

On November 24, 2008 the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:30 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.: Samantha Wanner

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Williams reminded the public that next Monday the Board will meet for their Reorganization Meeting which will then be followed by the regular December Board Meeting.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no questions or comments.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the October 20, 2008 Work Session minutes.

B. The Board approved the October 27, 2008 Board Meeting minutes.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel	Donna Williams	As needed
No report.		
Community Relations	Donna Williams	Quarterly as needed
No report.		

Curriculum/Technology Bernard F. Pettit Quarterly as needed

Dr. Donahue reported that the Committee met on December 11, 2008 where Dr. Barbara Hasson made a presentation on BoardDocs. There are approximately 20-25 school districts in Pennsylvania who use this service. The annual cost is approximately \$9,000 per year with a onetime set up fee of \$1,000 which includes 40 hours of training. Dr. Hasson has agreed to come to a January Board Meeting to make a presentation or the entire Board and the public. The Committee also discussed the Classroom for the Future Grant. Discussion took place on computer teachers at the elementary levels and it was determined that it would cost the district approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000 to add them at this time. The Committee also briefly discussed grade reporting in the Skyward System. Mr. Nugent presented information on dual enrollment courses and spoke of two new courses on engineering. Dr. Donahue concluded by reporting that Mr. Czapor and Mr. Donnelly, two health teachers from the high school, made a brief presentation to the Committee on an 11th grade Health Human Development course.

Mrs. Mullin stated that she has received about 20 emails regarding the Skyward issue and she wondered if the discussion was off the table at this point. Mrs. Mullin said the parents were informed that the high/low feature was removed due to confidentiality and competition but a child's name is not attached to the high/low feature so the parents are not sure where the confidentiality issue comes into play. Mrs. Mullin commented that she was surprised at us not wanting to promote competition because she believes we do promote healthy competition. Dr. Hurda responded that she has addressed this issue a number of times and the Principals have as well. Dr. Hurda said she has spoken with a few parents regarding this but this was a decision that was made in the best interest of kids today. The whole purpose of Skyward was to give parents individual information about their child. The high/low feature although it does not have a kid's name attached to it kids even at the lower grade levels know who may be the poorest achiever in the class. Dr. Hurda stated that parents have the information that was the whole concept behind Skyward and it was not a backroom decision made behind closed doors to do away with the high/low as she feels she has been as upfront as she can be about it. Dr. Hurda reported that in checking with other school districts in our area who have Skyward to find out what they do it was discovered that they have also made the same decision as we have and for the very same reasons.

Mr. Masciandaro suggested that we post our stance on the district website, possibly where parents link into Skyward, explaining exactly why we arrived at this decision as this may help provide clarity. Dr. Hurda responded that this we have thought about that but interestingly enough the questions we have been receiving have only been from one building, the Intermediate School, and from a parent who had a number of children in the district, one child attends school in that building, so from her perspective this is not a global concern. Dr. Hurda stated that she did have a conversation with Mr. Smith, the Building Principal, and he indicated that he had addressed it. Mrs. Mullin said that the original question came from a High School parent not an Intermediate School parent. Dr. Hurda replied that it was a High School parent who has a number of children one who is at the Intermediate School. Dr. Hurda said she tries on every level to be as honest, upfront and forthright as she can be. There is no hidden agenda, no

desire to be restrictive in terms of what parents have but when we talked about the Skyward System it was for individual student information.

Mrs. Williams stated that she is not really comfortable with putting this on the website because it could engender more interest than what we want. Mrs. Williams suggested that we wait and see what happens in the next 2-3 weeks and then we can come back and revisit this. Dr. Hurda encouraged parents to contact their child's teacher if they need to discuss their student's grades in terms of other student achievement.

Mr. Grispon asked if any other Board Members received emails regarding this; Mr. Dehnert and Mr. Masciandaro responded that they had received a couple. Mr. Masciandaro said the only reason he suggested an explanation on the website is because emails deal with what people have heard and we then have no place to direct them to for a uniform statement of the district's position.

Mrs. Williams said we always want to encourage the parents to go to the first person who is the child's teacher and sometimes people today via email start at the top and then trickle down. We need to encourage the bond between the students and the teachers in any way we can with the parents. Mrs. Williams said she is willing to listen to everyone's thoughts but we need to give clear direction to Dr. Hurda.

Mr. Dehnert commented that he thinks it is a good idea to post it on the website so that there is a consistent uniform message relayed to everyone. This will help alleviate someone giving their own opinion which could generate more controversy.

Mrs. Williams asked Dr. Hurda what she feels comfortable doing and if she thinks there is a need to do this. Mr. Grispon stated that he believes this is something that is the day to day operation of the school district that the Board does not get involved with. Dr. Hurda responded that she feels she has addressed this as have each of the building administrators and she is always available if someone wants to call her. Dr. Hurda said in some ways by putting it on the website we are explaining something that many people and teachers may not even be aware existed last year. Dr. Hurda stated that this is a decision we have made and quite honestly she is surprised at all of the attention being given to it particularly in this education environment where we are dealing with so many other things. Dr. Hurda said she is happy to do whatever the Board directs her to do. Mrs. Williams responded that if Dr. Hurda as the district's CEO feels she has addressed it then that is it.

Extracurricular

Robert Weber

2nd Tues. 2 p.m.

Mr. Weber reported that the Extracurricular Committee met on November 11, 2008 and discussed the update of the stadium which is now complete. The Athletic Department received extremely positive feedback from visiting teams, bands, spectators and the PIAA. The Committee discussed the fall team's records along with the results of individual student competition. The Committee received a report from the Steering Committee with a recommendation in the Middle School 7/8 Grade to add more extracurricular activities to involve more

students. The Committee also talked about fundraising of teams and the recent problem that we had with a certain business that has now been rectified.

Dr. Hurda announced that the Football Team sold fundraising cards that provided discounts at various businesses throughout our area. There was a coupon on the card for Texas Roadhouse. There has been some concern about a contract or lack thereof and Texas Roadhouse for a very short period of time decided not to honor the card. Dr. Hurda stated that the problem was not with Texas Roadhouse as they have been a very good partner with the community. Texas Roadhouse has since decided to continue to honor the coupons and they will deal with the issue between themselves and the card issuing agency.

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

Mr. Weber reported that the Property/Facilities Committee met on November 12, 2008 and discussed a \$5,200 change order for Coach McNelly Stadium, the 9th Grade capacitor bank with an estimated cost of \$38,000, the Limerick chiller which should go out to bid sometime in January, the traffic study for the rear of the High School, the Brooke Elementary elevator upgrade which an engineer will review, the turf field and lights for High School Field #9, the replacement chiller at the High School, the Coach McNelly Stadium sign, the schedule of the new administration building, the driveway/walkway at the High School, real estate property issues, and the use of a district-wide temperature policy which was referred back to the Policy Committee. Mrs. Williams questioned the fact that there were no recommendations on the temperature policy as far as numbers; Mr. Weber responded that they did not make a number recommendation at this time. Mrs. Williams asked if the Committee would share the policies that they had from other districts with the Policy Committee and Mr. Weber said this would be done but the recommendation is that they steer very close to the Upper Moreland policy. Dr. Hurda said she asked that Mr. Grispon add this to the agenda for the next Policy Committee Meeting.

Mr. Masciandaro asked if Mr. Weber's report referenced a problem with a chiller at the High School and Mr. Cooper responded that one of the evaporator coil banks in the chiller went bad. These are normally good for about 8-10 years; this building was built in 1995 so we are already over the life span years.

IV. PERSONNEL

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

A. Resignations:

1. **Rosa Kappenstein**, Brooke Elementary School; Part-time Food Service, effective with the last work day, November 13, 2008.
2. **Patricia McCormick**, Limerick Elementary School; Part-time Food Service, effective November 21, 2008 to accept an Instructional Assistant position within the district.

3. **Teresa W. Poling**, 8th Grade Center; Part-time Food Service, effective October 31, 2008 to accept an Instructional Assistant position within the district.

New Resignations:

4. **Dale Bergman**, High School; Assistant Track Coach (Spring), effective November 5, 2008.
5. **Kristi Holstein**, High School; Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach, effective November 19, 2008.
6. **Rhonda Zimmerman**, 8th Grade Center; Girl's Basketball Team Coach, effective October 3, 2008.

B. Leaves of Absence:

1. **Brigitte Diaz**, Oaks Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively February 20, 2009.
2. **Denise Emel**, Spring City Elementary School; Librarian, per Board Policy, effective November 7, 2008.
3. **Susan Ibach**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, per Professional Agreement, effective for the second semester of the 2008/2009 school year.
4. **Allison Maini**, 5/6th Grade Center; Elementary Teacher, per Board Policy, effective tentatively November 3, 2008.
5. **Joseph Doherty**, Evans Elementary School; Custodian, per Board Policy, effective tentatively December 10, 2008.

New Leaves of Absence:

6. **Alicia Forgione**, 7th Grade Center; Learning Support Teacher, for an extended leave in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective the second semester until the end of the 2008/2009 school year.
7. **Erin E. Hughes**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, for an extended leave in accordance with the Professional Agreement, effective the second semester until end of the 2008/2009 school year.
8. **Michael Costello**, District; Maintenance Employee, in accordance with Board Policy, effective November 14, 2008.

- C. The Board approved the Clerical Asst./Food Service Position job description: *(attached)*

D. Long Term Substitute:

1. **Noelle Giampietro**, Evans Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, to continue as a Long Term Substitute for the 2nd semester of the 2008/2009 school year, compensation will be set at \$41,500, MS, Step 1, with benefits.

New Long Term Substitute:

2. **Matthew Ellis**, High School; Mathematics, compensation will be set at \$40,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits, pending receipt of Certification, effective date to be determined.
3. **Kimberly Curcio**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Elementary Teacher, to continue as a Long Term Substitute for the 2nd semester of the 2008/2009 school year, compensation will be set at \$40,000, BS, Step 1, with benefits.

E. Support Staff Employees:

1. **Teresa Poling**, 5/6th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.16 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Instructional Assistants' Plan, effective December 1, 2008.
2. **Dorothy Sperring**, Oaks Elementary School; Part-time 4.5 Hour Food Service, compensation will be set at \$13.84 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective November 25, 2008.
3. **Debra Swahl**, 9th Grade Center; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.16 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Instructional Assistants' Plan, effective November 25, 2008.

New Support Staff Employee:

4. **Patricia McCormick**, Upper Providence Elementary School; Instructional Assistant, compensation will be set at \$15.16 per hour (includes degree rate) with benefits as per the Instructional Assistants' Plan, effective December 1, 2008.
5. **Megan Schaeffer**, 8th Grade Center; Part-time 3 Hour Food Service, compensation will be set at \$13.84 per hour without benefits as per the Food Service Plan, effective December 1, 2008.

F. Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

1. **Megan Bieleski**, SH SADD Club Advisor, \$375
2. **Kristy Murphy**, SH Minorities Coming Together Club, \$375

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: High School

3. **Nicholas Tier**, 9th Grade Basketball Coach – Boys, \$4,236
4. **Yvonne O’Dea**, Men’s & Women’s Choir, \$1092 (1/2 position)
5. **Michael Siuchta**, Basketball Intramurals- Boys, \$633
6. **Thomas Saylor**, Basketball Scorekeeper, Boys, \$31/hour

G. Extra-Curricular Contracts: 8th Grade Center

1. **Matthew Cappelletti**, Asst. Wrestling Coach,(8/9th) \$4,037
2. **Richard Harrison**, Boys’ Basketball Coach, \$2,986

New Extra-Curricular Contract: 8th Grade Center

3. **Mallory Greene**, Girls’ Basketball Coach, \$2,986

H. Extra-Curricular Contract: Elementary

1. **Susan Hess**, Limerick Elementary Science Coordinator, \$1,031

New Extra-Curricular Contracts: Elementary

2. **Pat Bateman**, Spring City Safety Patrol Sponsor, \$546
3. **Keith Heffner**, Brooke Science Coordinator, \$1,031
4. **Peg Shiley**, Spring City Science Coordinator, \$1,031

I. Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Margaret Hoinowski | English |
| 2. Kati Madrak | Art |
| 3. Lumiere Tiffany | Music & Elementary Education |
| 4. Stanley Wysochanski | English |

New Professional Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5. Courtney Bishop | Elementary Ed/Special Education |
| 6. Susan Nitto | Elementary Education |

J. Support Staff Substitutes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Carolann Carfagno | Support |
| 2. Trudy Durante | Food Service |
| 3. Michael Hasara | Custodian |
| 4. Tracie Horan | Support |
| 5. Kimberly Murray | Support |
| 6. Teresa Poling | Support |
| 7. Ricky Rodney | Custodian |
| 8. Deborah Sanford | Support |
| 9. Dorothy Sperring | Food Service |
| 10. Sarah Weaver | Support |

K. 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. **Davelba Sanchez Dusko** Spanish/Elementary Education
- 2. **Vicki Maumus** School Psychologist

New Personnel Information Item

- 3. **Elise Reiter** Speech

V. FINANCE

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

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated, Mr. Pettit asked that Item B5 be separated.

Mr. Grispon made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Weber voting no.

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

Bursich Associates	Professional Services	\$ 2,040.00
EI Associates	Professional Services (2 Inv.)	\$ 130,032.00
Fox Rothschild LLP	Professional Services	\$ 1,606.73
Limerick Township	Professional Services	\$ 3,753.75
Limerick Twp. M.A.	EDU's - Sewer	\$ 48,260.00
*EI Associates	Professional Services	<u>\$ 1,006.75</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 186,699.23

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items B1-4 and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

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

1. NEW DISTRICT OFFICE

Bureau Veritas	Professional Services	\$ 655.00
DDL Enterprises Inc.	Applic. #8- General Contractor	\$ 104,670.00
Lenni Electric Corp.	Applic. #8- Electrical Contractor	\$ 28,983.11
PECO	Electricity	\$ 144.54
U. Providence Twp.	Permit-Fire Alarm System	\$ 544.00
*Foreman Architects	Professional Services	\$ 4,071.70
*Myco Mechanical Inc.	Applic. #7- HVAC Contractor	\$ 22,467.50
*PECO	Connection Charge	<u>\$ 6.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$ 161,541.85

2. <u>10th AVENUE BY-PASS</u>		
Traffic Planning & Design Professional Services		\$ 7,178.52
	TOTAL	\$ 7,178.52
3. <u>SPRINKLER SYSTEMS – BROOKE & SPRING CITY</u>		
<u>Brooke</u>		
Berkshire Systems Inc. Professional Services		\$ 1,444.50
Underwriters Inspec. Professional Services		\$ 200.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,644.50
4. * <u>WATERPROOFING PROJECT - 8TH GRADE CTR - PHASE II</u>		
*Arthur Altemose AIA Professional Services		\$ 1,150.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,150.00

Mr. Shafer made a motion to approve Item B5 and Mr. Morgan seconded it. The motion passed 8-1 with Mr. Pettit voting no.

5. <u>ARTIFICIAL TURF – ATHLETIC FIELDS</u>		
Chem Seal Asphalt Seal Hot Patching/Crack Filling/Seal		
	Coating (3 Inv.)	\$ 5,875.00
*Steven Parks & Assoc. Professional Services		\$ 9,237.55
	TOTAL	\$ 15,112.55

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items C-L and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Morgan asked about Item D and the check lists that the Board receives every month which require a large amount of paper. Mr. Morgan asked if it would be possible to receive these electronically as it is something he looks at once and then discards. Mr. Shafer said this is another good quality statement for BoardDocs. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. Anspach if this is something that could be scanned in, the answer was yes. Mrs. Williams said she would like to continue with this idea and include cafeteria reports, use of facilities, tax exonerations. Mr. Anspach said there are a number of reports that could be scanned. Mrs. Williams said with exception to the agenda, minutes and Dr. Hurda’s Board memo we could try to scan everything else. Mr. Grispon said he believes the Board Memo could be scanned as well. Dr. Hurda said this is a good way to see how it works and see if everyone is comfortable with this venue. The Board all agreed that starting with the New Year everything that can be scanned and forwarded electronically will be handled that way in an effort to see if this method will work.

Mr. Weber asked about Item H wondering if these items were individual bids or as a group. Mr. Anspach responded that a total bid goes out for all the items and the vendors can then bid individually or as a group. The district then picks and chooses based on whichever vendor is considered responsible and has the best price. The bids are looked at both individually and as a group to see what is most advantageous for the district.

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

D. Checks:

1. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Work Session</u>	
<u>October</u>	
Check No. 126950 – 127063	\$ 700,388.01
<u>November</u>	
Check No. 127064 – 127274	\$1,121,186.55
2. <u>Weekly Checks prior to Board Meeting</u>	
Check No. 127447 – 127515	\$ 626,823.29
3. <u>Board Checks held for approval</u>	
Check No. 127275 – 127446	\$ 241,628.74
4. <u>Athletic Fund</u>	
<u>October</u>	
Check No. 300801 – 300947	\$ 38,164.00

E. The Board approved the following **independent contracts**:

1. **Chuck Favata – Lansdale, PA.** Provide Internet Safety presentations in eight schools for students in grades 4-7 (Royersford Elementary and Spring City Elementary will combine their presentation) including after school presentations for staff members, evening presentations for parents and participation in a community TV interview program. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Verizon Foundation Grant and shall not exceed seven thousand dollars (\$7,000.00).
2. **The Timothy School – Berwyn, PA.** Provide educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided at a cost of two hundred eighty-five dollars and eighty-three cents (\$285.83) per day for one hundred eighty (180) days. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed fifty-one thousand four hundred forty-nine dollars and forty cents (\$51,449.40).
3. **Dr. Marlyn Vogel – Philadelphia, PA.** Conduct educational testing and provide an independent educational report for a special needs student as determined by the student's evaluation team. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00).
4. **Catherine Hollen – Phoenixville, PA.** Provide Applied Behavior Analysis Training in the home for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for four hundred fifty (450) hours at a rate of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed nine thousand dollars (\$9,000.00).
5. **Laura Camp – Perkiomenville, PA and Diane O'Brien – Gilbertsville, PA.** Provide direct instruction for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for thirty (30) weeks for 1.5 hours per week at a

rate of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per hour. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$1,350.00).

6. **Developmental Enterprises Corporation, Inc. – Worcester, PA.** Provide transition services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for sixty-three (63) days at a rate of ninety-one dollars (\$91.00) per day. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed five thousand seven hundred thirty-three dollars (\$5,733.00).
7. **RTM Academy – Norristown, PA.** Provide educational services for two students requiring an alternative placement for the 2008-2009 school year. Services will be provided at a rate of one hundred twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$112.50) per day/per student for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Alternative Education Budget and shall not exceed nineteen thousand dollars (\$19,000.00) per student.
8. **Trudy Phillips/Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide seven (7) presentations entitled “Winter Secrets...Animals in Winter” for the kindergarten classes at Evans Elementary School during the month of January 2009. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Evans Elementary Home and School Fund and shall not exceed seven hundred seventy dollars (\$770.00).
9. **Dr. Jim Cianciulli – West Norriton, PA.** Conduct educational testing and provide an independent educational report for a special needs student as determined by the student’s evaluation team. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600.00).
10. **Trudy Phillips/Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide four (4) presentations entitled “Winter Secrets...Animals in Winter” for the kindergarten classes at Brooke Elementary School during the month of January 2009. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Brooke Elementary Home and School Fund and shall not exceed four hundred forty dollars (\$440.00).
11. **Magic Touch Entertainment – Canadensis, PA.** Provide two (2) student assemblies and one (1) evening performance entitled “Learning Can Be Fun” at Brooke Elementary School on Friday, March 13, 2009. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Brooke Elementary Home and School Association Fund and shall not exceed two thousand one hundred dollars (\$2,100.00).
12. **Jack Hartman/Hop 2 It Music – St. Petersburg, FL.** Provide two (2) assemblies for district-wide kindergarten classes on Friday, May 1, 2009 focusing on Language Development and Early Literacy. Funding will be from the 2008-2009 Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation

Grant and shall not exceed two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$2,900.00).

13. **John Fortunato – Warminster, PA.** Provide an assembly entitled “Wild About Learning” at Spring City Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Spring City Home and School Association Fund and shall not exceed five hundred sixty-five dollars (\$565.00).
14. **Doc Dixon – Smithton, PA.** Provide two (2) assemblies, one at Oaks Elementary School and one at Evans Elementary School entitled “Bully-Free Amazing Wonder Shows”. Funding will be paid from the Oaks Elementary School and Evans Elementary School 2008-2009 Assembly Budgets and shall not exceed six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per assembly or a total of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00).
15. **Great Valley Nature Center – Devault, PA.** Provide three (3) assemblies entitled “Birds of Prey”, “Animal Colors”, and “Dinosaurs” at Evans Elementary School. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Evans Elementary School Assembly Account and shall not exceed six hundred sixty-nine dollars and ninety cents (\$669.90).
16. **Sam Sandler – Spring Mount, PA.** Provide a magic and comedy assembly at Limerick Elementary School on December 23, 2008. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Limerick Elementary Home and School Association Fund and shall not exceed four hundred fifty dollars (\$450.00).

New Independent Contract:

17. **Helping Hands, Inc. – Bechtelsville, PA.** Provide transition services for two (2) special needs students as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and shall not exceed six thousand one hundred forty-four dollars (\$6,144.00).
- F. The Board approved seeking bids for supplies for the 2009-2010 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, general, paper, medical, dental, physical education, science, technology education, and furniture.
 - G. The Board approved participation in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bid for Copier Paper and other bids deemed to be advantageous for the 2009-2010 school year.
 - H. The Board approved seeking bids for “Publications” (Newsletters - 4 issues, District Activity Calendars, Student Handbooks, Crisis Prevention/Intervention/Postvention Plan Flip Chart, Post-Secondary Guidance Handbooks and Student Planners) for the 2009/2010 school year.

NEW FINANCE

I. The following Treasurers' Reports were approved:
General Fund

- Money Market – October 2008
- PSDLAF – October 2008
- PSDMAX – October 2008
- Checking Account – October 2008
- PLGIT Account – October 2008
- Investment Accounts & Investment Schedule – October 2008
- Payroll Account – October 2008
- Tax Account – October 2008

Activity Accounts

- Elementary Activity – October 2008
- 7th Grade Activity – October 2008
- 8th Grade Activity – October 2008
- High School Activity – October 2008
- Athletic Account – October 2008

Bond Funds

- Note of 2003 – October 2008
- Note of 2004 – October 2008

Other Funds

- Capital Reserve Fund & Investment Schedule – October 2008
- Debt Service Fund – October 2008
- Reservation of Funds (Natatorium, Insurance, Retirement) – October 2008

Cafeteria Fund

- Cafeteria Money Market – October 2008
- Cafeteria Checking Account – October 2008
- Cafeteria PSDLAF Account – October 2008
- Investment Account – October 2008

J. The Board approved the **Cafeteria Listing** of Bills:
October

Check No. 8401 – 8485 \$ 360,091.29

K. The Board approved the following **exonerations** from the per capita tax for the 2008-2009 school year:

Limerick Township	30 - 33
Royersford Borough	79 - 88
Spring City Borough	23 - 32
Upper Providence Township	57 – 72

L. The Board approved the following **Use of Facilities Permits** for the 2008-2009 school year:

Permit No. 2427 – 2496

VI. PROPERTY

Mr. Pettit asked that Item D be separated. Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved C & C Landscaping, Inc. to provide Snow Plowing Services for the School District, on an as needed basis. The cost is the same as last year at \$58.00 per hour, per truck. Funding will be paid from the 2008-2009 General Fund Maintenance Budget.
- B. The Board approved awarding the contract for the installation of the Capacitor Bank at the 9th Grade Center to G A Vietri Inc. in the amount of \$38,065.00 pending review of all paperwork and rejecting all other bids. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account.
- C. The Board approved an **ADD Change Order FP-1** (New Administration Building Project – TMI Commercial Inc. Mechanical Contractor) in the amount of \$7,066.39 for changes required to meet the codes of the local municipality not originally shown on the bid documents.

Mr. Weber asked that Item D be changed to reflect only the HS9 Field as this was the only field discussed. The wording was changed to remove HS8 from the motion.

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve Item D and Mr. Grispon seconded it.

Mr. Masciandaro asked if this Item is the same as what was discussed a long time ago when the original proposal for four fields was cut down to two, one of which is Coach McNelly Stadium which has been completed. Mr. Masciandaro asked if this is the remaining field to be completed. Mr. Weber said that is correct, this is for one field only. Mr. Masciandaro said he thought we already hired Mr. Parks to do this and he was already paid to do this.

Mr. Morgan said he believes this motion is for Chester Valley Engineering and because we turned the field it involved additional drainage be included into the design. Mr. Morgan reported that by turning the field we are maximizing it so we will be able to get 8 practice fields for the physical education classes to use.

Mr. Dehnert asked if by turning the field we are eliminating HS 8. Mr. Weber said that was correct we will not have two fields but rather one full size field.

Mr. Cooper said in the original plan the field would not have sat properly and if you ever wanted to add bleachers you would not be able to. The field was rotated so that it could be used down the road if the school district continues to grow. We can now add bleachers, coaching areas, walking paths which will make the field handicap accessible, and more physical education classes can now take advantage of the field. Mr. Cooper said the new field design requires additional underground drainage for township approval and the motion below reflects the costs associated with this.

Mr. Masciandaro asked what this does to overall cost of the field with regards to the original estimates for Field 8 and 9 separately. Mr. Cooper responded the

original estimate for Field 9 which had an alternate bid for lights was a range of \$1.6 million - \$1.8 million. Mr. Parks is stating that this new design will still be in that original budget and if lights are not installed then it will be around \$500,000 less. Mrs. Mullin asked if we have township approval for the lights and Mr. Cooper replied yes. Mr. Masciandaro commented that he will vote for this but his has concerns about doing a project such as this due to the economic times. Mr. Masciandaro said he will be seeking out the opinions of the public regarding this project.

Mr. Dehnert said this motion is just to finish the drawings so we would own them as opposed to having the money we have already spent go to waste.

Mrs. Williams asked how long the drawings and numbers are good for and Mr. Cooper answered that the building permit is good for one year and as long as the turf specifications do not change and the turf is available then the design should be good indefinitely. Mrs. Williams asked Mr. McDaniel to explain the need for the field and how the field will benefit the Physical Education Department. Mr. McDaniel explained that there will be the capability of laying out 8 smaller fields that up to 120 students would be able to use at one time so we will be getting the maximum usage out of this field during the day. The band will be able to use it for practice as will the athletic teams and the community.

Mr. Grispon said he feels we should move forward and at least bid this project basically because it is a down economy and we may be able to get it cheaper now rather than later. Mr. Grispon stated if the bids come in significantly under the estimate then we should accept the bids if we intend on doing the project in the next five years but if we are not moving forward with the project then we just do not accept the bids.

Mr. Masciandaro pointed out that once we bid the project then the contractor gets a percentage of it so we should on bid if we are serious about the project. Mr. Masciandaro asked if we are predisposed to using TigerTurf on the field. Mr. Cooper responded that it would be an open bid on the turf which is the exact same way as before; the district would then go with the vendor who gives us the best price.

Mr. Pettit commented that generally and globally speaking he is opposed to artificial turf given the economic climate and uncertainties that we are all facing. Mr. Pettit said he feels it is crazy to be spending this kind of money on artificial turf when we have a school district to run, costs that are mounting and we are not sure what the economic future is going to hold for us. Mr. Pettit suggested putting a hold on this type of expenditure rather than directing it to the academic side

The motion passed 7-2 with Mrs. Mullin and Mr. Pettit voting no.

- D. The Board approved contracting with both Stephen Parks and Associates and Chester Valley Engineering for the completion of the design specifications for synthetic turf at HS-9 fields. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Account and shall not exceed \$13,000.00.

Other speakers included David Shreve of the National Conference of State Legislatures, who described how special education is funded nationwide. He indicated that there has been an increase in identifying special needs students and expenditures. He also suggested that advances in medical technology, increased healthcare costs and unintended consequences of standards-based reforms have accounted for the increase. Shreve stated that the federal-appropriated share never provided more than 18% of the excess cost of special needs funding. Shreve identified four major approaches for funding special education and also provided strengths and weaknesses for each formula.

Highlights of the fee schedule set by the state Office of Open Records for copies of public records; the fee schedule takes effect with the new state Right-to-Know Law on Jan. 1:

Photocopies of standard-sized records: 10 cents to 25 cents per page. No fee may be charged for analyzing whether a record is covered by the law, or for searching for or retrieving the document.

Redaction: Agencies cannot charge for redacting, or blacking out, nonpublic information in a public document, but may charge for making copies of the redacted material for viewing by the requester.

IX. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items A-M and Mr. Morgan seconded it. Mr. Masciandaro commented that the list looks smaller than normal and he wondered if this is a result of us trying to make it smaller. Dr. Hurda replied that in light of economy all our building principals have taken a real hard look at conferences before submitting them for approval. Dr. Hurda said most of the conferences are required for special education and a couple are required as part of grants that we have received. Dr. Hurda said Mr. McDaniel has created a plan for sending his coaches to any type of conference or training so that we have a limited amount each season. Mr. Masciandaro thanked Dr. Hurda for her efforts and asked her to please continue them. Mrs. Williams asked if it was correct that conferences are less than \$60,000 on a \$118 million dollar budget per year. Dr. Hurda responded that we budget about \$60,000 for all of our employees to attend conferences which we keep track of and this represents .05% of our total budget. Dr. Hurda said salaries and benefits are about 75% of the budget, debt service is about 12% so this does not give us much wiggle room in the budget and that does not include any unexpected expenses we get in the area of special education. Dr. Hurda commented that she feels it is good for the public to know that in a school district budget there are very little discretionary funds.

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

DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Marsha R. Hurda**, Superintendent, to attend *"PSBA Web Conference: "Fiscal Meltdown 101: Guiding Your District"* on Tuesday, November 18, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$119.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.
- B. **Timothy Anspach**, Business Manager, and **Shirley Rhoads**, Assistant Business Manager, to attend *"PASBO 2009 Conference"* in Valley Forge, PA from Tuesday, March 31 through Friday, April 3, 2009. The total cost for this conference is \$1,317.00 from the 580 account. No substitutes are needed.
- C. **Kathleen Parker**, Director of Food Services, and **Debra Cavello**, Clerical Assistant Food Services, to attend *"5th Annual USDA Commodity Processing Food Show"* in Harrisburg, PA on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. There is no cost for this conference other than \$60.00 from the 580 account for mileage. No substitutes are needed.
- D. **Gloria Moyer**, Coordinator of Transportation, to attend *"How to Handle Conflict and Confrontation"* at the Hilton in Allentown, PA on Thursday, February 19, 2009. The total cost for this conference is \$274.00 from the 580 account. No substitute is needed.

HIGH SCHOOL

- E. **Mary C. Palladino**, Math Department Chairperson, to attend *"Checking for Understanding with Fisher & Frey"* at the Westover Country Club on Thursday, December 11, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$222.50 - \$160.00 from the 580 account and \$62.50 from the substitute account.
- F. **Stacey Bogus**, **Adrian Frain**, and **Laura DiBattista**, Teachers, to attend *"Teaching US History"* at the MCIU and Valley Forge Park on December 5-6, 2008, March 31-April 1, 2009, June 23-27, 2009. The only cost for this conference is \$300.00 for mileage; all other expenses including substitutes will be paid by the Teaching American History Grant.
- G. **Michael McDaniel**, Director of Athletics, to attend *"Pennsylvania State Athletic Director's Association Conference"* in Hershey, PA on from Tuesday, March 24 through Saturday, March 28, 2009. The total cost of this conference is \$1,011.00 from the 2008-2009 Athletic Budget. No substitute is needed.
- H. **Desiree Keppler**, Teacher, to attend *"Secondary Transition & The Standards – Aligned System: Making Connections"* at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. The total cost of this conference is \$152.55 - \$27.55 from the 2008-2009 Special Education Budget and \$125.00 from the substitute account.

- I. **Kevin Donnelly**, Head Lacrosse Coach, to attend “*U.S. Lacrosse National Convention*” in Baltimore, MD from Friday, January 16 through Sunday, January 18, 2009. The total cost for this convention is \$559.00 from the 2008-2009 Athletic Budget. No substitute is needed.
- J. **Danielle Stauffer**, Cross-Country Winter/Spring Track Coach, to attend “*U.S. All-Star Track & Field and Cross-Country Clinic*” in Atlantic City, NJ on Thursday, December 11 and Friday, December 12, 2008. The total cost of this clinic is \$560.00 - \$310.00 from the 2008-2009 Athletic Budget and \$250.00 from the substitute account.
- K. **Margaret Castellano, Jennifer Farischon, Lisa Pupo, Julie Quinby, and Jaclyn Ritter**, Teachers, to attend “*CDWG Open Box Course for CFF*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on a date to be determined by the MCIU (Date will be sometime after the Spring-Ford installation scheduled for 12/8 & 12/9). The total cost for this training is \$752.00 - \$127.00 for mileage from the 580 account and \$625.00 from the substitute account.

LIMERICK

- L. **Jessica Meclarey and Jan Pymer**, Teachers, to attend “*Addressing Social and Communication Skills for Students on the Spectrum*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. The total cost for this conference is \$305.00 - \$55.00 from the Special Education Budget and \$250.00 from the substitute account.

ROYERSFORD

- M. **Jessica Hobbs**, Psychologist, to attend “*Pennsylvania Promotes Best Practices in School Psychology: Data – Where to Find it, How to Use it*” at PaTTAN in King of Prussia, PA on Tuesday, November 25, 2008. There is no cost for this conference. No substitute is needed.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Weber asked that Item A be separated. Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve item A and Mr. Grispon seconded it.

Mr. Weber asked how many students are going and how many are eligible to go. Dr. Hurda said we will not know the exact numbers until the trip is approved and we begin the process but she can supply the Board with the information from last year in their Friday packet this week.

The motion passed 9-0.

A. The following field trip was approved:

- 1. Yvonne O’Dea and Emily Murphy, Directors of the High School Music Groups to take the Spring-Ford High School Concert Vocal Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Women’s and Men’s Choirs, and String Orchestra participants on a **three day competition to**

“Fiesta-Val” Competition in Myrtle Beach, SC from Thursday, April 16 through Sunday, April 18, 2009. The music department will be traveling by chartered bus and staying in a hotel in Myrtle Beach. The music department will compete against schools from all over the United States. The cost of the trip shall not exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per person. The Spring-Ford Music Association will provide four fundraisers throughout the school year for the students to earn money towards the expenses of the trip.

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Item B and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

B. The following policies were approved:

1. Policy #113.1 – PROGRAMS: Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities
2. Policy #438.1 – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES: Compensated Professional Development Leaves
3. Policy #610 – FINANCES: Purchases Subject to Bid

New Other Business:

Mrs. Mullin made a motion to approve Items C-D and Mr. Morgan seconded it.

Dr. Hurda announced that the Spring-Ford High School Golden Ram Marching Band has once again won the State Championship. This is a very unique experience for a band to win it three times in a row. The band, as we speak, is getting ready to go and march in the parade in Hollywood, California. We will be recognizing them at a January Board meeting.

Dr. Hurda reported that two students, John Lee and Shantel Wetzel, participated in the 2008 Special Olympics and won first place in their events. We will be recognizing them next week at the December Board meeting.

The motion passed 9-0.

- C. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-26** recognizing the Spring-Ford High School “Golden Ram” Marching Band for winning the 2008 Cavalcade of Bands Association “Yankee Class” Open and State Championship in Hershey, PA on November 9, 2008 and successfully defending their 2007 Tournament of Bands Atlantic Coast Group IV State and Regional Championship Title in Allentown, PA on November 15, 2008.
- D. The Board approved **Resolution #2008-27** recognizing John Lee and Shantel Wetzel for their accomplishments while participating in the 2008 Special Olympics Pennsylvania Fall Festival held from November 7- 9, 2008 at Villanova University.

XI. SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Davis commented on the new Open Records Act saying he does not believe we have to a policy in place by January 1, 2009 when the act becomes effective. Mr. Davis said it is advisable to have a policy in place that will appropriately address the act as soon as we can but one thing we must by January 1st is to appoint someone in charge of responding to those record requests. Dr. Hurda said she act as the person responsible for taking the request and then she will direct the request to the appropriate department.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

There were no questions or comments.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Weber made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Williams seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary