCIU to a new location. A vote took place giving direction to get appraisals done at the current location and one other location of potential interest. An additional motion was approved giving direction to the IU to negotiate in good faith a new location and bring back any offers and counter offers for review and potential approval.

Mr. DiBello gave his PSBA report saying that the big thing currently is that the voucher bill was passed by the Senate as proposed and it seems like it will go through the House although he is not sure if this has taken place as of yet. Mr. DiBello commented that we must be very cautious of this voucher bill (SB 1) as no one is sure how it will be paid for. Mr. DiBello reported that the intent of the voucher bill is good as far as looking at the 100+ problematic schools in the state, mainly due to economic conditions, as the goal is to give students in those depressed areas an opportunity to explore other avenues or to move to other institutions to try and get a different or better education than what they are currently receiving. Mr. DiBello stated that the bill itself over a three year period is going to reach further and will eventually give the possibility for a student to select and go to any school district of their choice no matter what the reasons may be and this is where the concerns are going to come from. Mr. DiBello commented that the idea of the vouchers is that when you move to a different district you take 75% of your funding to that receiving district but the problem is if the district you are in has a lower cost per student than the new district then the new district is going to have to make up the difference which will create an additional impact on the receiving district. Mr. DiBello said there has been a lot of opposition out there related to this bill. Mr. DiBello reported that other bills worth noticing that the House Education Committee is moving forward with the teacher evaluation which Spring-Ford School District has been selected to be a part of this pilot program. Mr. DiBello reported that the Penn State issue is creating a lot of angst within Harrisburg and there are already bills and testimony on the background check requirements for teachers who have tenure. Additional proposals that are being put in place regarding reporting procedures which may change from what they are today. Mr. DiBello stated that we must keep our eyes on this one as we may see several changes come down the pike related to issues very similar to Penn State and now as we are seeing Syracuse. Mr. DiBello reported that one

other thing is regarding Senate Bill 200 which deals with concussions but Mr. Shafer already covered this in his report.

**Policy Donna Williams 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. 7:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Williams reported that the Policy Committee met on November 9<sup>th</sup> and looked at Policy 201 and 201.1 on the admission of beginners and the admission of beginners – early entrance. Mrs. Williams commented that there has been an addition to the policy pages as the review dates are now being listed on the front page of each policy so that the Board will now know when the last time a policy was reviewed. Mrs. Williams stated that Policy 115 – Vocational Education was reviewed and Dr. Goodin will be adding a paragraph to this policy which will be brought back to the next Policy Committee meeting. Policy 116 – Tutorial Instruction was also reviewed and Dr. Goodin and administration will be looking at this and bringing back any recommended changes to the Policy Committee for discussion. The following were also reviewed Policy 117 – Homebound Instruction, Policy 118 – Independent Study and Policy 119 – Current Events and no changes were recommended.

**WCTS Ciresi, Dressler, Mullin 1<sup>st</sup> Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Dressler reported that the Joint Operating Committee met on November 11<sup>th</sup> where Mr. Greb reported that the Environmental Design students had entered a float in the Spring City Halloween Parade that won 1<sup>st</sup> place. Mr. Greb also announced that there is a school newsletter entitled, “*The Wildcat Times*”, which is available online and contains descriptions of the various activities at the Western Center as well as some recipes which may be of interest to you. Mr. Dressler reported that last month a craft fair was held which brought in \$900 and will go towards helping needy students. Mr. Dressler reported that signage issues were raised again by Ms. Bryant and Mr. Ciresi and in response the Limerick Township ordinances were passed out. Mr. Dressler reported on the budget saying there was a surplus of \$305,000 that is going to be returned to the sending school districts and for Spring-Ford the amount being returned is \$103,535 which will be applied to expenses for next year. Mr. Dressler reported that teacher salaries will be increased by 5% and that this was part of a previously approved contract. Medical insurance costs will increase by 15%. The dental hygiene facility has been advertised for rent and to date there have not been any responses from interested parties. The storm water remediation project is going to have bids solicited to complete the final piping and hopefully the next report will be that the project is complete and the problem has been solved.

Mr. Ciresi added that from the email he received as a member of the JOC it appears that a company did accepted the bid for less than what we put it out for so it came in under \$35,000. Mr. Ciresi stated that he was not sure if the work had been started and Mr. Davis said he understands that the work did begin.

Mr. DiBello asked what the outcome was for signs and Mr. Davis replied that when Mr. Greb handed out the Limerick Township sign ordinance the JOC took the position that it was going to be very expensive and very limited on what could be done so there was no appetite to move forward.

Mr. Ciresi said he would have liked to see a sign that says what is taking place in the building and he would still like to challenge the committee to sit down with the Limerick Township Supervisors and discuss what this is as we built this beautiful \$40 million building that sits up on a hill and no one knows what it is. Mrs. Williams asked if Mr. Ciresi had an idea on what kind of sign he wants and Mr. Ciresi said no whatever we can get approved as there are digital signs all through Limerick.

Mr. DiBello said the sign ordinance is restrictive to a point but what kind of sign are we talking about and Mr. Davis stated that what was being discussed was some type of LED sign and he believes that what the ordinance regulated was the LED sign. Mr. DiBello again asked what the type of sign was and Mr. Davis replied that what the Board wanted was an LED sign that flashes. Mr. DiBello stated that the ordinance allows for this as we looked at the same type of sign for in front of the high school and the comparison was done between Upper Providence's ordinance and Limerick Township's ordinance. Mr. DiBello said he is not arguing but he is just trying to understand what was proposed and why it was deemed to be too costly. Mr. Davis commented that we may want to have Mr. Greb go back and review the ordinance because simply what he represented to the Board was that it was so restrictive that he did not think he could meet the desires of the Board. Mr. Ciresi stated that he was looking for a digital sign that you could change the message and put a new message up but the restrictions he saw was that it could not be flashing or scrolling. Mr. Ciresi added that a sign that states "December 7<sup>th</sup> Open House for the Community" for ten seconds and then ten seconds later it says "Come Buy Your Poinsettias Here". Mr. DiBello stated that you cannot do flashy things on a sign but if you look at the Liberty Penn on Lewis Road as they have a digital sign that changes. Mr. DiBello said the ordinance has a stipulation on the change rate such as every 15 seconds or 20 seconds. Mr. Ciresi stated that he has asked Mr. Greb to go back again and speak to Limerick Township and then come back to the JOC with a recommendation. Mr. Dressler stated that they are going to pursue the issue and Mr. Ciresi added that unfortunately they are 3 votes out of 9.

Mrs. Williams commented that as someone who lives in that neighborhood it is purely residential and if you want to put a flashing sign on Lewis Road in a commercial district that is great but she is not sure that the people who live in that area want a flashing sign on the Western Center. Mr. Ciresi stated that one of the other things that came up was to speak to the residents and have a proposal that the residents can look at. Mr. Ciresi added that it would not be a flashing sign and maybe it is shut off at a certain time and is only on during certain hours. Mr. Ciresi said he agrees with Mrs. Williams that it is a residential neighborhood but it is a school that is there. Mr. Ciresi stated that the other option would be a marquee like the ones in front of all of our elementary schools.

Mr. DiBello stated that he thinks there is informational signage that could be put up that would not be flashing and cause a concern for the residents. Mr. DiBello said as long as this is going to be pursued then he is okay with this because the key is there was a lot of money spent out there and it would be really nice to let people know what is going on.

Mrs. Mullin added that even though it is residential a tactful sign would be a useful there as it is at a good intersection with Evans Elementary being right in the area and people using the road to go to Manderach Park. Mrs. Mullin stated that there have been times when she has shown up for a meeting at the Western Center and it was mentioned that there was a plant sale there during the week and she knew nothing about it so there are many residents who know nothing about it as well. Mrs. Mullin spoke about how dark it is and how at night you cannot even identify the building. Mrs. Williams commented that we need to be sensitive to the neighbors and Mr. Ciresi replied absolutely.

Mr. Dehnert asked about the \$3 million that is leftover and what the timeframe is for the disposition of it and Mr. Davis replied that the Board was intending on closing the bonds out and paying the debt service in February. Mr. Davis stated that it is his understanding that the budget is predicated upon making that debt service payment in February.

**Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin**

Dr. Goodin recognized the fall sports teams and their coaches saying that they had a great season and reported that he had gotten to a lot of practices and attended several games as well. Dr. Goodin congratulated Chad Brubaker on being recognized last night at the Eagles game as the Coach of the Week. Dr. Goodin reported that earlier in the school year a Central Office Climate Survey was conducted where over 7,000 emails were sent out inviting recipients to participate in the survey. Of those 7,000 that were sent out 2,308 responses were received and of those who responded 31% were employees, 64% were classified as parent-non employee, and the other 5% were community members. Dr. Goodin stated that he will be placing the results of the survey on the front page of the district website under "Your Voice Survey Results". Dr. Goodin reported that overall respondents reported favorable opinions of the education the district is providing. Respondents tended to recognize the relevance of schools and that they benefit when the local schools have good reputations. More than 80% of the respondents were aware of major school district decisions including reductions in support staff and custodial employees, the imposition of participation fees, and a budget that held tax increases to 3.23%. Overall staff and parents tended to be satisfied with school operations such as school bus service and food service and they also indicated that they turn to district technology as a source of information; primarily our website and the Skyward System. Dr. Goodin spoke about the items noted on the survey that will need additional attention such as the fact that some community members did not see a strong relationship between property values and school reputation, less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the parents were familiar with the role of the Board of School Directors and Central Office in supporting the schools, and only 69% staff, 40% of parents, and 65% community members were aware of the essential information regarding the school district budget. Dr. Goodin stated that there are some communication issues that seem to have come out of the survey results. Dr. Goodin reported that all of the results will be posted on the website tomorrow.

Mr. Ciresi commented on the fact that 31% of the staff indicated that they have no idea how the budget effects what goes on in the district; he asked if there were any comments from the staff on this. Dr. Goodin replied that the responses are summarized in the survey results. Mr. Ciresi said he understands this from a community perspective but he would hope that the next time this survey is done that 100% of our staff understands what the budget means because if 31% do not understand then maybe some of that percentage are spending money that they shouldn't be. Mr. Ciresi stated that he is sorry to be so harsh with this but he is surprised by this and he does not know anyone sitting at the Board table who does not understand the budget process at their places of employment. Mr. Ciresi said he would hope that our staff would fully understand what our budgets mean and that we really need to be able to improve this so we will need to come up with a form of communication that goes out to every staff member on a more regular basis.

Mr. DiBello stated that we need to keep in mind that it is 31% that do not know the budget process of those staff members that responded so you have to question if this is a sampling of all of the staff. Mr. DiBello agreed with Mr. Ciresi that he would hope the number would be higher for the staff understanding the budget but he would not say it is 31% of the overall staff so we must be careful of the verbiage on this. Dr. Goodin confirmed this was correct but that there were some communication issues that will be worked on.

Mr. Ciresi asked if the Board Notes are sent out to every staff member and Mrs. Leiss said they are posted online but not emailed out to the staff. Mr. Ciresi asked if this could be done in the future and the response was yes. Mr. Dressler said he believes the Board Notes should

be sent out as an attachment so that they can use them when sending correspondence out to their respective communities.

**V. PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Williams made a motion to approve Items A-J and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

**A. Resignations:**

1. **Denise Bedard**, High School; Instructional Assistant, effective with the last work day, November 23, 2011.
2. **Kimberly D. Day**, High School; Part-time Food Service, effective with the last work day, October 21, 2011.
3. **Margaret K. Finnerty**, Oaks Elementary School; Secretary, effective with the last work day, November 15, 2011.
4. **Frank P. McGuigan**, High School; Indoor Percussion Team Instructor, effective November 10, 2011.
5. **Kristy Moore**, High School; Cultural Awareness Club & Minorities Coming Together Club, effective November 18, 2011.
6. **Douglas Raines**, High School; Indoor Percussion Team Instructor, effective November 1, 2011.

**B. Leaves of Absence:**

1. **Jennifer Basom**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
2. **Kara Cooper**, Brooke Elementary School; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively February 6, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
3. **Susan B. Eisenhauer**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective October 20, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
4. **Shannon Furlong**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective October 10, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
5. **Khrystin Herb**, 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively January 17, 2012 through the end of the third marking period.

6. **Vicki Sayko**, Spring City Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective November 8, 2011 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
7. **Stacy B. Shiffer**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective tentatively January 16, 2012 until the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
8. **Margaret Smith**, 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 16, 2011 through February 10, 2012.
9. **Stephen Randolph**, Senior High School: School Resource Officer, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 18, 2012 through May 4, 2012.

**New Leaves of Absence:**

10. **Melanie F. Bowen**, 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Social Studies Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
11. **Deborah A. Brown**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, for a Leave of Absence in accordance with Board Policy, effective January 13, 2012 for up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks.
12. **Heather Logic**, Royersford Elementary School; Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the third marking period.
13. **Miranda Paradise**, Oaks Elementary School; Teacher, for an *extended* Leave of Absence in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.

**C. Long Term Substitutes (Change of Status):**

1. **Patricia Kolodziejki**, Oaks Elementary School; Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Jennifer Basom who will be on an extended Leave of Absence. Compensation will be set at M, Step 1, \$44,500, prorated with benefits, effective January 24, 2012 through the end of the 2011/2012 school year.
2. **Antoinette Pelletier**, 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Special Education Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Margaret Smith who will be on an extended Leave of Absence until mid-February. Compensation will be set at B, Step 3, \$45,600, prorated with benefits, effective retroactive August 29, 2011 through February 10, 2012.

**New Long Term Substitutes (Change of Status):**

3. **Nicole Zawanda**, Royersford Elementary School; Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Heather Logic who will be on an extended Leave of Absence

through the end of the third marking period. Compensation will be set at BS, Step 1, \$43,200, prorated.

4. **Tiffany Sallemi**, Oaks Elementary School, Teacher, extension of current assignment replacing Miranda Paradise who will be on an extended Leave of Absence through the end of the 2011/2012 school year. Compensation will be set at MS, Step 3, \$46,900, prorated.

**New Long Term Substitute:**

5. **Kristen Spohn**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, replacing Amy Parsia who transferred to the Teacher on Special Assignment position. Compensation will be set at B, Step 1, \$43,200, prorated, with benefits, effective November 28, 2011 through June 14, 2012.

**D. Support Staff:**

1. **Kristi L. DePetrillo**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Part-time 3-hour Food Service Employee, replacing Deborah Sanford who transferred to Oaks Elementary School. Compensation will be set at \$12.42 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective November 9, 2011.
2. **Jacqueline Messer**, High School; 3-hour Food Service Employee, replacing Dawn Iannuzzi who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$12.42 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective November 28, 2011.
3. **Kathleen M. Walker**, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; Part-Time Food Service Employee, *Change in status* from 3 hours to 4 hours per day replacing Cecilia Felice who resigned. Compensation will be set at \$14.62 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective November 9, 2011.

**E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School**

1. **Margaret Castellano**, Ireland Exchange Trip Advisor/Coordinator, \$678
2. **Shawn Corropele**, Softball Intramurals, \$678
3. **Frank P. McGuigan**, Marching Band Conditioning Facilitator, \$3,197
4. **Daniel Miscavage**, Assistant Athletic Director, \$8,667
5. **Elaine Ruppert**, Head Field Hockey Coach, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, \$3,186
6. **Patricia Staley**, Fitness Room Supervisor- Fall, \$679

**New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School**

7. **Matthew Ellis**, Computer Club Advisor, \$402
8. **Carol Jefferson**, Assistant Track Coach Boys' and Girls' Winter, \$5,189

**F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

1. **J. Alex Miscavage**, Boys Lacrosse Coach, \$2,772

**G. Professional Staff Substitutes:**

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Maria C. Beaham</b>     | Elementary School Counselor         |
| 2. <b>Robert Bennett, Jr.</b> | Music                               |
| 3. <b>Nicholas Bilotti</b>    | Chemistry, Biology                  |
| 4. <b>Adam Golden</b>         | Social Studies                      |
| 5. <b>Alyssa Kulp</b>         | English                             |
| 6. <b>John Mascaro</b>        | Health & Physical Education         |
| 7. <b>Jonathan Morris</b>     | Social Studies, English             |
| 8. <b>Traci Parmer</b>        | Elementary Education                |
| 9. <b>Carly Smith</b>         | Mathematics                         |
| 10. <b>Kristen Spohn</b>      | Elementary & Special Education      |
| 11. <b>Rosann Westmeyer</b>   | Chemistry, Physics, General Science |

**H. Personnel Information Items**

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

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Kelly O. Clarke</b>      | Elementary & Special Education          |
| 2. <b>Dawn M. Fanelli</b>      | Elementary & Reading Specialist         |
| 3. <b>Carrie Ann Kuklinski</b> | Speech & Language Impaired              |
| 4. <b>Amanda Leslie</b>        | Elementary & Special Education, English |
| 5. <b>Jonathan Markowich</b>   | Elementary & Mid-Level Mathematics      |
| 6. <b>Tamura Rivera</b>        | Elementary                              |

**NEW PERSONNEL ITEMS**

- I. The Board approved **Resolution 2011-36** terminating employee #06297 as presented.

**J. Temporary Professional Employee:**

1. **Ashley Basiaga**, 10-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Center; English Teacher, replacing Kristy L. Moore who resigned. Compensation will be set at B+18, Step 1, \$43,500, prorated, with benefits as per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, effective November 28, 2011.

**VI. FINANCE**

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

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

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

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

Corbett, Inc.	Ivy League Stools (12-Art Class) \$	685.44
Daktronics	Hookup/Final Testing/Program	
	Basketball Scoreboard	\$ 630.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,315.44</b>

2. **OTHER CAPITAL PROJECTS**High School HVAC System - MDF Room

United Refrigeration Inc. Condenser/Evaporator/Tubing	\$ 2,941.59
TOTAL	\$ 2,941.59

Oaks Elementary School – HVAC System – Admin. Area

United Refrigeration Inc. Condenser/Evaporator/Tubing	\$ 3,744.71
TOTAL	\$ 3,744.71

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

## C. Checks:

1. Weekly Checks prior to Work SessionOctober

Check No. 144171 – 144249	\$ 162,069.11
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November

Check No. 144250 – 144454	\$ 1,662,418.92
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ACH 111200063 – 111200073	\$ 1,147.38
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2. Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting

Check No. 144455 – 144467	\$ 99,563.16
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ACH 111200074 – 111200076	\$ 151.92
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3. Board Checks held for approval

Check No. 144468 – 144536	\$ 125,547.58
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ACH 111200077 – 111200106	\$ 13,989.84
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4. Athletic FundOctober

Check No. 303960 – 304036	\$ 29,747.86
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D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

- Benmore Enterprises – Bushkill, PA.** Provide a curriculum-based presentation entitled "The Formation of Fossils" at Limerick Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the Limerick Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- Magic by Taddo, LLC – Huntingdon Valley, PA.** Provide two (2) presentations entitled "The Magic of Nutrition" at Royersford Elementary. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Grant and shall not exceed nine hundred dollars (\$900.00).
- Magic Touch Entertainment – Canadensis, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled "The Brain Show" for students at Oaks Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Oaks Elementary Parent Teacher Association and shall not exceed one thousand four hundred fifty dollars (\$1,450.00).

4. **The Timothy School – Berwyn, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 180 days at a rate of three hundred twenty dollars and eighty-three cents (\$320.83) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed fifty-seven thousand seven hundred forty-nine dollars and forty cents (\$57,749.40).
5. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for the 2011-2012 school year and will include Multiple Disabilities Support. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed forty-six thousand three hundred seventy-six dollars (\$46,376.00).
6. **Art’s Alive – Spring City, PA.** Provide an “Artist in Residence Program” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. The student body along with a professional artist in residence will design and create a mosaic wall mural as part of a permanent artwork collection to be displayed in a location that will offer maximum visibility by students, parents and the community. Funding shall not exceed two thousand two hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$2,225.00) and will be paid by the Middle School Home and School Association (\$1,112.50) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Activities Account (\$1,112.50).
7. **Christina Turley – Havertown, PA.** Provide music therapy in the school setting for the multiple disabilities support classroom. Services will be provided for two (2) hours per week for twenty-seven (27) weeks at a rate of eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four thousand five hundred ninety dollars (\$4,590.00).
8. **Spring-Ford Counseling – Royersford, PA.** Provide six (6) hours of Child Abuse and Drug Abuse Awareness Training for Instructional Assistants on the November 21, 2011 in-service day. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

**New Independent Contracts:**

9. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide two (2) presentations entitled “Winter Secrets” for the kindergarten classes at Spring City Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Spring City Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed two hundred twenty dollars (\$220.00).
  10. **Benefitfocus – Charleston, SC.** The Benefitfocus® HR In Touch Application offers a web-based service that will provide the district with a comprehensive online portal that supports benefit enrollment, employee communication, human resource efficiency, and health and wellness promotion. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Staff Services Budget and shall not exceed eighteen thousand nine hundred dollars (\$18,900.00).
- E. The Board approved a confidential settlement and release agreement with the parents of a special education student and the authorization of 2011-02 in full satisfaction of claims, attorney’s fees and costs.

- F. The Board approved seeking bids for the printing of “**Publications**” (Newsletters – 4 issues, Student Handbooks, Crisis Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Plan Flip Chart, Post-Secondary Guidance Handbooks and Student Planners) for the 2012-2013 school year.
- G. The Board approved seeking bids for supplies for the 2012-2013 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, general, paper, physical education, Science, technology education, and furniture.
- H. The Board approved participation in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for Copier Paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2012-2013 school year.
- I. The Board approved receiving Requests for Proposals and entering into an agreement to offer the school district Interruptible Load Response for electricity during the months of June through September for a total of no more than five (5) interruptions total. PECO is no longer offering this option.
- J. The 2010/11 audit conducted by the district’s independent auditors Mallie, Falconiero & Company reflects an unassigned – Unreserved Fund Balance of \$4,247,996 (last year’s number was \$1,687,382). The improvement to the Unreserved Fund Balance was largely due to bond payments of \$4,023,488 from the Capital Reserve Fund rather than the General Fund (approved Jan. 2011), since an audit entry for on-going assessment appeals was reflected on the 2009/10 June audit statements. GASB 54 now requires the district to classify and report amounts in the appropriate fund balance classifications. The 2010/11 audit also reflected that a transfer of \$500,000 was made to the Capital Reserve, \$500,000 was transferred to the Retirement Fund, and \$717,341 was booked to the Self-Funded Insurance Stabilization Fund. Previously the district had \$955,557 in the Self-Funded Insurance Stabilization Fund, however these funds were paid as a cash advance to Blue Cross to set up as a reserve. The Board approved the transfers listed above and the assigned classifications as required by GASB 54.

**NEW FINANCE**

- K. The following Treasurers’ Reports were approved:
  - General Fund
    - Money Market – October 2011
    - PSDLAF – October 2011
    - PSDMAX – October 2011
    - Checking Account – October 2011
    - PLGIT Account – October 2011
    - Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule - October 2011
    - Payroll Account – October 2011
    - Tax Account – October 2011
  - Activity Accounts
    - Elementary Activity – October 2011
    - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – October 2011
    - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity – October 2011
    - High School Activity – October 2011

- Athletic Account – October 2011
- Bond Funds
- Note of 2007A – October 2011
- Other Funds
- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – October 2011
  - Debt Service Fund – October 2011
  - Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – October 2011
- Cafeteria Fund
- Cafeteria Money Market – October 2011
  - Cafeteria Checking Account – October 2011
  - Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – October 2011
  - Investment Account – October 2011

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

**OCTOBER**

Check No. 10493 - 10519	\$ 283,168.95
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M. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 3823 – 3835

N. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2011-2012 school year:

Limerick Township Exonerations	No. 047 - 048
Royersford Borough Exonerations	No. 084 – 093
Spring City Borough Exonerations	No. 035 – 037
Upper Providence Township	No. 127

**VII. PROPERTY**

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

- A. The Board approved upgrading the lighting on the High School stage with new LED Chroma-Q color lighting as per the recommendations. This upgrade will help enhance high school performances and plays. Funding will come from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed thirty-four thousand dollars (\$34,000.00).
- B. The Board approved having the High School gymnasium lights replaced with new LED lighting for better lighting and increased energy savings. Funding will come from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed twenty-four thousand dollars (\$24,000.00) for the lights with all work being done in-house.
- C. The Board approved having the Royersford Elementary School gymnasium lights replaced with new LED lighting for better lighting and increased energy savings. Funding will come from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed nine thousand five hundred dollars (\$9,500.00) for the lights with all work being done in-house.

- D. The Board approved having the sound and the clock system at Spring City Elementary School replaced due to age and the parts no longer being available. If approved it will be purchased under state contract. Funding will be paid from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed eight thousand nine hundred dollars (\$8,900.00).
- E. The Board approved purchasing a commercial ZTrak Mower, a Ringo Trailer and Gator. The current maintenance/ground equipment is being replaced due to age, usage and the equipment being beyond repair. Funding will be paid from the High School Construction Account and shall not exceed twenty thousand five hundred dollars (\$20,500.00).

**VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

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

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

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

- A. **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, to attend *“PASPA Annual Conference”* in Harrisburg, PA from Tuesday, February 28 through Friday, March 2, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference as Mrs. Leiss serves on the Executive Board. No substitute is needed.

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- B. **Cheryl Rabinowitz**, Reading Teacher, to attend *“LindaMood Bell Visualizing and Verbalizing Program Training”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on Wednesday, November 9 and Thursday, November 10, 2011. The total cost of this training is \$950.00 (\$650.00 being paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and \$300.00 from the substitute account).

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CENTER**

- C. **Marilyn Erb**, Social Studies Teacher, to attend the *“National Council of Social Studies Annual Conference”* in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, December 1 and Friday, December 2, 2011. The only cost to the district is \$300.00 for a substitute for two days as Mrs. Erb is paying all of her own expenses.

**DISTRICT-WIDE**

- D. **Paula Germinario**, Coordinator of Food Services, **Debora Zelle**, School Nurse and Department Head Health Services, to participate in the PASBO Webcast entitled *“New Guidelines for Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies in Schools”*. This webcast will take place on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The total cost of this webcast is \$140.00. \$65.00 from the 580 account and \$75.00 for a ½ day substitute for Mrs. Zelle.

- E. **Johnna Weller**, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources, **Michael Siggins**, **Jacqueline Havrilla** and **Mark Moyer**, Principals, to attend “*PDE SAS Institute, Defining and Aligning for Student Achievement*” at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center from Sunday, December 4 through Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Representation is required at this training due our participation as a pilot district for the newly developed PA Teacher Evaluation System. The total cost of this conference is \$585.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. The following policies are submitted as a first reading:

1. Policy #201 – PUPILS: Admission of Beginners

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items B-C and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- B. The Board gave permission for the **High School Boys’ Baseball Team** to accept the Invitation to participate in the KSA Events Baseball Spring Training to be held at the Walt Disney Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida from Tuesday, March 20 through Sunday, March 25, 2012. The program will include varsity level competition with the team being scheduled to participate in two (2) approved scrimmages and two (2) regular season contests which are part of the 2012 schedule. This allows a maximum of twenty (20) contests and two (2) scrimmages as per PIAA by-laws. The cost per student-athlete will be approximately \$800.00 plus airfare. The boys’ baseball program and staff will conduct fund raising events to help defray the costs. Student- athletes will miss 3 school days and will be responsible for any work missed. The total cost to the school district will be \$450.00 for a substitute teacher for three days for the Mr. Brobst.
- C. The Board gave permission for **Yvonne O’Dea**, Vocal Music Director, **John Eckstine**, Band Director, and **Emily McGranahan**, Orchestra Director, to take the Spring-Ford Area High School Vocal Ensemble, Women’s Choir, Wind Ensemble and Orchestra to Boston, Massachusetts from Friday, April 13 through Sunday, April 15, 2012. The Music Department will be traveling by chartered bus to compete at The Festivals of Music being held at the Duxbury Performing Arts Center in Duxbury, MA. Students will miss one day of school on Friday, April 13, 2012 and will be responsible for any work missed. The cost of the trip for students and chaperones shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). The Music Association will provide several fundraisers for students to earn money towards trip expenses. The total cost to the school district will be \$450.00 for substitutes for one day for Mrs. O’Dea, Mr. Eckstine and Ms. McGranahan.

## X. INFORMATION ITEM

- A. Upper Providence Elementary Home and School Association is applying for a Whole Foods Market Grant to fund a container garden. The goal of the Garden Grant Program is to support schools wanting to offer their students the experience of gardening. A container garden teaches students about the process of growing food which will help them develop a deep understanding of the connection between healthy eating and a healthy body.

**XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis reported that Mr. McDaniel had received the final information to the consultant doing the Title IX audit and her report will be forthcoming very shortly and will hopefully get this issue resolved. Mr. DiBello asked if there was an update on GSK and Mr. Davis replied that the stipulation has been recorded with the court with the substance of what the Board approved.

Mr. Ciresi stated that as a point of clarification there was a comment made in the Sound Off that was directed to the Board President so he would like to comment on this. Mr. Ciresi stated "at no time, whatsoever, was there a backdoor deal made with GSK that the Board waited on hand with, not this Board, not that he is aware of". Mr. Ciresi added that discussion was never taken offline with GSK. The Board met with the district's solicitor multiple times and the whole Board was made aware of what the offers were. Mr. Ciresi said the person who wrote into Sound Off alluded to there being a higher offer that the Board President did not bring in front of the entire Board. Mr. Ciresi stated that this was a complete lie which was meant to degrade them as a Board and possibly himself as the Board President. Mr. Ciresi commented that everything was done on the up and up. Mr. Ciresi said he wants to make it clear to the public that this never happened and he asked if Mr. Davis wanted to comment on the process that took place prior to the current Board sitting at the table because prior to that Mr. Ciresi has no knowledge of what took place.

Mr. Davis reported that prior to the current Board being involved the process was pretty limited and he is only aware of negotiations that took place as Mr. Ciresi described. Mr. Davis stated that everything went through him in communicating with GSK's counsel. Mr. Davis added that all discussions appeared to be between the counsels and he is not aware of anything that happened outside of the described negotiating process.

Mr. DiBello questioned if there was a previous offer and he asked Mrs. Williams if she recalls anything as the former Board President.

Mrs. Williams said there was a previous offer and we were in negotiations to formalize an offer but the issue they had was that they had an appraiser and there were some issues with this gentleman who did not move as fast as the Board would have liked. Mrs. Williams said the numbers were higher but remember real estate was worth more then so with that aspect the actual number was higher that had been negotiated than what we ended up with. Mr. Davis commented that he does not know if we are agreeing or disagreeing but the Board had made a suggested settlement to GSK a couple of years ago but GSK did not agree or bite at that offer and to the contrary said they would not respond until we gave them an appraisal. Mr. Davis said that Mrs. Williams is correct that they had a gentleman, who he won't mention by name, who did not get the job done. Mrs. Williams stated that it was a different economic climate and it is important to know that. Mr. Davis added that there was no settlement.

Mr. DiBello said he is not disputing this but he is very confused because he has asked the question before on whether there was an offer that was on the table before. Mrs. Williams asked if the question pertained to an offer from GSK and Mr. DiBello replied from anybody. Mr. Davis said the Board had suggested a settlement price that GSK rejected out of hand until we submitted an appraisal to them. Mr. DiBello stated that if the previous Board had suggested a settlement price then why that was never brought to this Board's attention. Mr. Davis replied that he does not remember as it was a negotiating item and there was no settlement. Mrs. Williams confirmed there was no settlement. Mr. DiBello asked if anyone

was aware of a settlement price and no one responded. Mrs. Williams commented that nothing was withheld and Mr. DiBello replied that he was not saying anything was withheld. Mrs. Williams said she was not implying that but she is just trying to clarify this for the public that the Board was in the process but Mr. Davis is correct that GSK came back and said they were not going to do anything until they hear from an appraiser but the numbers were tossed around.

Mrs. Mullin stated that the numbers were what we gave GSK and it was not GSK coming to us and making us a deal. Mrs. Williams stated that was correct. Mrs. Mullin added that even if that were the fact she was approached publicly with the suggestion that the Board President put the kibosh on this. Mrs. Mullin stated that you have to realize that the President is just one vote and one person at this table could not put the kibosh on a deal with anybody as there are nine of them at the table that need to vote.

Mr. Davis said what he is trying to say in a politically correct way is that the number that was discussed was a number that was never going to be or even close to being acceptable to GSK as it was not one that was realistic from their viewpoint.

Mr. Dressler stated that the number was just pulled out of thin air as there was no assessment done to make it a valid offer. Mrs. Williams replied that she believes the Board had previous assessments to which Mr. Davis added they had not disclosed the appraisal number and a number was put out there. Mr. Davis said that Mr. Ciresi could not have settled this without coming back to the Board as it was done in an executive session and FoxRothschild was given some authority but it got no traction whatsoever.

Mr. Pettit questioned if there was ever an offer made by GSK prior and Mr. Davis replied there was no offer made by GSK prior to the last three or four months. Mr. Pettit stated that this seems to be the gist of what he is hearing.

Mrs. Mullin questioned if there is any protocol on how we will be administering our use of facilities and whether the Board will be upholding the policy which states no use of facilities during school hours. Mrs. Mullin stated that whether you agreed with the discussion or not it was decided that it was the Board's will uphold the Board Policy. She questioned how the information was going to be communicated to administration and the staff and who would be responsible for making sure the policy is upheld. Mrs. Mullin stated that she wants this all cleared now before we have to address it.

Mr. DiBello said if he understands it correctly some of the proposed legislation in Harrisburg, which came about because of the situation that occurred at Penn State where everyone is pointing the finger on who was responsible, indicates that any employee of an institution is actually accountable for reporting or handling a situation. Mr. DiBello stated that unbeknownst to them previously when the Board was talking about this policy that they were ahead of their time. Mr. DiBello stated that this legislation is going to change the way all education institutions from college all the way down to daycare is going to handle these situations. Mr. DiBello urged that the Board get on their mark here because god forbid if something were to happen this room would be filled to capacity with people screaming and yelling, why didn't you do something. Mr. DiBello said that we have already had instances in the past where a guy walked in off of the street and people were found in the ceiling in one of our schools. Mr. DiBello added that there have been situations that have occurred in the past and we need to be on top of our game because this is serious business all the way

up to the Governor's Office and he believes that what Mrs. Mullin is saying is how is it going to be enforced and will it be enforced.

Mr. Dressler commented that when he was at the School Board Association Meeting he questioned as many people as he could about what they did in their school districts and there is nobody that ever considers allowing strangers on school grounds at any time while classes are going on, it is just unheard of. Mrs. Williams stated that Tredyffrin Easttown does and Mr. Dressler stated that he did not question them.

Mrs. Mullin stated that the fact remains that the policy says no use of the property which is what we said we were going to do so she would like to know what happens if someone is out there. Her understanding is that the district's security person is a full-fledged police officer and she questioned if there was a warning process, are they cited right then and there for trespassing, does our school officer do it, does the police department for whatever community the building is in need to be called? Mrs. Mullin stated that she wants all of this on the table and figured out before something actually happens and we are backtracking to address this.

Dr. Goodin stated that currently we have signage at the entrances of our facilities and that indicates that the facilities are not to be used. For example, if an individual were seen using the tennis courts during the school day and they were noticed by an employee then the employee would notify the building principal and that principal or building security would let them know that they cannot be here during the day.

Mrs. Mullin asked if there were any responsibility on the part of the students for example when you have a gym class that is out, kids on the playground and there are strangers out there and your administrators are not doing anything about it, then who is responsible? Mr. Davis stated that certainly it is not the student's responsibility, they can issue a complaint like anyone else can but it is not their responsibility to enforce a no trespassing ban. Mrs. Mullin stated that she thinks it needs to be clear to administrators that this is our policy and it is going to be upheld because the no trespassing signs are not doing a blessed thing.

Mr. DiBello said he supports what Mrs. Mullin is saying and whatever we have been doing we have to step it up and he hates to say it as he knows there are moms who use the track for walking but unfortunately what has been occurring recently at Penn State and Syracuse is very unfortunate. Mr. DiBello stated that he agrees with Mrs. Mullin that if a situation occurs he is going on sabbatical because the people will come in here and will go back to the fact that you know this is going on and it could have been addressed. Mr. DiBello asked Mr. Davis whether the district is liable for not enforcing it and something occurs. Mr. Davis replied he believes that the district could potentially be liable and if they think they have an issue they should certainly address it.

Mr. Ciresi requested that Goodin make sure that all of our administrators and staff in general are aware of the policy and understand that the policy must be enforced. Mr. Ciresi stated that if the policy is not being enforced then it is up to the Superintendent, Personnel Director, Assistant Superintendent to take up with the staff members and administrators who are not enforcing it.

Mrs. Mullin stated that although there are the legal ramifications that we are all talking about she does not want to make it sound like that is why she is fighting this battle. We have almost 8,000 kids that we are responsible for everyday and she does not want to take that

chance. Mrs. Mullin stated that it is not about being sued. Mrs. Mullin commented that the situations that we are hearing about in the news today are people who were not strangers off of the street but people who are known to the entity and people inside the organizations knew but yet it still happened.

Mr. Ciresi said he thinks it is important to say that the 9 Board Members should not be exempt in any way from background checks or being raptured when going into a building. Mr. Ciresi stated that he has yet to go into a building where he has not had to hand his license in so he would hope that the 9 Board Members and whoever serves in the future be required by policy to have a background check and an F.B.I. clearance just as our staff members do. Mr. Ciresi commented that the Board are around kids all of the time and just because they sit here at the table they should not be exempt from that.

Mrs. Mullin said this discussion has occurred before and she has asked this before on whether this needs to be done through policy or can it be put as a motion on an agenda. Mrs. Mullin stated that the Board's identification badge gives them 24 hour access to every building so why would they not be required to have clearances.

Mr. Ciresi asked if there were any kind of law that requires this for the Board and Mr. Davis questioned the 24 hour access. Mrs. Mullin replied that the Board has 24 hour access with their ID's and she wondered if there were anything that states that since they are elected that they cannot be required to have clearances. Mr. Davis replied no in terms of visiting the buildings he does not believe the Board gets any preemption or super priority. Mrs. Mullin stated that she would like to see this taken through policy right away or put as a motion on the agenda that the Board Members should have their clearances as she thinks it is ridiculous that they have the access they do and are not required to have any clearances. Mr. Davis commented that the only area where he believes you cannot require a clearance for the public or the Board is for the attendance at the Board meetings.

Mr. Pettit said it seems to him that we have hit on two different aspects of this, initially the question is making sure that people are not entering or using any of our facilities whether it is in the building or outside without the administrators being required to report them to security. Mr. Pettit stated that this really comes down to the safety of the kids, legalities aside and it is vital that we keep the kids safe.

Mr. Ciresi stated that the second issue is whether we have to come up with a Board Policy that states they must have the same clearances as a teacher and an administrator or a motion on the agenda that says it. Mr. Davis replied that now that Mrs. Mullin raises it he is not sure that the Board should have 24/7 access as a Board Member as they have no greater rights than anyone else. Mr. Davis said if you want to implement a policy then you can do it by a formal written policy or just do it as a motion saying this is what you want done with Board Member clearances and you either give up your 24/7 access or you get a security clearance. Mr. Ciresi stated that he would be willing to put a motion on the table right now.

Mrs. Williams asked a question saying that let's suppose this hypothetical Board Member in two years decides to run for office and if they meet the qualifications of being a resident of the district for up to a year before they serve and they are 18 years or older but for whatever reason they cannot get an F.B.I. clearance. Mr. Davis replied that as he had indicated earlier they would have a perfect right to come to the Board meetings but in his opinion just because you are an elected Board Member that does not mean you are entitled to 24/7

access to the buildings. Mrs. Williams stated that she is not talking about 24/7 access but say you want to tour the schools or whatever, can we make a higher bar than what the state law does with meeting the requirements to run for public office. Mr. Davis replied he believes you can because you are not exercising your right as a public officer. Mr. Davis stated that your winning of the election gets you the right to come to these meetings but you should have the same bar as anyone else does and it should be equal in terms of entering a building.

Mr. Dressler stated that he not sure he sees the necessity for the Board to have 24/7 access as there should be some justification for a person coming in at some odd hour and to have 24/7 access is just not necessary.

Mr. Ciresi commented that every time they use their cards it registers with security and if we have a Board Member coming into the building at 2 AM then he is sure security will look at that and call the Superintendent and say what was the reason for this. Mr. Ciresi stated that the reason they have access is so that they can attend whatever event they want to attend and get in whatever door they need to. Mr. Ciresi added that if all of the Board have clearances then that is not a bad thing. Mr. Ciresi questioned the fact that we do not require Board Members to have clearances but yet parents of students must have them when they come into a building. Mr. Ciresi said that what sits on the Board table right now is for them to make a motion that says once you are a Board Member; all Board Members need to have the same clearances we are requiring of our staff and our administration. Mr. Dressler stated that he agrees. Mr. Davis stated that the only caveat he would make is that if you choose not to get the clearance you do not get the 24/7 access. Mr. Ciresi said you do not get any access other than when you are escorted by someone.

Mr. Dehnert asked why not make it a policy as opposed to a resolution so that it becomes a permanent record and can be referred to as opposed to a resolution that was passed in 1992. Mr. Ciresi stated that was fine and let's push this right back to the Policy Committee for immediate action that possibly won't need two or three readings.

## **XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Rick Schroeder, Spring City, commented on the sign for the Western Center saying if the Board is behind moving forward with an alternate sign and they can sway the other members of the JOC then he thinks a sign should be designed amongst them through the proper channels, regardless of what the ordinance says. Mr. Schroeder then suggested taking it before the zoning hearing board, just as any other citizen would do, and let them approve or reject with conditions or recommendations. Mr. Schroeder stated that this would be a better way to go rather than any kind of backroom negotiating on what might be good and what might not be good. Mr. Schroeder also stated that the process should take into account the citizens and residents of the area. Mr. Schroeder stated that with regards to the yearbook situation and the autobiographical area that he does not think the Board is off the mark as we promote education here but another thing we promote is citizenship. Mr. Schroeder said he thinks things such as student participation in community organizations should be allowed to be listed in the biographical area, not just sports as citizenship is very important. Mr. Schroeder stated that colleges want to see this and the community wants to see what kind of people we are turning out. These things should be highlighted and extra space should be allowed for this. Mr. Schroeder stated that he believes that the Board should open up this part of the discussion as it is a positive thing for the community, the school district and for student.

Mr. Shafer commented on this being Mrs. Williams last meeting and stated that with 16 years of service, using some assumptions, it translates out to roughly about 110 hours per year with Board Meetings and Committee Meetings and over a 16 year period that equates to roughly 1800 hours of service. Mr. Dressler stated that he figured about 4000 and Mr. Ciresi jokingly added that is just this year. Mr. Shafer commented that he wanted to publicly thank Mrs. Williams for volunteering and putting that much time into the school board as it is extremely impressive and he is extremely grateful for all of her years of service.

Mr. Pettit echoed Mr. Shafer's response and thanked Mrs. Williams for all of her years of service.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern  
Board Secretary