On December 3, 2007 the board meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:55 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Michael V. Masciandaro, Bernard F. Pettit

and David R. Shafer

Region II: Ammon G. Morgan, Jr. and Julie A. Mullin

Region III: Mark P. Dehnert, John S. Grispon

and Robert A. Weber

Presiding Officer: Donna L. Williams

Superintendent: Dr. Marsha R. Hurda

Business Manager: Tim Anspach

Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.

Student Rep.: Michael J. Masciandaro

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

I. PRESENTATION

Mrs. Williams mentioned that the reason for tonight's presentation of Resolution 2007-27 to the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band is to recognize them for winning the 2007 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Championships as well as being awarded first place in high brass, high woodwinds, high visuals and tied for top music. Mrs. Williams presented the resolution to Mr. Eckstine.

Mr. Eckstine thanked the Administration and the School Board for all of their support. Mr. Eckstine also thanked Mr. Mickey McDaniel the high school athletic director, Mr. Gary Rhodenbaugh the high school varsity football coach, and Ms. Danielle Stauffer the assistant high school cross country coach. Mr. Eckstine commented that Mr. McDaniel has been an outstanding supporter of the band and has assisted the band with its many needs but his biggest support is just being someone who supports the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities as well as academics at Spring-Ford High School. Mr. Eckstine said Mr. Rhodenbaugh and Ms. Stauffer are examples of coaches who understand that students should have as many opportunities to develop as a whole student, which is to be able to excel at athletics and music as well as academics. Mr. Eckstine also thanked the Marching Band Staff who, in his opinion, are not only the best marching band staff in Pennsylvania but possibly the entire Mid-Atlantic Region. Mr. Eckstine said this group of adults understands that it is not all about winning and losing of competitions but rather the teaching of students to be better citizens as well as musicians in their school and community. Mr. Eckstine asked the parents, grandparents, relatives and friends of the band to stand so

that they could be recognized for all the work they do to help the band. Mr. Eckstine said they are the band's biggest fans and without them none of this is possible. Mr. Eckstine stated that the last and most obvious group he wants to acknowledge are the Band Members. He reported that Mr. Edward Lisk who is an internationally recognized conductor, clinician and author recently worked with the band for the second time in the last year. Mr. Lisk commented that on each of his visits to Spring-Ford High School the students are some of the most well mannered, well behaved and attentive students that he works with in his many travels and he wished that his grandchildren could be part of the Spring-Ford Band Program. Mr. Eckstine commented that it is truly and honor and privilege to work with these students and one that he does not take lightly.

Mr. Eckstine introduced Mrs. Kathy Savage, the "Voice of the Spring-Ford High School Marching Rams. Mrs. Savage said the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band was named the 2007 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Champion for the second year in a row. Mrs. Savage reported that the band went through the 2007 marching season undefeated for the first time in the school's history and has placed first in every marching band competition entered since September 30, 2006. Mrs. Savage stated on November 11 at Delaware State University the band successfully defended its 2006 championship by scoring a 97.9 an in so doing join an elite group of high school marching bands; since 1973 there have only been five other high school bands who have won back to back Group IV championships. Mrs. Savage reported that as a result of the bands accomplishments the band has been nominated for the prestigious Sudler Shield Award which is sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation. This international award recognizes high school youth and international marching bands of world class excellence. Mrs. Savage introduced the band and said the band will perform the opener of their 2007 show, the hymn from 'Red October" and "Meadowlands".

Dr. Hurda thanked John Eckstine for all of his efforts and Kathy Savage for being the "Voice of the Spring-Ford Rams". Dr. Hurda commented that it does not get any better for her than sitting here on a night like this and look at these outstanding young people. Dr. Hurda said it is fitting that this occurs on a night when we swore in our new Board Members because many people say why would anyone want to be a public service and give their time without pay? Dr. Hurda stated her response would be look around the room and look in the faces of all these students and that tells you a small bit about the rewards we all get by sitting here at the table and doing what's best for kids. Dr. Hurda reported that on the first day of school the band played for the staff and she asked them to give "one degree more effort as one degree, the difference between 211° and 212°, is the difference between boiling water and steam". Dr. Hurda said one degree of effort yields a tremendous result and look what happened, these kids worked so hard and this is the finished product. She asked everyone to give the band one more

A. Presentation of **Resolution #2007-27** to the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band for winning the Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV Championship as well as being awarded first place in high brass, high woodwinds, high visuals, and tied for top music at the 2007 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Championships which

were held at Delaware State University in Dover, DE on Sunday, November 11, 2007.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

III. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

- 1. **Gretchen Lavigne,** High School; Learning Support Teacher, effective January 17, 2008.
- 2. **James Mich,** High School; Fitness Room Supervisor, effective November 27, 2007.
- 3. **Jane Piersol**, Middle School Book Club, effective November 15, 2007.

B. Long Term Substitutes:

- 1. **Kelly A. Donatelli**, High School; Special Education Teacher, compensation will be set at \$39,000,BS, Step 1, with benefits, effective *retroactive* October 9, 2007 until the end of the 2007/2008 school year.
- 2. **Cristina A. Fabish**, High School; Biology Teacher, to *continue* as a Long Term Substitute for the 2nd semester of the 2007/2008 school year, compensation will be set at \$39,000, BS, Step 1 with benefits.

C. Support Staff Employees:

- 1. **Paul M. Evak**, Evans Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$14.56 per hour (degree rate) with benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective December 18, 2007.
- 2. **Randy Tobin**, High School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$13.56 per hour with benefits as per the Assistants' plan, effective December 17, 2007.

D. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

- 1. **Kevin Donnelly**, Fitness Room Supervisor-Fall-HS, \$612
- 2. Valerie Dubbs, Head Cheerleading Coach Fall-9th Grade, \$1625
- 3. Valerie Dubbs, Head Cheerleading Coach Winter-9th Grade, \$1625
- 4. Chadwick Strickler, Festival of the Arts Coordinator, \$498 -1/2
- 5. Travis Wagner, Asst. Swimming Coach, \$2340- 1/2
- 6. Deanna Williams, Head Cheerleading Coach Winter-HS, \$3250

- E. Extra-Curricular Contracts: Middle School
 - 1. **Ashley James**, Middle School Book Club, \$362
 - 2. Barbara Paige, Head Cheerleading Coach Winter-8th Grade, \$1625
- F. Support Staff Substitutes:

Stacy Busa Support
 Kelly Connor Support

G. Personnel Information Items

The individual(s) listed below have completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee(s) and are, therefore, entitled to tenure status:

Keri Brennan English

Sharon Hohenstein Learning Support

IV. FINANCE

Mr. Weber asked that Item B be separated. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item A and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. Mr. Morgan asked if this item was a carry-over from work that was not completed or just money that we owe them from the original project. Mr. Cooper said this is just money that we owe from the original project due to some outstanding warranty items and paperwork that was not finished. Mr. Anspach commented that this is the final check for the contract amount with that vendor. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved payment for the following invoices for the month of **DECEMBER**, in connection with the **SERIES G.O.B. 2004**:

1. EVANS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

J.R. Reynolds, Inc. Applic. #19-Plumbing Contractor. \$\frac{24,867.28}{24,867.28}\$

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Weber asked if the parcels were deeded to Limerick Township at this time and Mr. Davis said he has not seen this before but the motion indicates that the deeds were recorded in April. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The Board approved accepting the request from the Limerick Township Board of Supervisors to exonerate real estate taxes from the 2007 taxes. The deeds were recorded in April and will be listed as exempt by the county effective 1/1/08. These four parcels are on Maria Lane and will be dedicated as open space. The properties are as follows:

37-00-02937-14-9 Maria Lane	\$ 365.84
37-00-02937-10-4 Maria Lane	\$ 365.84
37-00-02937-08-6 Maria Lane	\$ 365.84
37-00-02937-06-8 Maria Lane	\$ 365.84

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Items C-D and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The Board approved the following **independent contracts:**
 - David Smith Philadelphia, PA. Provide four (4) assemblies focusing on Healthy Choices and Positive Attitudes at Upper Providence Elementary School for all grade levels on four separate dates. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 Upper Providence Home and School Association and shall not exceed one thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100.00).
 - 2. **Camfel Productions, Inc. Irwindale, CA.** Provide two (2) assemblies at the 9th Grade Center in the morning entitled "Charting UR Course/Commitment to Excellence on December 21, 2007. Funding will be through the 2007-2008 Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed four hundred ninety-five dollars (\$495.00).
 - 3. Camfel Productions, Inc. Irwindale, CA. Provide two (2) assemblies at the 8th Grade Center in the afternoon entitled "Charting UR Course/Commitment to Excellence on December 21, 2007. Funding will be through the 2007-2008 Assemblies Budget and shall not exceed four hundred ninety-five dollars (\$495.00).
 - 4. John Swana Quartet Philadelphia, PA. Provide two (2) workshops to the middle school and high school students on Friday, February 29, 2008 along with an evening adjudication, as well as perform a ninety (90) minute jazz concert on Saturday evening, March 1, 2008 in conjunction with the Spring-Ford Middle School Jazz Festival. Funding will be paid by the 2007-2008 General Fund and shall not exceed thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000.00).
 - Pennsylvania Writing and Literature Project West Chester, PA.
 Provide two (2) half-day presentations during the February 15, 2008
 staff in-service day entitled "Content Area Literacy". Funding will be
 paid from the 2007-2008 Staff Development Budget and shall not
 exceed nine hundred fifty dollars (\$950.00).
 - 6. **Betsy Dru Tecco Collegeville, PA.** Provide Health and Wellness assemblies for the students and the community in all six (6) elementary (K-4) buildings entitled "Get Up & Go". Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed one thousand fifty dollars (\$1,050.00).
 - 7. **Spring-Ford Counseling Services Royersford, PA.** Provide two (2) half-day presentations during the February 15, 2008 staff inservice day entitled "Anger Management". Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Staff Development Budget and shall not exceed one thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$1,475.00).

- 8. **Duane DeWire Northumberland, PA.** Provide the Spring-Ford High School Marching Band with current state-of-the-art visual design that will stage the music and color of the band for the 2007-2008 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 High School Extra-Curricular Fund and shall not exceed four thousand nine hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$4,959.00).
- D. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2007-2008 school year:

Permit No. 2083 - 2120

V. PROPERTY

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated. Mr. Davis noted that the last draft of the contract for E.I. Associates was just received late this afternoon around five o'clock. Mr. Davis said the motion should be contingent upon his office having final review of the document. Dr. Hurda asked that the motion could be amended to state pending final solicitor review. Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve Item A with the amendment and Mr. Grispon seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert asked about the architect's compensation and Mr. Davis said the rate is 6% which is the norm in Pennsylvania for new construction. Mr. Dehnert wondered why we need to do the norm why we don't bid this out or negotiate it differently. Mr. Davis replied that the District did negotiate in this particular case and has agreed to this. Mr. Dehnert responded that this is a renewal so why wouldn't we renegotiate, Mr. Davis said it is up to the Board.

Mr. Pettit asked if this was put out to bid and Mr. Grispon said no. Mr. Pettit asked if there was a reason why we do not put the architects out to bid. Mrs. Williams said in the past we spent time interviewing architects and they all use the AIA contracts so the percentage is generally the same and what you are really doing is looking at the kind of work you may or may not receive. Mrs. Williams further stated that one of the reasons we went back to E.I. Associates is because they were the ones who helped us build many of the buildings that are in the District now as well as the present high school so we are looking at them to do the additions onto this building.

Mr. Morgan commented that E.I. Associates are the most familiar with this building as it stands so in their design they theoretically should save time because they have all the prints from this building originally.

Mr. Dehnert asked if it is an absolute 6% of the construction cost and Mr. Davis said in our case there is a clause that we have used in this District for a long time which states it will be capped at 6% or the Act 34 costs whichever is less. Mr. Dehnert said he is a firm believer in competitively bidding things or at least negotiating from a norm percentage. Mr. Davis commented that this is certainly up to the Board but at this point you have a project and you will impede the project but that is of course the Board's decision.

The motion did not pass by a vote of 4-5 with Mr. Weber, Mr. Dehnert, Mr. Masciandaro, Mr. Pettit and Mrs. Mullin voting no.

Mrs. Williams clarified that we have five no votes and as a result we going to stop the high school project and the addition of twenty-five classrooms. Mr. Dehnert asked how long it takes to get a competitive bid on the architect, Mrs. Williams said it will probably take three to four months until you conduct the interviews and decide who you want. Mrs. Williams commented that this sets us to another time delay just so everyone understands that. There were no other questions or comments.

A. The Board did not approve the Spring-Ford Area School District retaining E.I. Associates of Harrisburg, PA for the project known as "Alterations and Additions to the High School".

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The Board approved moving forward with the construction of a pond and habitat to be located in the courtyard of Upper Providence Elementary School with a surrounding fence. The cost of this project will be funded through grants and private funding and will be done at no cost to the school district.

VI. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Grispon asked where the money for this item would be coming from and Dr. Hurda said it is coming out of the conference account and there are funds to cover this. Mr. Grispon asked if the cost of substitutes was included and Dr. Hurda said no as this is just a motion so that they can move forward and purchase airline tickets. Dr. Hurda stated when the next motion comes on to request permission to allow them to go the cost of substitutes will be included in that motion. Mr. Grispon asked if there will be money in next year's budget to fund this and Dr. Hurda said yes. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the Spring-Ford High School 2007-2008 Ireland Study Tour scheduled for March 8 through March 22, 2008. All travel costs will be provided by the student participants. The District will be responsible for the travel expenses of two teacher chaperones (Lisa Pupo and Jennifer Farischon) at a cost not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500.00). This approval is necessary so that airline tickets can be purchased and travel plans finalized.

VII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

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

HIGH SCHOOL

- A. **Orathia Bradley,** Assistant Principal, to attend "Montgomery County Principals & Supervisors Association Winter Networking" in Blue Bell, PA on Wednesday, December 12, 2007. The total cost of this clinic is \$55.37 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Orathia Bradley,** Assistant Principal, to attend "Montgomery County Principals & Supervisors Association Closing the Achievement Gap Workshop" at the Best Western in Kulpsville, PA on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. The total cost for this workshop is \$49.55 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- C. **Michael McDaniel**, Athletic Director, to attend "Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association" in Hershey, PA from Wednesday, March 26 through Saturday, March 30, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$807.00 from the 2007-2008 Athletic Budget.
- D. **Barbara O'Brien,** Media Specialist, to attend "ALA 2008 Midwinter Meeting" in Philadelphia, PA on Saturday, January 12 and Sunday, January 13, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$185.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

7TH GRADE CENTER

- E. Laurie Exeter and Kathryn Kruemmling, Teachers, to attend "Co-Teaching for Success: Effective Strategies for Working Together in Today's Inclusive Classroom" in Philadelphia, PA on Friday, January 11, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$640.00 – \$390.00 from the 580 account and \$250.00 from the substitute account
- F. **Marla Falcone**, Emotional Support Teacher, to attend "*Practical Strategies that Work*" in Cherry Hill, NJ on Tuesday, January 29, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$369.00 \$244.00 from the 2007-2008 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Item A and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. Mr. Morgan commented that he is very much in favor of the band receiving jackets but wondered about the returning members of the band who received jackets last year and what they might be receiving. Mr. Morgan said he thought it would be more appropriate to get those members a patch that they could sew onto their jackets showing that they have accomplished this two years in a row. Dr. Hurda said the jackets from last year are printed with the year so it shows 2006 rather than 2007 and her understanding is that the past practice has been to allot a certain amount of money, which she believes is \$65.00 per participant, to a championship team. Dr. Hurda reported that the discussion with the band was

whether they wanted to give jackets to the newest members of the band and possibly sweaters or sweatshirts to the returning members. Dr. Hurda said the consensus was that due to the jackets saying 2006 Champions they would like a jacket that reflects their championship this year. Mr. Morgan commented that the only reason he asks is because the motion only indicated jackets. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved purchasing jackets for the 2007 Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band in recognition of their winning the 2007 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Championship. Funding will be paid from the 2007-2008 Student Activity Fund and shall not exceed eight thousand dollars (\$8,000.00).

IX. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no report.

X. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Kathleen Bryant, Upper Providence Township, spoke about the vote taken to not move ahead with the high school saying she has always been in favor of competitive bidding however we are at a point now, having listened to Dr. Hurda in the months leading up to tonight, where we are in severe space crunch. Ms. Bryant commented that we have already lost a lot of time with this project since we had diverted our attention to the Western Center Project meanwhile the crowds were growing here at the high school. Ms. Bryant suggested that, rather than lose any more time, we set a number whether it is 4 ½ % or 5% and tell E.I. Associates to take the deal or we will open the project up for other architects to bid on. Ms. Bryant said she believes E.I. Associates will go with the number we set rather than risk losing the contract. Ms. Bryant asked Dr. Hurda to talk about what she believes a delay will cost the District and her increasing concerns for the overcrowding conditions. Dr. Hurda said her comments are from an educational perspective and this is something we have talked about for at least a year. Dr. Hurda stated that we are running out of room at the high school, we have already moved forward with the project, preliminary plans have been done based on the current configuration of the high school, we were looking at a window of approximately 24 months; which is critical, we have talked about this project publicly at Board meetings for the last six months so this will absolutely set the project back and will impact the kids who are coming here. Dr. Hurda reported that relocatables have been discussed and that is what is going to happen as there is no way around it. Ms. Bryant commented that, based on that information, she is not saying approve the 6% contract, but she is saying the economy is pretty much in the toilet and it seems like it is getting worse so if you name the number and then say to E.I. Associates here is the deal and they do not take the deal then it is their loss.

Ken Saylor, Upper Providence Township, commented that he is a bit dismayed at the vote on architectural selection. He is concerned over the same things as the previous speaker. Mr. Saylor thanked each and every member of the Board for all the time and labor they spend working on the Board. Mr. Saylor spoke about the Brooke Elementary School's air conditioning units and the fact that they are now on the roof as opposed to being outside with a large refrigeration unit due to the fact that the Board changed its mind after the school had been approved and

the architect had started the work. Mr. Saylor commented that he just saw the board spend over a year on the vo-tech problem without taking action which caused a delay that could push this project back and into a different school semester or year. Mr. Saylor asked the Board to not let principle stand in the way of getting something accomplished. Mr. Saylor again thanked the Board Members for the time they put on the Board.

Mr. Masciandaro commented that the Board still has not seen the actual contract yet and he asked if it could be sent out to the Board this week. Mr. Davis said Dr. Hurda could email it to everyone tomorrow. Dr. Hurda said she would be glad to do this once we are sure we have the final draft. Mr. Cooper commented that we do not just pick an architect and they tell us the fee, the average architect fees run between 6%-10% throughout the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Cooper said when we do bring the architects in for selection we ask them what their fees are and the lowest we have ever gotten anybody down to is 5.7%. Mr. Cooper stated that there may be a hungry architect out there that would take the job at 4% but we are going to pay for that 4%. Mr. Cooper referenced school districts that cut corners and now have buildings that cannot open due to structural problems. Mr. Cooper said we don't always want to go with the cheapest person as they may not always be the best person.

Mr. Masciandaro asked about the District Goals and if the Board would have an opportunity to talk about them as there are a couple of them that probably should not be there anymore because they are checked off. Mrs. Williams responded that the Board will be looking at them in the month of January.

Mrs. Williams made a comment that she directed at the holdover Board Members; Mr. Weber, Mr. Pettit and Mr. Masciandaro. Mrs. Williams said some months ago discussion took place where Mr. Masciandaro particularly said there was an incredible need to do something with the high school building and he "did not want to have relocatables stacking up on the front lawn prior to us doing something with this building". Mrs. Williams said tonight we have a vote that sets us back at least thirty days if not longer and she asked if he could explain how his position on this issue changed and why.

Mr. Masciandaro said it is interesting that Mrs. Williams singled him out here but he would like to have the contract that he is voting on. Mr. Masciandaro said he is glad Mr. Dehnert asked the question regarding the fixed price because he knows that 6% is typically what it is but he would like to see what we are voting on. Mr. Masciandaro commented that the Board is meeting again next Tuesday so they could revisit the issue.

Mr. Grispon questioned if the Board had the contract what are they going to do with it as we normally send it to our lawyer to look at. Mr. Grispon commented that he is not qualified to make any changes in the contract. Mr. Grispon said after the solicitor looks at the contract what are we going to do with it?

Mr. Masciandaro asked if it was so wrong to ask to see a contract that we are voting on. Mr. Grispon responded no problem but his question is what is the Board going to do with the contract once they have it? Mrs. Williams asked if Mr.

Masciandaro had an answer to the question and Mr. Masciandaro said he just asked for a copy of the contract so he would know what he is voting on.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Morgan made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

APPROVED DISTRICT GOALS

- 1. Formulate a plan to provide a quality in-house alternative education program for students within the Spring-Ford School District.
- 2. Provide a quality career and technical education for students in grades 10-12 focusing on what is both educationally and economically feasible.
- 3. Develop a long range comprehensive secondary school facilities plan.
- 4. Develop and implement a transition plan for students and parents as children move through grades 4-8.
- 5. Track and monitor key measures for student success: graduation rates, drop out rates, scholarships, college acceptance rates and the feedback from past graduates.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern Board Secretary