

On December 5, 2011 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:48 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Edward T. Dressler, Jr., Bernard F. Pettit and David R. Shafer
Region II: Julie A. Mullin and Dawn R. Heine
Region III: Mark P. Dehnert and Joseph P. Ciresi
Presiding Officer: Thomas J. DiBello
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin
Business Manager: Timothy Anspach
Solicitor: Marc Davis, Esq.
Student Rep.: Elizabeth Brady

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

Board President, Mr. DiBello, opened the meeting with the call to order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DiBello announced that are many events and activities taking place within the district that highlight our students' achievements and celebrate the holiday season. He urged everyone to visit Spring-Ford's individual school websites at www.spring-ford.net for a complete list of events. Mr. DiBello invited prospective parents and students interested in the different courses at the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center and the future career opportunities they can present, that there will be an open house held Wednesday, December 7th from 5 to 8:30 p.m. This open house will provide a chance to learn more about the school and its programs, meet instructors, tour the building and much more. The Western Center is located at 77 Graterford Road in Limerick. Mr. DiBello announced that Victor Herbert's holiday classic "Babes in Toyland" comes to life at the Spring-Ford High School 10-12 Grade Center with two performances on Saturday, December 10th. The show will take place in the high school's auditorium at 1:00 p.m. and at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. DiBello introduced Dr. Melissa Patschke, Mrs. Kinney and the third grade class of Upper Providence Elementary.

- A. Introduction of Upper Providence Elementary School by **Dr. Melissa Patschke**, Principal, **the Third Grade Class** and **Mrs. Elena Kinney**, Music Teacher.

The meeting recessed at 7:56 p.m. to have some refreshments in honor of the newly sworn in Board Member and the newly reorganized Board. The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Mr. DiBello announced that Dr. Goodin will give an overview of the 2012-2013 proposed preliminary budget.

Dr. Goodin reported that the purpose of the proposed preliminary budget tonight is to present the budget and allow 20 days for public inspection prior to the required approval date of January 25, 2012. Dr. Goodin explained that due to presidential primary election in April an earlier presentation is required this year. Dr. Goodin stated that the district is in line with the Act 1 timeline and tonight's presentation is also to determine if the district will need to have voter referendum on the ballot. Dr. Goodin reported that the district is making a commitment to stay within the state index and allowable exceptions. Dr. Goodin explained that for 2012-2013 the district is showing proposed revenue of \$127,304,053 and proposed expenses of \$130,262,214 which gives us a difference of \$2,958,161. Dr. Goodin went on to explain that according to Act 1 the allowable state index is 1.7% which equates to \$1,860,000. If the district were to apply for all of the allowable PDE exceptions that total would be 1.93% or \$2,055,324. Dr. Goodin stated that this would give the district an allowable tax increase of 3.63% or \$3,915,324. Dr. Goodin explained that currently we are showing a deficit of \$2,958,161 and due to the fact that PDE requires the district to submit a balanced budget at the end of January, for the sake of the state requirement, the district pulled over an additional \$2,958,161 from the Fund Balance which will give us a new revenue total of \$130,262,214. Dr. Goodin stressed that the district has an operational deficit but for the purpose of the state we must show the balanced budget. Dr. Goodin explained in greater detail the projected revenue for 2012-2013 breaking it down into local, state, and federal revenue. Dr. Goodin explained the district's history of the Act 1 index and showed a breakdown of every year's base index, exceptions, the allowable tax increase and the actual tax increase for past five years. Dr. Goodin stated that the actual tax increase for the 2012-2013 year is still to be determined. Dr. Goodin explained the three allowable PDE exceptions which include special education, retirement contributions and debt service, although our district is not eligible to apply for the debt service exception. Dr. Goodin next reported on the 2012-2013 projected expenses. Dr. Goodin stated that the currently we have a proposed preliminary budget that shows an approximate operating deficit of \$2.9 million which will have to be addressed in the coming months.

Mr. DiBello stated that it is important to point out that last year at this time the district was looking at a well over \$11 million deficit that the Board worked very hard to bring down along with the Business Office and Administration. Mr. DiBello added that some of the things the Board did were not too popular and he understands that but it is important to point out that because of the fiscal responsibility last year and the previous year, we have actually been able to cut the deficit down to \$2.9 million. Mr. DiBello stated that it has been a very hard challenging two years but it demonstrates that the Board has been working very hard. Mr. DiBello commented that the revenues have not grown that much to keep up with the expense increases we are seeing so some very challenging decisions had to be made.

Mr. Davis commented that ACT 1 requires us to do first cut of budget in December but as Dr. Goodin pointed out we have a long ways to go yet. Mr. Davis stated that he believes it is an unfair burden for the Board and the Administration for the Commonwealth to expect us to come up with a budget in December when they will not tell us how much funding they are going to give us until, if we are lucky, July 1st.

Dr. Goodin said as the year goes on the budget numbers will become firmer as we are able to identify our revenue and nail down our expenses in a more concrete fashion. Dr. Goodin stated that there is no doubt that the district has done a really good job making financial decisions in the past and there are districts in state that would love to be in our position and dealing with these kind of numbers.

Mr. DiBello reported that over the next few months the Finance Committee will be taking the budget and work through each of the line items in order to come back with a proposal to the Board as far as any changes and the adoption of the final budget. Mr. DiBello commented that January, February or March it will get interesting as we will then be able to see what the Governor's budget is going to look like and if there are going to be additional cuts made in education.

- B. **Mr. Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Mr. David Francella**, Assistant Business Manager, to present the 2012-2013 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Elizabeth Brady

Elizabeth reported that although December has only just begun, there are already quite a lot of events going on this month. The Spring-Ford Rotary Club is participating in "Adopt a Family" this holiday season on Wednesday, December 14th. The High School branch of the Rotary Club and the Interact Club will be helping with this event like they have done for the last several years by wrapping presents and helping to organize them for distribution. Last year close to \$15,000 dollars was raised for this cause with the help of The Rotary Club, Interact Club, area church organizations, and the SFEA. Elizabeth reported that several winter concerts are coming up in the next couple of weeks. The Chorus concert is on Friday, December 16th, and the concert band performance is on Wednesday, December 21st. The High School Band went to Chicago over the fall break, and all of the band kids reported that they had a great time, they were able to get a lot of sightseeing in, and they also had a great performance. Quite a few seniors have started to get accepted into schools, and if you walk past the bulletin board outside of the future planning center, you will see that is filling up very quickly. The salt-water fish tank that the class of 2011 gifted to the school is set to go in very soon, if you walk past the 12th grade office, you can see the big hole in the wall where it is set to go in. The class of 2012 has voted for their class trip to be to New York City. The cost will be \$527 per person for three days, and some of the activities will include going to the Empire State Building, going to a Broadway show, and even going to see the Mets vs. the Phillies. Also, on Thursday, December 15th, the choral students will be performing for the Spring-Ford Chamber of Commerce. Finally, mid-terms will be coming up around the end of January, so that's something for students to start thinking about in the near future.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David Goodin

Dr. Goodin reported that working with the School Board his office has begun several initiatives designed to solicit input from our stakeholders. Dr. Goodin stated that he is currently meeting with representatives from the support staff and the purpose is to hear concerns and issues particular to those employees in support roles as well as to provide the district a way to discuss issues of concern. Dr. Goodin stated that, also in working with the Board, they have sought input through the use of suggestion boxes which have been placed in each building. The suggestions received will be used to check current operations for validity and usefulness and to make general improvements. Dr. Goodin reported that the district will start a Twitter account and this will be

able to be found on the district's homepage. Dr. Goodin said people can sign up to receive updates on events and happenings at the district level such as meetings and district-wide events as well as school delays or cancellations. Dr. Goodin thanked Mr. Roche for this new initiative. Dr. Goodin reported that Meridian Bank gave the district an EITC contribution of \$2,500 and he thanked them for this contribution. Dr. Goodin stated that if you recall the district is putting together videos each month that highlight the characteristics of the school district. This month's video focuses on the letter "R" for "Results Driven". Dr. Goodin informed everyone that the videos will be posted on the district website. Dr. Goodin reported that the Middle States Regional Office contacted him to congratulate him on the district on being part of the Advanced Placement Program 2nd Annual AP District Honor Roll. Dr. Goodin stated that the AP District Honor Roll nationally recognizes and acknowledges our district's success and efforts to expand AP access, performance and commitment to increasing student achievement. Dr. Goodin reported that Spring-Ford is only 1 of 367 districts that were selected in the United States and Canada. Spring-Ford was selected because it has opened AP classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students while maintaining or improving the number of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Dr. Goodin commented that tonight's presentation on the preliminary budget will be posted tomorrow on the district's website. Dr. Goodin informed the public that on January 21st the district has its' Dancing With the Stars event in support of the SNAP Program and there is currently a group of District Office Administrators and School Board Members and their spouses who are practicing and dancing which in and of itself should be worth the cost of the ticket.

IV. PERSONNEL

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

A. Support Staff:

1. **Suzanne Mosebrook**, Spring City Elementary School; Registered Nurse, compensation will be set at \$27.52 per hour with benefits as per the Nurses' Plan, effective November 3, 2011.

B. Resignations:

1. **John Brennan**, High School; Boys' Basketball Intramural Coach, effective November 28, 2011.
2. **Bruce Brobst**, High School; Fall Fitness Center Supervisor, effective November 28, 2011.
3. **Rachel M. Custer**, 7th Grade Center; Spring Play Concert, effective November 28, 2011.
4. **Kevin Czapor**, High School; Winter Fitness Center Supervisor, effective November 28, 2011.
5. **Allan Gauger**, 7/8th Grade; Assistant Wrestling Coach, effective November 28, 2011.
6. **Mallory Greene**, 8th Grade Center; Girls' Basketball Coach, effective November 28, 2011.

7. **Leah L. Keyser**, High School; Swimming Assistant Coach, effective November 28, 2011.
8. **Katie Uhas**, High School; Softball Intramural Coach, effective November 28, 2011.
9. **Sharon Platchek**, Limerick Elementary; Instructional Assistant, effective December 1, 2011.

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

1. **Jessica Saloky**, Assistant Swimming Coach, \$5,189

D. **Extra-Curricular Contracts:** 7th Grade Center

1. **Kate Seward**, Spring Play Director, \$1,471

V. **FINANCE**

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mr. Pettit seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert questioned on Item C why we lease the equipment rather than buy it and Mr. Anspach replied that the difference in the rate was only a couple hundred dollars. Mr. Anspach stated that with the wear and tear on the machines you do not want to get into a situation where you hold on these machines long term. Mr. Dehnert asked what it costs to buy the machines and Mr. Anspach stated that if he recalls it was about \$800 less to purchase them outright. Mr. Dehnert asked why we would not purchase them if it was \$800 less and Mr. Anspach questioned whether we could guarantee that the district would have the funds available in three years to replace them. Mr. Dehnert stated that he does not see why we would not buy them if there is no advantage to leasing them and then we could decide if we wanted to keep them or not. Mr. Dehnert suggested that in three or four years then the district could sell the machines.

Dr. Goodin asked Mr. McDaniel to comment on whether there was an advantage to leasing as opposed to purchasing the equipment outright. Mr. McDaniel commented that the one thing that has been found with the leasing is that there is new updated equipment every three years. Mr. Dehnert asked if it is really \$800 less to buy rather than lease and Mr. McDaniel replied that he cannot answer that question.

Mr. DiBello asked if there was a maintenance contract associated with the lease and Mr. Anspach stated that a maintenance contract is built into the lease price so it is all inclusive. Mr. DiBello questioned if we purchase the equipment would we then have to also purchase a maintenance contract on top of it and Mr. Anspach responded that he does not have the answer to that. Mr. Dehnert commented that you do not have to purchase a maintenance contract as that is a choice. Mr. DiBello commented that he was just wondering but did not say we had to purchase a maintenance contract.

The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved making public the 2012-2013 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 17, 2012 and to submit referendum exceptions to the PA Department of Education before January 23, 2012.
- 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. The Board approved a three (3) year lease for Cybex Cardio Equipment (4 Cardio Treadmills, 1 Cardio Upright Cycle, 2 Cardio Lower Body Arc Trainers and 2 Cardio Total Body Arc Trainers) thru Somerset Capital Group, LTD. for the Senior High School. Total amount of the lease for all 3 years is \$38,640.00. The new yearly amount of \$12,880.00 replaces the old lease amount of \$12,733.80 yearly. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 High School Budget.
- D. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:
 - 1. **Art's Alive – Spring City, PA.** Provide an "Artist in Residence Program" at the 7th Grade Center. The student body along with a professional artist in residence will design and create a two (2) clay monoprints 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 three thousand seven hundred fifty dollars (\$3,750.00) and will be paid by the Middle School Home and School Association (\$1,875.00) and the 7th Grade Center Activities Account (\$1,875.00).
 - 2. **Great Valley Nature Center – Devault, PA.** Provide two (2) programs, one entitled "Colonial Times – Life Before Video Games" and the other entitled "Eggs-Traordinary Spring" for the kindergarten students at Upper Providence Elementary. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Account and shall not exceed four hundred eighty-four dollars (\$484.00).
 - 3. **Dr. Kristen Herzel – Swarthmore, PA.** Conduct neuropsychological testing, oversee and conduct psychological screening and testing, classroom observation and a written report for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed three thousand four hundred dollars (\$3,400.00).
 - 4. **Progressions School – Stowe, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at a rate of one hundred thirty-four dollars per day for one hundred twenty (120) days. Funding will be paid from the 2011-2012 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed sixteen thousand eighty dollars (\$16,080.00).
 - 5. **Main Line Health Paoli Hospital – Paoli, PA.** Provide a "mock crash" assembly at the 10-12 Grade Center for all juniors and seniors. The assembly will take place on Friday, April 20, 2012 with a rain date of Friday, April 27th. The timing of the assembly is purposeful in the hopes that our students will make good choices, especially during prom season. There is no cost to the district for this assembly as it is being fully paid for through a grant funded by State Farm Insurance.

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

Limerick Township	No. 49 – 51
Royersford Borough	No. 94
Spring City Borough	No. 38 - 40
Upper Providence Township	No. 128 - 132

F. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits**:

Permits No. 3836 - 3873

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. DiBello stated that there has been ongoing conversations for the last several meetings regarding what to do with the money that is left over from the bond for the high school construction project. Mr. DiBello said there was roughly about \$9 million that was left over. Mr. DiBello stated that some of the money, roughly about \$300,000, has been used already to make some capital improvements in the district. Mr. DiBello reported that the Board has discussed whether it makes sense to escrow the money for seven or so years and continue to pay 4% plus interest on it and only gain a little bit over 1%. The other option the board discussed was whether to utilize the money to spend down on looking at what our current capital projects budget is and look at some of the things in the district that may be required or necessary for us to continue to keep the district moving forward. Mr. DiBello reported that two Board Meetings ago there was conversation about several things that were presented as options to use the money for and the Board decided that before taking action on anything they would like for Administration to put a list together of necessities within the district. Mr. DiBello stated that it is his understanding that the Administration met several times and put together a list that they presented to the Board. Mr. DiBello said at this time the Board could go through and review the list and decide how they would like to move forward with any or all of the items identified on the list. Mr. DiBello asked the Board to keep in mind that there are several things within the list that he believes we must do, no matter what. These items are associated with the Title IX complaint in regards to the softball field. Mr. DiBello asked the Board how they would like to proceed and he asked Mr. Davis if the Board needed to do a motion for each one of the items on the list or could they just strike out the ones that they do not want to move forward on. Mr. Davis suggested waiting and seeing how the discussion goes as the list could be approved in one omnibus motion unless you have 5 people who want to strike out an item and in that case you may have to vote on individual strikes and then go back and pass what's left in one motion. Mr. Davis indicated that he would keep track of the voting on the list and then he will take the information back to Ed Murray to prepare the appropriate documentation to defease the bonds on any remaining funds.

Mr. Ciresi asked if Mr. Anspach could give the Board an idea on how much money would go back to the bond depending on where the Board goes with the list. Mr. Anspach stated that Mr. Murray was here a couple weeks ago with a synopsis if the Board took the \$9 million with the \$2.1 million in capital project items subtracted out of it leaving approximately \$7 million to be used to pay down debt. The savings per year using this scenario would be approximately \$445,000. Mr. Anspach stated that they asked Mr. Murray to look at increasing the allocation from \$2.1 to \$3.1 and the savings was approximately \$364,000, at \$4.1 it would be approximately \$300,000. Mr. Anspach stated that because the funds were borrowed at a rate over 4% and we can only get a 1% return on the money it sits in escrow where we are

losing money. He indicated that Mr. Murray had presented a number for the total loss in revenue which would be \$980,000 which is a significant amount.

Mr. Dehnert asked when the \$445,000 in savings would start and Mr. Anspach said it is his understanding that the savings would occur this year as it would be reduced for our next payment which is in June. Mr. Dehnert stated that the choice is to save whatever amount of money, which if we do not spend any of the \$9 million would be approximately \$600,000, and then the amount would go down for each dollar we spend to zero if we were to spend it all. Mr. Dehnert stated that the option is don't spend any of it and save \$600,000 each year in the budget going forward or spend the money and reduce the savings from \$600,000 down to zero reduction. Mr. Anspach commented that you must also realize the lost revenue potential that you had because right now paying off \$6 million of bonds you are losing \$980,000 so if you are going to increase the money as you stated then you are going to increase the loss even greater. Mr. Dehnert stated that the bottom line would be that the budget would be reduced by anywhere from zero to \$600,000 and Mr. Anspach stated that was correct.

Dr. Goodin stated that he is not sure that you can really calculate that as being a true number because the list we are going to look at tonight represents things that the district will spend money on, things we should spend money on, and things that we could spend money on. Dr. Goodin said that Mr. Dehnert is correct that on the surface it looks like if we were to defease the entire amount there would be that much savings in debt service but we also need to understand that in doing that we will also be spending money out of the General Fund and Capital Project Fund to do things that we have to get done in the district. Mr. Dehnert stated that he looked at the list and a lot of the things do not need to be done at least in the near term. Mr. Dehnert added that we are facing many difficult budget years going forward starting with the new budget presented tonight and some of the things do not need to be done now and could be deferred until later. Mr. Dehnert commented that in his opinion some of the items are luxury items.

Mr. DiBello replied that is one opinion and instead of all of the Board offering their opinions he thinks they should go line by line. Mr. DiBello added that as a point of correction, the tough budget did not start this year but actually started two years ago so the Board still definitely has their work cut out for them.

Mr. Dehnert stated that the district has a Capital Reserve Account which is intended for capital items and was established for some of the items on the list. Mr. Anspach replied that Mr. Dehnert was correct but you must understand that this past year we had to take \$4.2 million from the Capital Reserve Account to help with the district's issue with commercial assessments that we loss. Mr. Anspach questioned what the future is with commercial assessments and all he can tell the Board is that our hands are full.

Mr. DiBello pointed out that we are pretty much locked into what we can use this bond money for versus the money that we have in reserve as we have a little bit more flexibility on how we can shift that money around. Mr. DiBello said it really comes down to how we spend what we are locked into versus how we have flexibility around other funds just in case we run into a situation in the future.

Dr. Goodin stated that as we progress through the capital projects Mr. Dehnert is correct that there are some line items that are going to be pulled from capital projects and those items have been highlighted so that the Board knows what has already been tagged to be taken from capital projects. Dr. Goodin added that as the Board goes through the list line by line the items can be checked yes or no so that at the end of the evening the list can be sorted and a tally of the total can be given.

Mr. DiBello commented that he would like to take the first four items and lump them together since they all deal with the Title IX Complaint and the Board has had extensive conversation on this issue. Mr. DiBello polled each Board Member and everyone voiced their approval on these four line items. The Board went through the remaining line items on the Capital Project List and discussed each item one by one. Board Members expressed their agreement or opposition to the items on the list. After lengthy discussion on each item the Board finalized the list so that it only contained those line items that were approved.

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Item A and Mrs. Mullin seconded it. Mr. Dehnert asked what the amount of the motion was and Mr. DiBello responded that he believes it is \$3,627,439. The motion passed 6-2 with Mr. Dehnert and Mr. DiBello voting no.

- A. The Board approved the revised Capital Project list to be funded from the GOB 2007-A Bond Issue. There is an approximate balance of \$9,334,642.00 remaining in the bond fund and by adopting the attached list the Board is directing the Administration to begin the process necessary to bid and/or prepare specifications for bidding for the attached capital projects. It is intended that the attached list will be accomplished as soon as the items can be properly bid.

CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve Items A-F and Mrs. Mullin 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. **Dawn Heine**, Board Member, and **Dr. David Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, to attend *“PSBA New Board Orientation: Ready, Set, Govern!”* at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit in Morton, PA on Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9, 2011. The total cost of this conference is \$650.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- B. **Deborah Smith**, Administrative Assistant, to attend *“The Spring Child Accounting Conference”* in Hershey, PA from Wednesday, March 21 through Friday, March 23, 2012. The total cost of this conference is \$812.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

- C. **Stephen Reynolds**, Director of Technology, **Susan Gallagher** and **Kathleen Cox**, District Technology Team Members, to attend the “*Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)*” in Hershey, PA from February 12 through February 15, 2012. The total cost for this conference is \$2587.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.

5/6 GRADE CENTER

- D. **Corey McHugh**, Autistic Support Teacher, to attend “*PASA Webinar Training for Teachers*” January 18, 2012 from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM at PaTTAN. The total cost for this webinar will be \$75.00 for a substitute for the ½ day.

DISTRICT-WIDE

- E. **Jacqueline Havrilla** and **Dr. Melissa Patschke**, Principals, to attend “*NAESP National Conference & Expo: Best Practices for Better Schools*” in Seattle, Washington from Tuesday, March 20 through Monday, March 26, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference as all expenses are being paid by Mrs. Havrilla and Dr. Patschke.
- F. **Stacey Bogus, Adrian Frain, Kim Green, Mary Ann Group, Susan Hammond, Rachel Lawrence, Julie Quinby, Ellen Reilly, and Nick Tier**, Teachers to attend “*Reading Apprenticeship Improving Secondary Education (RAISE) Winter Conference*” at PaTTAN in Harrisburg, PA on Monday, January 23 and Tuesday, January 24, 2012. There is no cost to the district for this conference as all fees including substitutes are being paid through the RAISE Grant.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

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

- A. The Board gave approval for **Hollie Strohl** and **Ashley Bilotti**, Senior Class Advisors, to take the Class of 2012 on a three (3) day trip to New York City, NY from Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28, 2012 (Memorial Day Weekend). The cost of the trip will be approximately five hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$527.00) per student. The trip will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy #121.

VIII. SOLICITOR’S REPORT

There was no report.

IX. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Rick Schroeder, Taxpayer and Resident of Spring City, congratulated Mr. DiBello on his Board Presidency. Mr. Schroeder stated that he has a lot of friends and acquaintances on the Board but he wanted to state that the past two hours was an abomination. He questioned what committees the Board has and stated that all of these expenditures should have fallen into consideration at the committee level and then brought to the full Board as a recommendation in concert with the Finance Committee as to where the expenditures should fall. Mr. Schroeder stated that a significant amount of these items were more than likely discussed over the past year or even last two years. In their entirety \$3.6 million was just approved and the agenda item calls for moving forward with bids as quickly as feasible. Mr. Schroeder commented that there are some things on the list that really have not been studied

an in particular one that was voted no to and that is the health and wellness center. Mr. Schroeder stated that to him out of a capital reserve project this one made the most sense because it affected the most students within the curriculum. Mr. Schroeder said that this was a project that absolutely fell within the general obligation bond and it was just kind of glossed over. Mr. Schroeder stated that there are 7 periods a day at the high school level and 50 students in the facility per period which give you a total of only accommodating 1,500 students at its maximum capability per week. Mr. Schroeder said this does not cover the entire student body in this building going forward with larger class sizes. Mr. Schroeder said these things should be looked at from a curriculum standpoint. Mr. Schroeder said he hopes that some of his friends who made the yes vote for this particular plan will bring it up again at the very next meeting and reverse course and look at some of these things a little bit more individually. Mr. Schroeder stated that Mr. Dehnert and Mr. Shafer make great points about the technology issues and he knows that as far as the communication systems that there are companies that cannibalize old systems and stay in business for 10, 15 or 20 years beyond the normal life expectancy of that piece of technology. Mr. Schroeder commented that we started out with a premise that it would cost us about \$980,000 in arbitrage between the interest rate today and the interest rate of the bond and this is a false premise to use for any kind of calculation because the interest rate is constantly going up, the differential gap is shrinking and the bond is callable in "x" amount of years out forward so the amount of lost revenue has to be predicated on other projections and not just what today's numbers are. Mr. Schroeder said you must take a realistic look at whether you are going to turn back a portion of the bond and there is a point where you can take a portion and turn it back into the debt service as he does not think you have to return the entire bond. Mr. Davis replied that you must either defease the bonds now or come up with a capital plan. Mr. Schroeder questioned whether the capital plan must all be spent this year and Mr. Davis responded that the reason he has expressed some urgency is because under IRS regulations you must either have spent the money or made plans for it within 5 years and we are at that 5 year point. Mr. Schroeder said he can hardly fathom the district moving forward with bids for all of these individual items and completing the tasks this year. He believes some of the things should be looked at a little closer and not just lump them all together under this particular capital expenditure process. Mr. Schroeder asked about the preliminary budget presentation saying he presumes that there is a number associated with future labor and benefit issues and he would hope that it would be a reasonable number so that the budget is not sitting there with a significant cushion. Dr. Goodin indicated that this was correct. Mr. Schroeder commented that we get .86% of our funding from the Federal Government and someone needs to speak out. He said that there is a movement to dissolve the Federal Department of Education and he thinks it would behoove the Board to take a position to jump on that bandwagon and somewhere down the line if you see fit to formulate a resolution. The Board could forward it to the state to either promote that kind of dialogue to dissolve the Federal Department of Education knowing all well and good that you still have to maintain and support high levels in the education process that the state deems appropriate. Mr. Schroeder said the resolution could possibly ask about provisions by specific school districts versus an entire state.

Mr. Dressler reported that he has contacted a sign company in reference to the Western Center sign issue and a representative from a local sign company will be present at the January Joint Operating Committee meeting to present some resolutions to the lack of signage. Mr. Dressler stated that he had received an email from Ron Faust from Science in Motion that essentially said that he is working for nothing and his colleague who was a paid employee is no longer able to work so the program is limping along. Mr. Dressler added that

Mr. Faust had reported that the Merck Outreach Program is now stopping and they have contributed some of their equipment to the Science in Motion Program. Mr. Dressler stated that unfortunately the Merck Program which served another school district will be disappearing. Mr. Faust had written in his email that “everyday magical things happen because of this program and he cannot imagine more important work than what he is doing”. Mr. Dressler stated that unless something happens to inject some money into the program we are going to lose a very important component to our educational process.

Mr. Dehnert recognized Carol Frankel as this is her last meeting. He thanked her for her service and stated that the district will miss her.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Fern
Board Secretary