

On January 17, 2017 the Work Session 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:	Dr. Edward T. Dressler and Bernard F. Pettit
Region II:	Dawn R. Heine and Colleen Zasowski
Region III:	Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello
Presiding Officer:	Joseph P. Ciresi
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Daniel J. Ciresi and Taylor Stevens

The following Board Members were absent: **Kelly J. Spletzer** and **Todd R. Wolf**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Danny wished all students good luck on their mid-term exams which begin this Thursday and run through Tuesday of next week. Danny stated that it is a stressful week for students.

Mr. Ciresi congratulated Mrs. Fern on becoming a grandmother and also wished Mr. Pettit a happy birthday.

Mr. Ciresi commented that recently in the SoundOff section of the paper it was stated that it was a shame that we do not hold holiday concerts and Mr. Ciresi said this is once again someone just calling in to cause controversy because if anyone knows Spring-Ford they know we hold holiday concerts. Mr. Ciresi said it is unfortunate that anyone can call and say anything they want without it being verified and that they do this on purpose to make the district look bad. Mr. Ciresi clarified that there are definitely concerts being held throughout the district around the holiday time and he asked that when something like this is called into the paper that it be verified before it gets printed. Mr. Ciresi reported that at the last meeting there was discussion to invite our state representatives to the board meeting tonight and he advised that this had been done. Mr. Ciresi commented that all of our local state representatives declined the invitation without giving a reason why or offering another date. He stated that he wanted the public to be aware that the invitation letter had been sent and the invite was declined. Mr. Ciresi advised that there are a lot of people in the district who do things without ever being mentioned or honored for it and he wanted to bring up one person in particular who had just passed away. Mr. Ciresi spoke about Judy Ward, a resident of Royersford, and had 7 children go through the district. Mr. Ciresi stated that Judy Ward was a big part of the beginning discussions on the Ireland Exchange Program and helped raise money to bring the first principals from Ireland here. Mr. Ciresi added that Mrs. Ward should be acknowledged for her efforts in starting this program. Mr. Ciresi asked the Educational Foundation and the Board to consider putting together an award in the future for those people who do stuff in the district and who never ask for credit and do it for the betterment of our children and the community. Mr. Ciresi suggested a

"Volunteer of the Year Award". He suggested that possibly this could be discussed at a future Community Relations Committee meeting.

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

**Sharon Romer, Royersford Borough Tax Collector**, spoke about the resolution on the agenda with regards to establishing the tax collectors compensation starting in the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Romer questioned the attachment to the resolution stating that it was an old resolution and not the more recent one that had been approved 4 years ago which reflected a flat base for each of the 4 tax collectors of \$9,000. Mrs. Romer stated that Royersford Borough and Spring City Borough are small municipalities while Upper Providence and Limerick are very large. She commented that she felt Royersford and Spring City were being discriminated or punished in some way as her compensation will go from \$9,000 plus .80 cents per bill down to a little bit over \$3,000. Mrs. Romer stated that all of the tax collectors are very dedicated in their job and do not just collect taxes from July to December as they collect them all year round. She expressed that she is very upset over this and that she has been a tax collector since July 2001. She stated that she is not sure that those who collect taxes would want to do it for \$3,000. She next asked what the district's expectations were of them and if it was to just collect taxes and forward the calls, letter and emails to the school district if they are only going to pay per bill. Mrs. Romer added that they do way more than just collect taxes and she spoke of the accommodations that she makes for her customers. Mrs. Romer pointed out that the district has never had an issue with her submitting her stuff on time. Mr. Ciresi stated that this issue will be discussed when the Board gets to the Finance section of the meeting. Mrs. Romer commented that she is truly dedicated to the residents of Royersford Borough and that she is not just a tax collector but also a friend.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that it may need to be noted for the record that the resolution is brought tonight by statute and at this point we must approve a resolution by February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year to be effective on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018 as per the directive of state law. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the adjustment in rate is based in part on the discontinuation of the per capita tax which occurred about a year and a half ago. Mrs. Romer pointed out that she still collects per capita taxes for Royersford Borough.

Mr. Dehnert asked if we were not changing anything if there would still be a need for a resolution and Mr. Fitzgerald replied yes.

Discussion took place on the attachment of resolution 97-1 as opposed to 2013-05 which was deemed to be a clerical error.

**II. PRESENTATION**

Dr. Goodin presented a PowerPoint which provided an update on the "State of the Spring-Ford School District". He spoke about the district's vision statement and mission statement. He talked about all of the recent highlights the district is proud of. Dr. Goodin presented the enrollment numbers including the special education population. He spoke about the revenue and expenditures. Dr. Goodin discussed the many programs various programs available to students in the district. He next broke down the per pupil cost for regular education students and special education students. Dr. Goodin spoke about the curriculum and instruction highlights along with the addition of 2 curriculum supervisors and 4 instructional coaches. He next provided an update on STEAM Education taking place at all grade levels as well as the district-wide Modernized Learning initiative. Dr. Goodin highlighted the Communications Department and spoke of the various ways Ms. Erin Crew, Manager of Communications and Marketing, and Mr. Steven Bonetz, Manager of Communications Media and Audio/Visual

Specialist, use to keep the parents and community informed on all of the district happenings. He advised that the district Facebook page has 4455 followers, 2047 followers on Twitter and 346 Instagram followers. Dr. Goodin also spoke of the many wide and diverse extra-curricular activities available to students. He provided an overview of the district's many facilities which are kept in excellent condition. Dr. Goodin concluded his presentation with a recap of the highlights from each building and stated that each building has a unique climate and culture while providing programs that are educationally relevant, focused on achievement and growth and place a priority on people.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Dr. Goodin for his presentation and stated that when you look at the district, all of the accomplishments, the number of classes offered and all that we have going on here there is a lot taking place.

Mr. DiBello stated that he is extremely proud of Spring-Ford, the administration and the staff as the successes we are seeing here are directly related to them as well as Dr. Goodin. Mr. DiBello commented that Spring-Ford has come a long way in the last few years with national recognition and high rankings nationally and in the state. He stated that Spring-Ford is performing as one of the top school districts in Pennsylvania and we have seen our advancement in the Newsweek rankings as well. Mr. DiBello stated that Dr. Goodin spent a lot of time talking about the successes but he read in the Mercury that the district had a lot of failed programs and he asked Dr. Goodin to comment on these failed programs. Dr. Goodin replied that he was not aware of any that would be classified as a failed program and Mr. DiBello stated that neither was he and he finds it frustrating to see this propaganda. Mr. DiBello again expressed his pride in the district, the staff and the administration saying that they are all doing an extremely great job here and deserve the recognition they are receiving.

Mrs. Zasowski added that sometimes they do not realize how many wonderful things Spring-Ford is doing and when you put a picture together like that it is good for them all to see the many, many accomplishments that Spring-Ford has. Mrs. Zasowski stated that this is all a credit to the teachers, the staff and everyone that implements these wonderful programs for our students. Mrs. Zasowski commented that sometimes without the picture that Dr. Goodin just created you get stuck in the mundane and going from day to day not really and truly recognizing the accomplishments. She thanked Dr. Goodin for putting this together for them.

Mr. Ciresi thanked Dr. Goodin for the time and energy he put into this presentation and stated that he wished the three state representatives were here tonight to hear the presentation so they could get a much better understanding of our district so that they take us as a point of pride when they speak about us on the floor of the House of Representatives, to their colleagues around the state and to the governor.

A. **Dr. David R. Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, to present the "State of the Spring-Ford Area School District".

### III. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Student Rep. Report**  
Report Next Week

**Daniel Ciresi/Taylor Stevens**

**Curriculum/Technology Dawn Heine**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 6:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Heine reported that the Curriculum & Technology Committee met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and began the meeting with the good news that the Spring-Ford Family Tech Nigh is scheduled for January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Hurda Learning Center with 120 families scheduled thus far to attend. On the curriculum side there was a discussion on class rank with regards to a proposal of possibly eliminating it as it was felt that it was placing our students at a disadvantage. Mrs. Heine stated that information on this discussion was shared in the weekly Board packet and the committee is recommending that a task force be formed to further investigate this issue. The task force would include students, parents, teachers, administrators and school board members. The task force will conduct meetings and discussions to determine if class rank is best suited for Spring-Ford. Mrs. Heine reported that information from the task force would be shared at the Curriculum and Technology meeting and reviewed by the Board to make a final decision. She added that elimination, if so warranted, would be done in a phased approach. The committee also received a STEAM update, a math/science update, and an ELA update. Mrs. Heine reported that there is a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies resource that will be on the February Board agenda for approval. She added that Mrs. Bast and her team will also be looking at the feasibility of bringing the high school government books and level 4 world language resources forward in March or April. Mrs. Heine reported that on the Technology side they received an update on the Smartboard refresh. It was also reported that students in grades 7-12 will have email capability through Office 365. Students in grades 7 and 8 will have faculty only email. Students in grades 9-12 will have faculty email as well as the capability to email students within grades 9-12. Mrs. Heine advised that an additional benefit of opening email to students will be that all staff and students of Spring-Ford will have the ability to use a full version of Office 365 on laptops and/or mobile devices at no cost. This benefit will be extended K-12. The committee also received a security camera project update, a telephone system project update and a network project update. Mrs. Heine reported that the committee spoke about the plans for next year for the continuation of the modernized learning initiative at the high school. Mrs. Heine stated that Mrs. Bast has plans to spend a full day at Spring City Elementary and Royersford Elementary Schools to observe the Hybrid Learning Programs taking place there, offer support, answer questions and gather feedback.

Mr. DiBello asked about the phone system and whether this was already worked into the budget as he thought it was planned out for 3 years. Mr. Fink replied yes that money had been put aside last year and again this year and continuing forward for this. Mr. DiBello added that his understanding is the money was to be taken out of the Capital Reserve to put the phone system in and then the money budgeted would be used to replenish the Capital Reserve and Mr. Fink confirmed this was correct. Mr. DiBello asked about Mrs. Heine's report that the WhiteBoard and Camera Proposal would go to the Leadership Team and then the Board and he asked if the proposal would not go to the Finance Committee first. Mrs. Heine responded that the proposal would go to the Leadership Team first and then to the Finance Committee as well. Mr. DiBello asked for additional information on the security cameras Mrs. Heine reported on. Mrs. Heine advised that this was being done as a result of the security analysis that was done 3 years ago and since then cameras have been refreshed in separate phases. She stated that Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been completed and this is for Phase 3.

Mr. Ciresi asked about the SmartBoards saying that one of our policies states that if a home and school organization gives us a gift of higher value items such as playground equipment that there is a percentage that goes into a fund to maintain it or replace it in the future, he asked if there was any money in a fund to replace some of the SmartBoards at the elementary level. Mr. Fink responded that the additional money put in is to maintain the equipment not necessarily to replace it. Mrs. Heine stated that she had asked Mr. Webb the same question and was advised that the money is strictly for maintenance not for replacement especially with

the number of boards we have throughout the district. Mr. Ciresi asked if we have ever accessed the money for maintenance and Mr. Fink said from time to time for basic repairs as nothing terribly serious has happened to any of them.

Mrs. Zasowski commented on the committee's discussion about class rank saying that from the literature she has read there seems to be mixed feelings as to whether it is a good decision to drop the rank or to keep the rank. Mrs. Zasowski asked if these same discussions are taking place in the curriculum meetings and are there mixed feelings about doing this as well as an understanding that it may limit some students ability to apply to certain schools or for certain scholarships. Mrs. Heine stated that the decision is not being made strictly at the curriculum meeting but rather what is being recommended is to move forward with forming the task force to investigate it further. Mrs. Heine reported that at their meeting Dr. Nugent informed them that they did reach out to West Point who does use class rank as a requirement for admission and were advised that if Spring-Ford does not have class rank then they would utilize test scores as an indicator for admission. Mrs. Heine reiterated that this is all discussion at this point and there are no decisions being made. Discussions are on whether the elimination would be feasible to move forward with and in doing so they have also discussed the idea of keeping the class rank number but keeping it under wraps so that for those schools that have specific requirements it would be in a sealed envelope. Mrs. Heine advised that this is all preliminary discussion and an example provided to them was one of two students who applied for the same scholarship and for one student a class rank was put on the application and on the other it was not. Mrs. Heine noted that the student's application with the class rank was disqualified when in actuality they had a higher class rank than the other student. Mrs. Heine added that the counselor had an opportunity to resubmit the application and when it was done without the class rank the student was then awarded the scholarship. Mrs. Heine stated that this is a topic that is taking place at many schools as well and yes the data is very mixed. Mrs. Heine commented that this is the purpose for developing a task force so that they can bring various people such as parents, students, administrators and board members together to determine if this is something we want to pursue.

Dr. Dressler commented that the problem is that there are so many high achieving students at Spring-Ford as evidenced at the awards ceremonies that take place. He added that you could potentially have a straight "A" student being ranked at 125 and be penalized in competition with a student in another school where their grades may not be as good but their ranking may be higher. Dr. Dressler stated that we are trying to avoid those students who may be high achieving but have a lower ranking being penalized. Dr. Dressler stated that it is a complicated issue no doubt but one that needs to be looked at. He indicated that he has done a survey of local schools and most of the ones he looked at do not look at ranking but rather grades. He added that the task force will need to work very hard to come up with a reasonable criteria for deciding on whether to keep it or do away with it.

Mr. Pettit asked if we surveyed the college admission offices to see which ones require ranking and which ones do not. Mrs. Heine replied that the statistics were not readily available and this is one of the reasons why she suggested including the college and career coordinators in the discussions especially since both of our coordinators have previously worked in the offices of college admissions. Mr. Pettit stated that he felt it would be very helpful to know this in advance of any of our students applying anywhere.

Danny spoke from his personal experience having gone through the college application process this year and said that he would list his class rank but include the number of students in his class. He did not feel that this hindered his application process in any way since colleges were able to see what his ranking was in relation to having 600 kids in his senior class. Danny felt

that omitting the class ranking would hinder the chances of the valedictorian, the salutatorian, and the top ten in the class as the ranking would not show that they achieved this in a class numbering 600. Danny stated that he understood that this was a debatable topic. He commented that he personally feels that class rank is something you should be proud of as in this big of a school and high ranking school to be ranked in the top 20% or 50% of the class is something to take pride in. Dr. Dressler commented that this is the reason why they want to have a task force that includes students, teachers, administrators, parents and board members so that they can get all perspectives on this.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he agreed with Danny that competition is healthy as well as being proud of a high ranking. He commented that if we know what schools don't require it then we don't submit the ranking to that school. Mr. Dehnert expressed that he felt it was a mistake by colleges to eliminate a lot of the measures that make it very subjective as to who gets into their schools and he feels this is part of the dumbing down of America.

Mr. DiBello commented that this has been going on for the past couple of years and is one of those questions that will be debated for years. Mr. DiBello stated that he is in agreement with Mr. Dehnert that he does not support with fully doing away with the competitive levels as he thinks that this is happening too much across the board the way it is. Mr. DiBello stated that he believes before we engage a task force there are a lot of unanswered questions that we need to do the research on. He added that we need to understand and get the information as far as having a sampling on what schools require. He suggested that one reason students may be impacted by their class rank is because they are not properly listing the number of students in their class. Mr. DiBello felt that once they have all of this information that they could consider possibly setting up a task force.

Mrs. Zasowski stated that the competition piece is a grey area because there are some advantages to removing it or having it in a sealed envelope. Mrs. Zasowski felt that those students who really wanted to know their class rank could find a way to obtain this information and the ones who want to know are those students who have worked so hard to earn it and earned the right to know where they rank. Mrs. Zasowski did not feel that this right should be taken away from those students. Mrs. Zasowski suggested that possibly the task force could do some of what Mr. DiBello was saying and Mrs. Heine responded that this is part of what the goal is which is to gather that information and provide it to everyone.

Mr. Ciresi said that he agrees with Mr. DiBello and Mr. Dehnert on this as he is not a fan of removing class rank either and as Danny stated the students are competitive with this and work to try and get ahead of other students. Mr. Ciresi stated that this discussion is not new to Spring-Ford as when Skyward came out there was a complete debate on whether class rank should be in Skyward. Mr. Ciresi said it was argued back then to have the number in Skyward against the administration who wanted to take the number out. Mr. Ciresi added that he thinks we look into things a little too much as if a college does not want class rank then do not put it on the application and if a college does not understand that we come from a district of 600 in a class and another kid came from a district of 200 and their kid is ranked higher then maybe you should be looking at another college. Mr. Ciresi commented that he would rather not spend the time of our administration, our district, our teachers and our residents to talk about a subject that is pretty simple which is to say leave class rank here and if they don't want it put on a college application then don't put it down. Mr. Ciresi said he would rather look at a task force to spend the time to figure out how we can become more stringent, add more rigor to our curriculum, make sure our

kids are getting into the colleges they want to get into and get the scholarships they want to get because of the rigor of the education and not class rank.

Dr. Dressler spoke about schools such as Penn State where you have thousands of applicants and where the cutting off of certain levels can eliminate a lot of very exceptional students. Dr. Dressler cautioned that you must also take a look at there being a lot of higher ranking high schools in this region who are doing away with class rank and you must ask yourself why they are doing that. Dr. Dressler said there are issues to be looked at and to say we are just wasting our time is inappropriate.

Mr. DiBello commented that he does not want to give the impression that he is saying it is a waste of time but what he is recommending is that before moving forward with going with a task force that there is a lot of information that administration and the Future Planning Center should gather so that we are talking with specifics and not a "what if" scenario. Mr. DiBello stated that we need to get a sampling of what schools require what and a comparison of the larger universities compared to the smaller universities. He added that a good thing is that our students in the last couple of years are being accepted widely across the country which again is something for us to be proud of. Mr. DiBello said all he is recommending is that before we go to a task force step we get the details around what the requirements of the universities are and what they are asking for.

Mr. Ciresi stated that he does not disagree but feels that we need to get the sampling from colleges on what they are looking for. He reiterated that he feels we may be better off to take a task force and look into what we should be doing elsewhere curriculum wise. Mr. Ciresi questioned what the problem would be with having class rank listed in the Skyward System but it not going anywhere and us keeping it internally.

Dr. Roche advised that applications ask about class rank and if you don't have it or do have it then you cannot hide that information. Dr. Roche added that you cannot have it both ways as if they ask you then you have to be forthright and honest with it. Mr. Ciresi said he would like to hear from a college that asks for class rank and if you don't have it then what do they do. Mrs. Heine responded that they do utilize test scores and this is why even a lot of the local private schools do not have class rank. Mr. Ciresi commented that it was a moot point then. Mrs. Heine replied that as Dr. Roche indicated if you have it then you must disclose it. Mr. Ciresi gave the example of two students both having GPA's of 98.6 and one student has a class rank and the other does not then what do they do? Mrs. Heine responded that they can use that class rank as a first eliminator if an applicant of the same criteria does not have a class rank. Mr. Ciresi felt that this was a really poor way to go about it as he did not think this was fair.

Dr. Dressler commented that they are not going to resolve this question at this board meeting as this is all things that the task force must look at and this arguing back and forth could be equated to the discussions on the fitness center.

Mrs. Zasowski said she believes the board is turning this around in terms of do we want class rank or do we not. She stated that if we have it then it must be disclosed when asked for on a college application. Mrs. Zasowski added that there are advantages to having it and advantages to not having it and this is what the group needs to decide. Mrs. Zasowski said the question is if we don't want it anymore then what are the repercussions of that. Mrs. Heine responded that this is what needs to be reviewed as well as what is best for the students as they must have everything they need in order to be able to succeed.

Danny asked if they were to do away with class rank would you also be eliminating the valedictorian and the salutatorian and Mrs. Heine replied no they would still be honored as being the top in their class.

Mr. DiBello stated that there is a lot of work to be done for a recommendation to come back to the board before we go to a task force. Mr. DiBello commented that the reason he keeps going down this road is because two years ago they did a task force to look at the utilization of technology in the classroom with curriculum as part of Project Lead the Way and rolling out the STEM Program. Mr. DiBello advised in going to these meetings there were a lot of parents, students, teachers and administration that were invited and the first meeting was well attended, the second was a bit smaller and each meeting thereafter got smaller and smaller. Mr. DiBello stated that this is why he is recommending that a lot of work be done before you engage a task force because you won't get a big involvement out of that group based on past history of what we have seen with task forces here at Spring-Ford. Mr. DiBello added that personally he does not necessarily agree with doing away with class rank but he is willing to listen to get the facts and more detail. He stated that he believes a lot of work needs to happen before we go to a task force.

Mr. Ciresi asked that they go back and look at the minutes from 2004, 2005 or 2006 as he believes it was Mr. Rocchio at that time who spoke about class rank and the change to the distinguished honors ranking because one of the arguments was that we had too many distinguished honor students and it needed to be made more exclusive. Mr. Ciresi said there were class ranking discussions in those meeting minutes. Mr. Ciresi suggested that this information be brought back to curriculum and then to the Board before going to a task force. Mr. Ciresi stated that his opinion is that it should stay but he is willing to listen to anything. Mr. Ciresi cautioned jumping to anything and spending hours on what to do with ranking as opposed to what we should do with programs to add to the district to make it more rigorous for our students.

Dr. Goodin asked for clarification saying his understand is that they are not going to do a task force yet but rather administration was going to look at the issue and some of the variables involved and then come back to the committee. Mr. Ciresi confirmed this was correct.

## **Finance**

**Tom DiBello**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. DiBello reported that the Finance Committee met on January 10<sup>th</sup> and as usual began by reviewing the monthly reports and at this point in the school year the financials are progressing in accordance with the plan with assessments trending a little higher than expected, charter school and cyber schools trending as expected and food services is showing an improvement in participation and is running ahead of what was budgeted. The committee also discussed two assessment appeal settlements. Mr. DiBello advised that at this time of year the district normally evaluates where our banking is done and the fees charged for services. He added that Business Office is doing their due diligence to determine where it is best to have the district accounts and if a change is made there will be a recommendation for Board approval. Mr. DiBello reported that the committee did have a budget update and were advised that the budget books have gone out to the individual buildings and we are basically into a number crunching and will basically be looking at a February timeframe to really start driving deep into the budget. He noted that there is approximately a \$4 million deficit that will need to be worked through. Mr. DiBello reported that the committee looked at what is happening at the state level with regards to the budget and he reminded everyone that as the state was in the process of finishing up last year's budget there was roughly a \$1.4 billion deficit that was built into the budget and there are probably expected changes that will occur as the last reports



indicate that they have not been making up any of the shortfall. Mr. DiBello advised that at the Finance Committee they reported that in the 2015-2016 school year and the 2016-2017 school year both years Spring-Ford did get a slight bump in basic education funding. He added that in 15-16 Spring-Ford received approximately \$300,000 and in 16-17 we received approximately \$400,000. Mr. DiBello advised that what we do not see when there is all this excitement over increased funding coming from the state is that there is no talk of an increase in PSERS. Mr. DiBello reported that in those same years of 15-16 and 16-17 the PSERS increase was about \$1.3 million and \$1.2 million for those periods. Mr. DiBello added that there is a projected PSERS percentage that we have to contribute on top of what we are required to pay in for that year and quietly the state increases the percentage and this usually occurs right after we get the additional funding from the state. Mr. DiBello reported that in 15-16 the PSERS percentage was increased by .34% which equates to a little over \$200,000 back to the state in addition to what was already projected and in 16-17 it was increased by .53% which equates to \$330,000. Mr. DiBello stated that he is pointing all of this out because when you see that we are getting \$300,000 and \$400,000 more and if you total those you believe we are getting about \$700,000 from the state in the last two years minus the just over \$400,000 that was the PSERS increase you can see that you really didn't get much of an increase in the basic education funding. Mr. DiBello stated that at the last couple of meetings he has suggested and he would like to see the Board agree to move forward and start the planning for a town hall meeting in March to discuss the high school expansions. Mr. DiBello stated that he believes it is important that they provide the community the opportunity to come out and listen to what is going on, hear what is fact and what is fiction and ask questions. Mr. DiBello stated that if this meeting takes place he would suggest that the Board have Mr. Fink clearly explain the district's borrowing position, the debt service, how the expansion would be financed and what the impacts could or would be to the community itself. Mr. DiBello reported that the Finance Committee discussed the topic of tax collector compensation as the timeline for this is that it must be in place by February 15<sup>th</sup> so it must be Board approved at the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Mr. DiBello stated that he wanted to make it clear that the only thing put forward so far is a recommendation from the committee to the Board and then the Board will have to decide and give direction so that they can have a resolution in place next week for approval. Mr. DiBello stated that the reason for the change in taxpayer compensation is because the school district did eliminate the per capita tax which means 64% of the district tax bills were eliminated. Mr. DiBello advised that when they looked at the compensation the previously approved \$9,000 base salary for the 4 tax collectors was due to the volume of the per capita tax bills. Mr. DiBello broke down the way the tax collectors were being paid and advised that they were receiving \$.80 per bill and then there were also interim bills and installment bills. Mr. DiBello said the committee looked at the current compensation per tax bill and had determined that when looking at the overall range we were below the average across the county. He advised that the committee is proposing that there be an increase in real estate tax per bill compensation from 80 cents per bill to \$2.00 per bill. Mr. DiBello stated that he felt at the time that this was a reasonable recommendation and they had no intention of penalizing anyone as well as no intention of saying one tax collector is worth more than another. Mr. DiBello stated that he would welcome discussion from the Board on this and that decision needs to be made on it tonight so that the resolution can be prepared and in place for the meeting next week. Mr. DiBello added that the per capita taxes that some tax collectors still process are imposed by the municipalities not the school district so any issues regarding them would have to be taken up with the individual municipality.

Mrs. Romer commented from the audience but her comments could not be heard clearly to be transcribed. Mr. DiBello replied that a recommendation had to be put on the table and they put one out they felt was fair as a recommendation for a starting point.

Mr. Dehnert commented that when he looks at the change for compensation he did not feel that it took into account that there was a fixed amount of work that must be done no matter how many bills they have as there are expenses that tax collectors have. He added that he felt that there should have been some dialogue with the tax collectors before this went into place in order to get their input. Mr. Dehnert stated that if they pay the job too little then the quality of people to do the job will be very poor and then the school district will have a lot of headaches dealing with complaints from the taxpayers. Mr. Dehnert pointed out that when you look at the change in compensation and the information provided you will see that the compensation for Limerick Township and Upper Providence Township goes up a little bit while the compensation for Royersford Borough and Spring City Borough goes down 75% and 66% which is pretty dramatic considering that all 4 municipalities do not have to do per capita tax. Mr. Dehnert stated that if this resolution needed to be done this month then they probably should have started reviewing it earlier and not waited to January to do it. He felt that this was not fair to the two smaller municipalities and felt there should be a more equitable compensation in place for Royersford and Spring City.

Mr. Ciresi stated that he believes the one thing that must be factored in is that the amount of tax bills going out in Upper Providence is 8051 and the number for Royersford is 1608 and the equitability is that everyone is making the same amount of money per bill. He stated that this is nothing against any of the municipalities but rather to even out the playing field with them all getting paid the same amount of money per bill.

Mr. DiBello re-emphasized that prior to the district doing away with the per capita bill every tax collector was getting \$.80 per bill. Mr. DiBello stated that everything prior the district doing away with the per capita tax was figured out based on a per bill and every tax collector was paid the same amount per bill. Mr. DiBello advised that the district cannot pay tax collectors for bills they are not sending out. Mr. DiBello stated that the district is being fair and equitable as we were before to each collector as everyone was getting \$.80 per bill and what is being recommended is increasing it to \$2.00 per bill. Mr. DiBello commented that this is the discussion item and if there is disagreement over raising the rate from \$.80 to \$2.00 then it needs to be discussed. Mr. DiBello added that the discussion on the amount of work being done to collect the taxes should not take place as the school district is not responsible for paying for the work that has to be done but rather paying per tax bill sent as has been done for many, many years. Mr. DiBello stated that if the district wants to hire tax collectors and pay them a salary then that is a whole other conversation but the district did away with the per capita bill which eliminated 64% of the work.

Mr. Dehnert asked why the compensation for Limerick Township and Upper Providence Township went up if they have less work to do and their compensation was increased. Mr. Dehnert questioned why their compensation would not be reduced as well as the other two municipalities. He added that if all 4 of them are doing less work then why would we increase the compensation for two of them.

Mr. DiBello asked where we were increasing the compensation for two of them and Mr. Dehnert stated that he was looking at the information that was provided in the Friday Board packet. Mr. DiBello stated that the total compensation package is based on the bills. Mr. Dehnert stated that the figures given to them in the memo on Friday was that Limerick's estimated compensation was \$16,000 and that goes up to \$17,000, Upper Providence was \$16,800 and goes up to \$17,700 which is an increase. Mr. DiBello replied that everything is based on the per bill. Mr. Dehnert stated that he is talking about the real numbers and Mr. DiBello commented that he was looking at the board memo and the table Mr. Dehnert was looking at and every tax collector is getting the same amount per bill. Mr. DiBello added that of course the Limerick and Upper

Providence compensation will go up a little bit as they have 3 times the amount of bills. Mr. Dehnert stated that they are doing less work than they did before. Mr. Dehnert stated that if the argument is that we have to reduce the compensation for Spring City and Royersford because they are doing less work then the other two municipalities are doing less work too but yet their compensation goes up. Mr. Dehnert and Mr. DiBello disagreed on the compensation and the calculations.

Mr. Fink explained that the arrangement that was done 4 years ago where the per capita tax was included in the model that was used at the time, the total compensation to Limerick was approximately \$23,000 and with the elimination of the per capita tax then what we are saying now is that their compensation would now go down to \$17,000. Mr. Fink stated that if you look at the smallest of the 4 municipalities then Royersford was targeted at \$10,500 and if nothing was done then they would still go to about \$10,500 under the same plan if it was not altered at all. Mr. Fink added that the main reason for this is that the base pay included a certain number of per capita tax bills per municipality of 5,000 which the two smaller ones were always being paid the full amount but not doing the same volume of bill processing.

Mr. DiBello commented that the \$9,000 the district was paying the tax collectors as a base was about 95% of what they would have collected with doing all of the bills. Mr. DiBello stated that every time they did this they did it fair and equitably. He added that to say that we are doing something different for Royersford and Spring City is not accurate as everything is the same as the per bill is the same across the board. Mr. DiBello advised that Limerick has approximately 8,000 bills, Upper Providence has roughly 8,200 bills, Royersford has approximately 1,500 bills and Spring City has roughly 1,100 bills so everything they are doing is based on per bill and that is how the numbers all work out.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he understands the math but for him to sit there and make a recommendation it would be pretty difficult because he would want to discuss with the taxpayers what their expenses are and the work involved so that he can make an estimate of what fair compensation would be. Mr. Dehnert added that he does not have this information so it would just be an arbitrary guess and not based on the actual work they do to be the tax collector of just the property tax bills for the district. Mr. Dehnert suggested that Mr. Fink talk with the tax collectors between now and Monday and come back with what may be a more equitable change in the compensation then this. Mr. Dehnert expressed hope that this could be done before the end of the day on Friday so that the Board could have the information to review before Monday night.

Dr. Dressler suggested that there may be some fixed expenses in running an office like this that is above and beyond this \$2.00 compensation that we are not taking into account here. Mr. Fink noted that the school district does reimburse the tax collectors for their paper cost and all of those types of things too and this is not changing and is written directly into the tax collector compensation policy.

Mr. DiBello stated that in the policy there are a whole slew of expenses that the district reimburses the tax collectors for. Mrs. Rex shouted out from the audience but her comments could not be heard on the tape in order to be transcribed. Mr. Ciresi did respond to her that they were not going to get into a debate over what it costs to run their offices. Mr. Ciresi pointed out that Mrs. Rex should have voiced her concerns during the public comment section of the agenda but because he understood why she was here he would let her come forward and speak now.

Mary Rex, Spring City Tax Collector, commented that she pays \$650.00 for her computer program, she has a printer, a computer and she uses a couple cartridges a year. Mrs. Rex stated that she has never charged the district for these things as the only thing she has

ever charged the district for its stamps. She also stated that the district does not pay for the computer tax program. Mrs. Rex commented that if you subtract this off of the \$2,400 then what does she have. She pointed out that she is at the office all of the time collecting bills. Mrs. Rex advised that she is going to resign and she does not know anyone who would want to do this job ever nor would she recommend it to anybody.

Mrs. Zasowski commented that she agrees with Mr. Dehnert in that it would have been nice to have some conversation with the tax collectors. Mrs. Zasowski advised that the Finance Committee meetings are open meetings and the tax collectors could have gone to those meetings and voiced their opinions and concerns. A comment was yelled out from the tax collectors that this topic was not on the agenda and Mr. Ciresi stated that it was on the agenda. Mr. Dehnert disagreed and said that he looked at the agenda and to his recollection it was not on there. Mr. Fink confirmed that it was on the agenda and Mr. Ciresi asked that rumors not be started as it was on the agenda. Mrs. Zasowski said she thinks that it does look on paper that Limerick and Upper Providence are getting a raise but it is not that they are getting a raise as it is just how the calculations are done. She added that those municipalities are still doing less bills without the per capita but they are being paid an equal compensation across the board.

There was additional yelling out from the audience which could not be heard to be transcribed. Mr. Ciresi responded that he is not going to argue or debate this from the floor as this is not the way they do it but the Business Office should be able to share from their knowledge of how the tax process works and they do know what each tax collector does as far as the process. Mr. Ciresi stated that they are trying to come up with a fair and equitable process that each tax collector makes the same amount per bill and this is really what the conversation must come down to.

Mrs. Heine stated that in the Board packet there was a notation that Spring-Ford is within the range from other districts and she asked if other districts are managing the same process that we are as far as a different number of bills being collected in the different municipalities. Mr. Fink replied that some districts handle it differently in that some pay a salary and then divide it by the number of tax bills to get to a per bill number and others follow a process similar to our old one which was to have a floor and then a lower per bill fee. Mr. Fink stated that he looks at it more in the aggregate and says what is the final cost out the door divided by the number of tax bills in order to determine what the tax bill rate is. Mr. Fink stated that Spring-Ford falls in line with the other districts as the range falls between \$1.50 up to \$4.00.

Mr. DiBello stated that the tax collectors are not only collecting Spring-Ford taxes but also the county/borough taxes and he hears what the two tax collectors are saying and he feels that they did put forth a fair and equitable per bill pricing. Mr. DiBello said he struggles with the idea that Spring-Ford needs to pay operating expenses for the tax collectors also to collect other municipality and county taxes but he is willing to keep it at \$2.00 per tax bill, keeping the same amount for the interim bills and installment bills but put in a base rate of \$2,000 which could be put towards their expenses. Mr. DiBello added that he thinks there will have to be some type of disclaimer on what we are reimbursing and what the \$2,000 is used for. Mr. DiBello said he cannot see doing anything more than that.

Again there was yelling out from the audience which could not be heard or transcribed. Mr. Ciresi in response said that the base rate was explained several times but he asked Mr. Fink to explain this one more time so that everyone from the public understands where it came from. Mr. Fink stated that he cannot explain where it came from because it happened long before his time here but he can say that the base rate for the past 4 years

or up to and including the time up until the end of the next school year was \$9,000 and that amount included 5,000 processed per capita tax bills. Mr. Fink commented that his feeling on this is that once the per capita change happened then the formula changes to the point where the level of work or processing between the municipalities becomes very fragmented. Mr. Fink stated that Royersford and Spring City were not producing the 5,000 processed per capita tax bills level as they were at 3,500 and 2,400 respectively.

Mr. DiBello reported that when they revisited this last time and came up with the \$9,000 base they leveled it and made the base the same for everyone. He added that the \$9,000 was an upfront payment that they would be collecting compensation on the actual tax bills themselves. Mr. DiBello stated that he is recommending to the Board that they raise the per bill from \$.80 to \$2.00 but also provide an additional \$2,000 per tax collector to offset their expenses but there has to be something that stipulates that we are not going to give them \$2,000 and then also reimburse them for their expenses.

Mr. Fink indicated that the policy that is in place right now includes reasonable expenses under the taxpayer code which would include things such as paper, ink, stamps, envelopes and even software so that must be kept in mind as the Board moves forward. Mrs. Romer yelled from the audience which could not be heard or transcribed. Mr. Fink replied that he had not seen anything. Mr. Ciresi added that they cannot go back to what happened prior to now. Mr. Ciresi stated that he agrees with Mr. DiBello and would be willing to give the \$2,000 base and the \$2.00 per bill across the board as he feels this is fair to everyone.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that his concern would be that if it was couched as a reimbursement component instead of within the base as part of compensation they could be running afoul with some of our obligations under statute to reimburse. Mr. Fitzgerald commented that if the Board is going to do this then they should do it as part of base compensation and then there will still be access to the policy as it relates to reimbursement for expenses. Mr. Fitzgerald added that he did not think the board could supplant the reimbursement requirements simply with a base.

Mr. Ciresi asked how they could do this as if someone were to have a computer program that costs \$5,000 and another has one that costs \$600 then what does the statute say and Mr. DiBello replied that the way the policy is written is that it says reasonable. Mr. Ciresi asked what reasonable meant and Mr. DiBello said you cannot have one tax collector have \$600 for software and another come in with a \$5,000 bill as this would not be reasonable. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he would just structure it as base compensation and then the expenses would be referred to the policy.

Mr. Dehnert asked the Mrs. Romer and Mrs. Rex how many hours they spend a year collecting Spring-Ford real estate taxes. Mr. Ciresi stated that he did not think it was fair to ask this question when the other two tax collectors were not present. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Dehnert to make a recommendation if he wanted to make one and he felt that as a Board they could come up with a fair and equitable number with regards to what they are willing to pay as a district.

Mr. Fitzgerald commented that a number of districts have eliminated the per capita tax and stated that he did not know what their subsequent resolutions looked like but this is something to explore. Mr. Fitzgerald added that an alternative resolution could be drawn up for Board consideration. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Fink if he had looked into what other districts were doing as this was not just a number pulled out of a vacuum and Mr. Fink confirmed this was correct.

Mr. DiBello cautioned asking the tax collectors about the number of hours they work as they are not employees of the district and we are paying a fee and the fee is that we are giving a per bill price. Mr. DiBello said he understands that this is less than what they got in previous years but the district did away with the per capita tax and one of the reasons we did away with it was because the expenses to collect it were not worth it to the district. Mr. DiBello questioned if they are doing away with the per capita tax then why would they keep the same expenses in place. Mr. DiBello stated that the district has the responsibility of seeing that the bills are sent out and we are within the range of what other districts are paying. Mr. DiBello added that he is making a stretch by saying that he is willing to give a base salary of \$2,000 which will cost the taxpayers of the 4 municipalities another \$8,000 as it is not the district paying this but the taxpayers. Mr. DiBello commented that if we need to research this more then we shall but he was not sure what else we could do as Mr. Fink did research this but as of yet he was not hearing any other suggestions from the Board.

Dr. Dressler asked Mr. Fink if it was clearly delineated in the policy as to what expenses can be compensated and the response was yes. Dr. Dressler asked if the tax collectors were aware of all of the items that were compensable and Mr. Fink said they should be and he hoped so. Mrs. Romer spoke from the audience which could not be heard or transcribed.

Mr. DiBello commented that he apologizes but Mrs. Romer was present in the meetings when they were doing the tax collector policy and she was present when they went through it in detail. He added that what she was told in the past he cannot attest to but they are telling her that all her reasonable expenses will be reimbursed by the district and he does not know what else he can say to her as they are trying to be as fair and equitable as possible. Mr. DiBello stated that they raised the per bill rate from \$.80 to \$2.00 and he is even willing to give another \$2,000 as a base salary but he refuses to give any more money.

Mr. Ciresi stated that they need to have a resolution for Monday night and Mr. DiBello has made a recommendation that we give a \$2,000 base and \$2.00 per bill. Mr. Ciresi asked if the Board felt that was a fair resolution that they can move with on Monday night. Mrs. Zasowski stated that this does not include the reimbursement for expenses and Mr. Ciresi confirmed that was correct and whatever the policy states is what will be reimbursed. None of the Board Members objected to this. Mr. Ciresi asked that the resolution be revised for Monday night.

#### **Property**

**Joseph Ciresi**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Ciresi reported that at the Property Committee meeting they talked about the high school expansion with Crabtree, Pat Nugent and Bruce Cooper who were there at the meeting and indicated that they have been meeting with the different groups. Mr. Ciresi stated that as Mr. DiBello eluded to they want to hold a town hall meeting to talk about where they are with the performing arts area and the physical education area. Mr. Ciresi reported that this will be presented at the next Property Committee meeting they will be putting together some of the more in-depth details. Mr. Ciresi stated that there is a need for new furniture in the library and a proposal was presented on this. Dr. Goodin spoke about the Center for Innovation formerly known as Makerspace. The committee talked about some improvements to the auditorium lighting and in order for the board to run the lights to talk to the board on the stage for the lights it is necessary that they both are digital so there is a proposal for an upgrade of this. Mr. Ciresi stated that the bleachers were looked at in order to make sure they are structurally sound which is something that has to be done on a regular basis and the report showed that they were sound. Mr. Ciresi

reported that they are also had some conversation on replacing the turf field. Mr. Ciresi advised that the district has been getting a reimbursement from PECO for participating in the Demand Response Program and this seems to be winding down as it was only accessed once last year. Mr. Ciresi stated that Mr. Cooper advised them that Limerick Home and School had proposed putting in a greenhouse and a motion for this is on the agenda tonight. Mr. Ciresi stated that the Interstate contract is up for renewal and there is also an RFP out for district-wide lawn mowing.

**Asst. Supt. Rpt.**

**Dr. Allyn J. Roche**

Dr. Roche reported that the spring elementary parent-teacher conferences for grades K-6 are scheduled for Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Roche also reported that the Spring-Ford Area School District was recognized as one of 433 districts across the U.S. and Canada in the 7th Annual AP District Honor Roll. He advised that the Honor Roll honors districts who have increased access to Advanced Placement course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Dr. Roche indicated that this puts Spring-Ford as one of only 44 districts in Pennsylvania that made the list. Dr. Roche asked that everyone mark their calendars for Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> for the Spring-Ford 5K.

**Solicitor's Report**

**Mark Fitzgerald**

There was no report but he wanted to note that there has been a lot of discussion tonight with regard to various contracts such as ones for security cameras and other technology initiatives. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he just wanted to make sure that to the extent that we are hitting bidding thresholds that we are adhering to the \$19,700 which is the new adjusted bidding threshold for going out for public bid or quote threshold which is about \$11,000 - \$19,700. Mr. Fink confirmed this was being done.

**IV. MINUTES**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the November 21, 2016 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A1)**
- B. Administration recommends approval of the November 28, 2016 Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A2)**
- C. Administration recommends approval of the December 5, 2016 Board Reorganization Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A3)**

**V. PERSONNEL**

Mr. Ciresi stated that he would like to wish Carolyn Salerno a great retirement as he knows her personally and she is a great teacher and a great person. He wished her well on her retirement. Mr. Ciresi also wished Justin Webb well as he will be leaving the district to take a job closer to home. Mr. Ciresi wished Mr. Webb luck in his endeavors.

**A. Resignations**

- 1. **Joanne M. Drewicz**; Elementary Teacher, Royersford Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 15, 2017.
- 2. **Dorothea A. Gallagher**; Secretary, Senior High School. Effective: January 6, 2017.

3. **Susan M. Mercer**; Elementary Teacher, Evans Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 15, 2017.
4. **Miranda J. Paradise**; Elementary Teacher, Oaks Elementary School. Effective: January 24, 2017.
5. **Linda Rossi**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. Effective: January 13, 2017.
6. **Sarah K. Sacks**; Information Systems Analyst, District Office, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: February 3, 2017.
7. **Carolyn M. Salerno**; Special Education Teacher, Senior High School – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 15, 2017.
8. **Donna L. Viscuso**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: January 3, 2017.
9. **Justin C. Webb**; Director of Technology, District Office. Effective: January 20, 2017.

**B. Temporary Professional Employees**

1. **Brian M. Kraeer**; Elementary Teacher, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, replacing Barbara C. Good who retired. Compensation has been set at BS, Step 2, \$45,900.00, prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 30, 2017.
2. **Ryan M. Robison**; Social Studies Teacher, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, replacing David M. Frankel who retired. Compensation has been set at BS, Step 1, \$44,700.00, prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: January 25, 2017.

**C. Support Staff Employees**

1. **Cheryl Nave**; Part-time Food Service (3 hours/day), 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, replacing Kristi DePetrillo who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$12.91/hour per the Food Service Plan. Effective: December 5, 2016.
2. **David G. Kinch**; Instructional Assistant, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, replacing Sarah Fulton who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: December 19, 2016.
3. **Ashley M. Miller**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, replacing Gina Davila who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: January 3, 2017.

**D. Change of Status**

1. **Joan E. Bickley**; Clerical Assistant, Senior High School, to Secretary, Senior High School, replacing Dorothea A. Gallagher who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$15.94/hour with benefits per the Secretarial Plan. Effective: January 17, 2017.



**E. Personnel Information Item**

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

1. **Kelly A. Grant** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center

F. Administration recommends approval of the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2016-2017 school year. **(Attachment A4)**

**VI. FINANCE**

There were no questions or comments.

A. Administration recommends approval for 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.

B. Checks:

1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 163401 – 164080	\$3,873,839.13
ACH 161700221 - 161700329	\$ 894,828.32

2. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1228-1232	\$ 61,755.29
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3. Food Service Checks

Check No. 13163 – 13260	\$ 139,074.21
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4. Procurement Payments

201601388 – 201601571	\$ 189,557.25
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C. The following monthly Board reports are submitted for your approval:

- Cash Balances – Liquidity
- Skyward Reports
  - General Fund Check Register
  - Athletic Fund Check Register
  - Capital Reserve Check Register
  - Food Service Check Register
  - Summary Revenue Report
  - Summary Expense Report

D. Administration recommends approval of the Preliminary General Fund Budget for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$157,935,917.00.

E. Administration recommends approval to file with the Department of Education the 2017-2018 referendum exceptions for Special Education Expenditures (Approximately \$1,353,792.00) and Retirement Contributions (Approximately \$420,742.00), for a total estimated amount of \$1,774,534.00. These referendum exceptions represent 1.7% and could be used for allowable millage over the Act 1 State Index cap amount of 2.5%. Exceptions are permitted due to the recognition that there are extraordinary district expenses above the rate of inflation.

- F. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 1600 Black Rock Road in Upper Providence Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 61-00-01252-00-1 setting the assessments of the property at \$20,513,000 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$20,476,500 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- G. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 594 W. Ridge Pike (Condo 1) in Limerick Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 37-00-03770-00-9 setting the assessments of the property at \$619,150 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$661,850 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$676,800 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$613,810 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$599,940 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17), and \$598,870 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- H. Administration recommends approval of the disposal of unsold pianos that are no longer in use within the district.
- I. Administration recommends approve of **Resolution 2017-01** which establishes the elected tax collector compensation commencing for the 2018-2019 school year. **(Attachment A5).**
- J. Administration recommends approval of the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations, the Parent Teacher Organizations or an outside source:
  - 1. **Jacy Good and Steve Johnson – White Plains, NY.** Provide 2 assemblies for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade high school students entitled "Hang Up and Drive". Funding will be paid by the High School Student Council and shall not exceed \$1,500.00.
  - 2. **Thom Stecher & Associates – Malvern, PA.** Provide Resiliency Services for the 2016-2017 school year district-wide in support of Unity Day and Resiliency Programs taking place in the schools. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$5,000.00.
  - 3. **PMHCC, Inc./SE Regional MH Services Coordination Office – Norristown, PA.** Provide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for 90 staff member participants district-wide. Services will include three concurrent trainings of 30 participants per training for a total of 8 hours of curriculum training per session. Funding will be paid from the Pottstown Area Health and Wellness Foundation Grant and shall not exceed \$4,500.00.
- K. Administration recommends approval of the following independent contracts:
  - 1. **Corey Jones – Westerville, OH.** Provide 2 assemblies for all students at Royersford Elementary School entitled "Good Choice, Bad Choice, My Choice". Funding will be paid from the Royersford Elementary Assembly Budget and shall not exceed \$1,300.00.

2. **Visiting Nurse Group, Inc. – Exton, PA.** Provide Nursing services during the 2016-2017 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 9 hours per day for 118 days at a rate of \$43.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$45,666.00.
3. **The Pathway School – Norristown, PA.** Provide Educational services during the 2016-2017 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 108 days at a rate of \$283.33 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$30,599.64.
4. **Kara Canale – Collegeville, PA.** Provide Psychological services during the 2016-2017 school year for students who require initial psychoeducational evaluations and/or re-evaluations, write reports, attend IEP meetings, and maintain communication with school staff and parents. Services will be provided for 37.5 hours per week for 12 weeks at a rate of \$70.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$31,500.00.
5. **Deaf-Hearing Communication Centre – Swarthmore, PA.** Provide Professional Sign Language Interpretation services for meetings and events held within the school for special needs students/families as per the IEPs. This is an updated contract due to an increase in fees as of January. Services will be provided for a total of 24 hours during the 2016-2017 school year. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,548.00.
6. **The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Norristown, PA.** Provide Behavior Consultation services during the 2016-2017 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$13,500.00.
7. **The Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student during the 2016-2017 school year at The Learning Center (Career Academy Program) as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$27,462.49.
8. **The Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide Educational services for two special needs students during the 2016-2017 school year at Technical County High School (TCHS) – Pickering Campus as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$55,650.80.
9. **LifeWorks Schools at Foundation Behavioral Health – Doylestown, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 95 days at a rate of \$320.00 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$30,400.00.
10. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide Speech and Language Therapy services for a special needs student who will be attending LifeWorks Schools at Foundation Behavioral Health. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$1,980.00.

11. **Theraplay, Inc. - West Chester, PA.** Provide Direct Speech and Language Therapy for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 1 hour per week for 24 weeks at a rate of \$90.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,160.00.

**VII. PROPERTY**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the service contract for district-wide mowing for the first year of a three-year option with Black Forest Landscaping & Snowplowing, Inc., as per the RFP. The total cost for Year 1 is \$1,309.00 per mowing based on an average of twenty-three mowings per year. Funding will come from the 2017-2018 General Maintenance Budget.
- B. Administration recommends approval of the continuation of the contract for district-wide cleaning services for Year 2 of a three-year RFP with Interstate Maintenance Corporation of Horsham, PA. The total cost of Contract #1 is \$777,159.96 beginning June 1, 2017 through May 31, 2018. Contract #2 is \$28.85 per hour per employee and Contract #3 will be billed at \$26.00 per hour per employee. Funding will come from the 2017-2018 General Maintenance Budget.
- C. Administration is recommending to have Schiller and Hersch Associates, Inc., Blue Bell, PA oversee the specification and bidding for the High School Auditorium Dimming System and LED Lighting retrofit per hourly base as per their fee schedule. Funds will come from the Capital Reserve and shall not exceed \$8,000.00.

**VIII. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Dehnert asked about Item D wondering why we were sending 3 teachers to the same conference in Erie. He questioned if it would not be possible to send 1 teacher since it is a significant cost and ask that person to come back and give an in-service on what they found out for all of the music people throughout the district. Dr. Roche replied that this is tied to students qualifying for all-state. Mr. Dehnert asked how many students and Dr. Roche stated that he does not know if they all qualified yet but we needed to get this on the agenda as soon as possible and that it is possible that they all may not be going if their students do not qualify but Mr. Jones would be accompanying the instrumental students, Mrs. McGranahan the strings students and Mrs. O'Dea the vocal students. Mr. Dehnert questioned why one person could not take all three and Dr. Roche stated that it would not be possible as they help out with the various groups while they are performing. Mr. Dehnert stated that it is a one to one relationship and Dr. Roche corrected him saying that it is not one to one as one teacher may have 7 students qualify. Dr. Roche stated that this is no different than the wrestling coaches travelling with the wrestlers. He added that there are 3 separate groups that qualify and they are in the process of finding out the students that qualified. Mr. Dehnert stated that he felt they needed a policy that discusses things like conferences and extra activities because we could have a situation where one group sees another group going to conferences and we are paying thousands of dollars and they apply in their subject area and we could get a large request. Mr. Dehnert commented that he felt there needed to be criteria as to what qualifies what students can go to, how much we would pay and what the expectations are when they go to these things. Mr. Dehnert felt it would be good to have guidelines or a policy in place on the criteria for how these things are done so we don't see people start getting ideas that you paid for one group to go to a conference and then they have an expectation that they should be able to go to because their subject is just as important as the others.

Dr. Dressler commented that in reference to this particular conference, Mr. Jones is the president of the PMEA and it is a point of pride for us to have him there representing us. Dr. Dressler reported that he just saw Mr. Jones make a musical presentation in Lower Moreland and he is a good representative for us and does a fine job speaking in front of these groups. Dr. Dressler stated that for us to pay Mr. Jones expenses for this is a good thing to spread the word of what a good school district this is and particularly in the arts.

Dr. Goodin reminded the Board that this is a matter of students qualifying to attend this and it is not a matter of them electing to go as they must actually qualify for it. Dr. Goodin stated that it is not unreasonable for the district to pay for students to attend this stuff or the chaperones. Dr. Goodin added that we would do the same thing for sports if a team or an individual athlete went to states as we would pay for that because they qualified to do it.

Dr. Dressler pointed out that the competition is very strict and stiff so it is a great honor for them to go to these state competitions. He stated that the district should take a lot of pride in this.

Mr. Dehnert stated that he is talking about other groups and kids could try out for a debate club or some other type of club so there really should be some type of criteria for how and what the process is as well as what the limit is on what we would spend and where we would send people.

Dr. Dressler said he would like to think that the superintendent could make those decisions.

Mr. Ciresi suggested that Mr. Dehnert bring this conversation up at the Policy Committee meeting.

Dr. Roche commented that this discussion is already in the works and we have a policy on this. He stated that Policy 122 deals with co-curricular activities. Dr. Roche stated that the minutes of the last Policy Committee meeting showed that they discussed several things regarding this policy and one of those discussions was on this exact issue of how far we go on what is paid for in terms of students and/or qualifying for things. Dr. Roche stated that Mr. Dehnert mentioned a couple different things as far as other departments but the one specific thing he spoke about has to do with students and students qualifying for that as well and part of that requirement is that the teachers need to go. Dr. Roche stated that there are other opportunities where there are teachers that request to go to a conference or workshop and that is vetted through the principals as well as through the department chairs or curriculum folks to see that it is tied to criteria such certification, is it a mandatory piece, is it something that is a nice to have, what does the budget look like and other approval processes. Dr. Roche indicated that often the requests do not even make it out of the building level for final scrutiny on being placed on the agenda. Dr. Roche informed the Board that Policy 122 is being looked at to add a section in there about student travel as far as qualifying. Dr. Roche stated that it is the opinion of the administration that we need a pre-approval of what we are requesting and not simply going out to qualify for something. Dr. Roche stated that administration needs to know ahead of time what is being applied for so that it is in the pipeline in case you qualify and we will advise what we will cover if you qualify. Mr. Dehnert asked if this was going to be in the new policy and Dr. Roche replied yes.

Mr. DiBello stated that we have to be careful of policy after policy as there are a lot of conferences and stuff that is paid for by other organizations. Mr. DiBello said he is more concerned with a policy in place as far as handling the money for these trips that students are going on which is a whole other conversation. Mr. DiBello stated that he feels that the administration has been doing a fine job and he understands what Dr. Roche referred to with there needing to be a pre-approval process. Dr. Roche replied that administration feels that

they need a little more structure to the policy to be able to handle some of the situations because what they don't want to happen is that a qualification happens and we then say we do not have money to pay for it and then they come up to the microphone. Dr. Roche stated that they just want to be upfront with this. Mr. DiBello cautioned against us being too rigid and Dr. Roche replied no but there have been a couple situations in the past couple of years.

The following individuals are recommended for attendance at the following:

<b>CODE: 580 Account: Conference/Training, registration, food, and accommodations</b>
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#### DISTRICT OFFICE

- A. **Dr. Allyn Roche**, Assistant Superintendent, and **Elizabeth Leiss**, Director of Human Resources to attend the *"Mandated Reporter Certified Training"* at HealthSpark Foundation in Colmar, PA on February 13, 2017. The total cost for this training is \$30.00 (registration). No substitutes are needed.
- B. **Christine Raber**, Supervisor of Special Education, and **Katie Davis**, Coordinator of Special Education, to attend *"2017 PDE Bureau of Special Education Annual Conference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center from March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$739.00 (registration, mileage and lodging). No substitutes are needed.

#### HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Ashley Bilotti**, Business Teacher/FBLA Advisor and **Douglas Reigner**, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade House Principal/Director of High School Student Activities, to attend *"Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Competition and Conference"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Ms. Bilotti will attend April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Reigner will attend April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> and accompany those students who have advanced to the state level of competition. The total cost to attend this conference is \$923.00 (registration, lodging and two days of substitute coverage for Ms. Bilotti).
- D. **Seth Jones**, Band Director, **Emily McGranahan**, Orchestra Director, and **Yvonne O'Dea**, Choral Director, to attend *"PMEA All-State Conference and In-Service"* in Erie, PA from April 19<sup>th</sup> through April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Mr. Jones, Ms. McGranahan and Mrs. O'Dea will accompany students who have qualified for All-State Ensembles. The total cost for this conference is \$3,522.00 (registration, lodging, meals and three days of substitute coverage for all three teachers).
- E. **Yvonne O'Dea**, Choral Director, to attend the *"National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference"* in Atlantic City, NJ from April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mrs. O'Dea will be accompanying Jarod Moyer, a student, who was selected to the All-East Honor's Ensemble. The total cost for this conference is \$1,348.38 (registration, mileage, lodging, meals and three days of substitute coverage).
- F. **Jamie Scheck**, Teacher/Head Varsity Baseball Coach and **Ryan Souder**, Teacher/Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach, to attend the *"Be the Best Baseball Coaches Convention"* in Atlantic City, NJ on January 27, 2017. The total cost for this conference to the district is \$300.00 (for one day of substitute coverage for both teachers). All other costs are being picked up by the employees and the Athletic Booster Club.

- G. **Chadwin Brubaker**, Media Specialist/Head Football Coach, **Dale Bergman**, Teacher/Assistant Football Coach and **James Mich, Jr.**, Teacher/Assistant Football Coach, to attend the “*2017 PSFCA Coaches Clinic*” in State College, PA from February 8, 2017 through February 10, 2017. Mr. Brubaker will attend the entire conference and Mr. Bergman and Mr. Mich will attend only on February 10, 2017. The total cost of this conference for the district is \$600.00 (two days of substitute coverage for Mr. Brubaker and one day of substitute coverage for both Mr. Bergman and Mr. Mich). All other costs are being paid through the Athletic Booster Club.
- H. **Jeanette Walker**, Teacher, to participate in the “*APEX Learning Comprehensive Courses Professional Development On-Line*”. The total cost for this three hour on-line training is \$600.00 (registration) and will be paid from the Curriculum and Instruction Budget.

**BROOKE**

- I. **Jo-Ann Messer** and **Patricia Stroop**, Special Education Teachers, to attend “*Zones of Regulation-Strategies to Foster Self-Regulation, Emotional Control Social Skills and Executive Functioning in Students*” in Mount Laurel, NJ on February 23, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$542.00 (registration, mileage and one day of substitute coverage for Mrs. Messer).

**OAKS**

- J. **Sandra Cerniglia** and **Tara Chester**, ESL Teachers, to attend “*Utilizing the Learning A-Z Bundle ESL*” at the MCIU in Norristown, PA on January 10, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$338.79 (mileage and one day of substitute coverage for both teachers). Substitute coverage is being paid from Title III Funds.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval to send **Jarod Moyer**, Spring-Ford High School Senior, to the 2017 National Association for Music Education Eastern Division Conference. Jarod was selected to the All-East Honor's Ensemble taking place in Atlantic City, New Jersey from April 5<sup>th</sup> through April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Jarod will be accompanied by Mrs. Yvonne O'Dea. The total cost for Jarod to attend shall not exceed \$500.00 (registration, lodging, meals and local transportation while in attendance).
- B. The following policies are submitted as a second reading with approval at next week's board meeting:
1. Policy #117 – PROGRAMS: Homebound Instruction (**Attachment A6**)
  2. Policy #201.1 – PUPILS: Admission of Beginners/Early Entrance (**Attachment A7**)
  3. Policy #247 – PUPILS: Hazing (**Attachment A8**)
- C. Administration recommends the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County Children and Youth and Chester County Children and Youth which outlines the transportation plan for students in Foster Care, according to the new ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) regulations. This MOU is due to the state on January 31, 2017.

- D. Administration acknowledges the acceptance of a donation and installation of a plastic bottle greenhouse in the courtyard at Limerick Elementary School as part of an Eagle Scout Project. This greenhouse will allow plans and seedlings to be grown all year long and is in line with the Green Initiatives taught in the schools. There will be no cost to the district.

**X. BOARD COMMENT**

Mrs. Zasowski reported that there is a critical SNAP meeting tomorrow night in order to pull together a number of volunteers. She advised that if they do not get a number of volunteers the program is in jeopardy of coming to an end and the program will be gone. Mrs. Zasowski spoke of the importance of the program and that it not only protects the lives of our students but also the lives of people in the community who may be at risk driving on roads on prom night. Mrs. Zasowski asked students to get in touch with her and let her know what they would like to see at the event so that she can make it happen. Mrs. Zasowski pleaded with the public to come out to the meeting and volunteer to help at the event even if only for a short period of time. Mrs. Zasowski suggested that possibly the Board could collectively donate a prize that would be conditional on the attendance of at over 75% of the junior and senior the class. She asked the Board to consider donating a prize with conditions to SNAP for that evening.

Mr. Ciresi commented that they have been very passionate about this over the years with this same type of conversation. Mr. Ciresi stated that they have pleaded with the home and schools to get involved with this at the elementary level up because eventually it is pay it forward. Mr. Ciresi added that over the years he has seen the massive decline and disinterest by the students. He reported that he had been chastised in the SoundOff column of the newspaper for suggesting that they look for a \$50,000 sponsor in order to bring in a headliner for entertainment in order to keep the kids there. Mr. Ciresi stated that in the beginning SNAP was a novelty but the kids have become bored with it and if they are going to save this for the students then they need to know what the kids want as opposed to having a group of 30-40-50 year olds make decisions on what they feel the kids want. Mr. Ciresi stated that it is disgusting that they have to compete with parents holding house parties with alcohol involved. He commented that he does not want to see this program disappear and he would like to see some type of email blast sent out via the Skyward System to parents advising them of the meeting.

Mr. DiBello stated that the problem is the growing trend in the district of house parties and every year more parents are hosting more house parties. Mr. DiBello commented that this is what we are competing against and how it will be until God forbid something happens. He added that when something happens then parents will come to a board meeting screaming and yelling at the Board asking why the district does not have something in place to protect their children on prom night. Mr. DiBello stated that they have gotten notice out about SNAP and have talked about it on various shows as well as board meetings but this unfortunately is one of those things that seems to be going away. Mr. DiBello advised that until parents realize the risk they are taking by having these house parties then this is what we are competing against.

Danny commented on the big name entertainment suggestion and said that the only thing that would appeal to students and get a lot more people there would be a famous performer that everyone knows but the price would be very high. Mr. DiBello stated that there is no way that this could happen. Mr. DiBello commented that this was unfortunate and he feels they as a Board have done everything they can but it is up to the parents



and the high school parents need to make a decision on whether this is something worthwhile or not.

Mrs. Heine stated that this really does start at the elementary level and parents at this level need to get involved now or the program is not going to exist. She added that this is a way for those parents to pay it forward and hopefully others will take suit and it will minimize the fight to have house parties. Mr. DiBello cautioned that they have to keep in mind that the home and schools at the elementary level struggle to get volunteers and if they can't get the current high school parents at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level interested then it is not going to happen at the elementary level. Mr. DiBello stated that he applauds Mrs. Zasowski's enthusiasm but there has been a lot of advertisement for volunteers and involvement in SNAP.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to have a town hall meeting in March 2017 possibly in the second or third week and Mrs. Heine seconded it.

Mr. Dehnert suggested putting a motion on the agenda regarding this for next week's meeting instead of just throwing motions out as he felt this would be the right protocol. Mr. Pettit did not understand why it needed to wait until next week and Mr. Ciresi said it was just for a town hall meeting and not a big deal.

Mr. Ciresi opened the floor up for public comment on this motion and there was none. The motion passed 7-0.

Mr. DiBello commented that he knows it was brought up earlier this evening and he asked if there were any schools in the district that did not have a holiday concert and Dr. Goodin replied he believed that the only one that did not was Spring City. Mr. Ciresi asked why this would be and Dr. Goodin stated that he did not know. Mr. Ciresi stated that they needed an answer to this because if every other school is having one then why wouldn't Spring City have a concert. Mr. DiBello said he would like to have an explanation too.

**XI. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

There were no comments.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern  
School Board Secretary

On November 21, 2016 the Work Session of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:41 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I:	Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer
Region II:	Dawn R. Heine and Colleen Zasowski
Region III:	Joseph P. Ciresi and Mark P. Dehnert
Presiding Officer:	Thomas J. DiBello
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Daniel J. Ciresi and Taylor Stevens

The following Board Members were absent: **Todd R. Wolf** and **Dr. Edward T. Dressler**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Danny thanked the students of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center saying that last week they raised nearly \$550.00 for Project Outreach. He reported that since 2000 the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center has raised money for Project Outreach through a “Turkiest Teacher” coin collection fundraiser. This year, students nominated more than 10 teachers to participate in the collection, then voted for the Turkiest Teacher by donating spare change in designated teacher buckets. The 2015 Turkiest Teacher winner, Mr. Cifelli, passed the Turkiest Teacher hat and trophy to Mr. Rendick just before student council members presented a check to Project Outreach.

Mr. DiBello reported that the Board met in an Executive Session prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss personnel items.

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

There were no comments from the public.

#### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Siggins thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here this evening and introduced Delores McCarter and Patricia Flynn, Guidance Counselors who rotate between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Centers. Dr. Siggins stated that while the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center’s primary function is to prepare kids for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, it takes a lot of people to do this. Dr. Siggins commented that they are very fortunate at the middle grade level to have 4 quality counselors who really go above and beyond for the students.

Mrs. Flynn stated that they are here tonight to share some exciting new things that they are doing at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center including some new programs this year to support both the students and their parents/guardians.

Mrs. McCarter expressed thanks for the support the guidance staff receives from Dr. Siggins and Mrs. Rineheimer. Mrs. Flynn explained how they foster good communication

with their parents through monthly e-mail blasts. Mrs. McCarter spoke about how they support new students who arrive at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center as this can be a great source of anxiety. One of the supports used are student ambassadors who help them navigate the building, have lunch with them and even help them get on the right bus. Mrs. Flynn next spoke about how the Guidance Department encourages pro-social development through monthly building themes. The October theme was "Anti-Bullying" and October 19<sup>th</sup> was National Unity Day. Students were encouraged to wear orange in support of the cause and sign a pledge. A banner was created by Jason Kerkusz, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Teacher, and students were able to sign the banner showing their pledge against bullying. The banner was on display showing the signatures of many students. The theme for November is Gratitude and being appreciative of what you have. The counselors spoke about the incentive programs in place at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and stated that they have been well received by the students. A prize wheel was on display and the counselors explained how the incentive program works.

Dr. Goodin asked about the parent email blast wondering if there was any way to track to see how many people are reading them and Dr. Siggins and Mrs. Flynn replied that they do not think it can be tracked but have heard from many parents how great they felt the program was and offered help through donations for the prize wheel.

Mr. DiBello stated that it seems like there is a lot of enthusiasm being generated at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and he asked how tough it was to get the kids to sign the banner. Mrs. Flynn responded that they only hung the banner 1 day during the lunch periods and the student willingness to sign was great. Mr. DiBello asked if they felt all these activities were making an impact on students and the counselors both replied yes.

A. **Dr. Michael Siggins**, Principal, **Mrs. Delores McCarter** and **Mrs. Patricia Flynn**, Guidance Counselors, to present on Counseling Initiatives at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center.

Dr. Goodin commented that tonight they will be presenting the Proposed Preliminary Budget. Dr. Goodin advised that the presentation will look at the Act 1 timeline, the methodology and challenge of putting together the proposed preliminary budget at this time, an overview of the five-year forecast development, the high level expenditures and revenues and the next steps of the overall 2017-2018 budget process.

Mr. Fink stated that when he came here to the district initially they built a budget model that started with each department and building. They incorporated things known such as employment contracts and other agreements, debt service structure, facility costs, and departmental costs. Educated assumptions were made about the revenue and the district growth throughout the year. These things were rolled up into master budget forms including an easy way to put those numbers into the state mandated forms. Mr. Fink advised that the model that was built also allowed them to make changes to their assumptions on the fly and actually see the impact those changes would have as they moved along and ran their scenario analysis. Mr. Fink stated that the next thing to do is to take the budget model and roll that into a five-year rolling forecast. Mr. Fink relayed that this budget model will allow them to identify bumps in the road well before they happen and solutions can be planned early. He presented a five year overview of salaries, wages, taxes and benefits. Mr. Fink next presented the debt service schedule covering a 20 year span. Mr. Fink showed the Curriculum forecast for the next five years with regards to the major items they are looking at but did not include the normal day to day expenditures. Mr. Fink next presented the five year forecast model for district revenues using the trends from previous years that were analyzed, applied and rolled forward. Mr. Fink went through the highlights of the proposed preliminary budget. Mr. Fink reported that the 2017-

2018 Act 1 index was 2.5% and the estimated referendum exceptions total approximately \$1.7 million or about 1% point per million dollars. Mr. Fink advised that the next steps are to sharpen pencils, thoroughly examine each expense line, file for PDE exceptions and keep an eye on what is taking place in Harrisburg.

Mr. DiBello spoke about exceptions they could apply for which means they could potentially increase taxes to roughly just over 4%. Mr. DiBello clarified that this is following the entire Act 1 process and it is not saying that we are raising taxes by this amount but rather that the district must do the paperwork following the state's timeline. Mr. DiBello stated that it is frustrating as we don't know where the state will come in at until it gets closer to the time that we are approving our budget but yet we are pushed to this schedule. Mr. DiBello thanked Mr. Fink and his staff for their work on the five-year rolling forecast as it provides a clearer picture of what to expect with the budget. Mr. DiBello stated that he is thrilled that we are at this point.

Mrs. Zasowski commented that when she first came onto the Board there was not a lot of concrete information for her to follow but Mr. Fink's presentation this evening made everything clear and easy to follow.

Mr. Ciresi acknowledged Mr. Fink on a great presentation saying it is one of the easiest to follow. Mr. Ciresi spoke about the disconnect at the state level and the fact that they are not giving the district a clear indication of where they are going. The state touts that they are giving record amounts to education but this is deceiving as any amount given is an increase over them giving nothing previously. Mr. Ciresi urged the public to contact their legislators to say that they need to change the budget process and have the state budget in place by May 30 so that we know what funding we are getting prior to it having to approve our budget on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ciresi thanked Mr. Fink and felt that the five-year projection is a great addition to the budget process.

Mrs. Zasowski commented that the district was faced with the same problem last year in having to have a budget without in place without a state budget being approved. She added that the budget process becomes a guessing game and pointed out that in our home budgets we do not guess at what our payments are going to be

Mrs. Heine advised that once we lock in our budget we are stuck and if the state decides to give us less money we are stuck and must figure out how to operate with less money. Mrs. Heine also urged taxpayers to contact their legislators regarding the budget deadlines so that the district could have the state budget information prior to having to lock in ours. She stated that it may be possible to go with a 0 % tax increase if we knew how much state funding we were getting.

Mr. DiBello pointed out that the district is seeing on average about a 5% growth per year from an expense standpoint and this is tough to make up. Mr. DiBello reported that the district gets roughly \$25 million from the state which does not provide anywhere near the 5% growth we are seeing. Mr. DiBello expressed hope that the district will be able to sharpen its pencils and reduce the gap as much as possible.

Mr. Pettit commented that with the state facing a \$2 billion deficit going forward he did not believe we will see any significant increase in money from the state. He urged the public to ask their legislators to review the PSERS issue.

- B. **Dr. David R. Goodin**, Superintendent of Schools, and **Mr. James D. Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to present the 2017-2018 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

### III. ACTION ITEMS

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

Mr. Ciresi commented that all of the resolutions on the agenda for approval are accomplishments that our students keep getting year after year. He stated that this is an example of why we do what we do. He added that it is great to see all of these commendations and resolutions. Mr. DiBello advised that all these groups and individuals will be recognized next week.

- A. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-30** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Tennis Team** and their coaches Todd Reagan and Ryan Rendick for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A1**).
- B. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-31** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team** and their coaches Timothy Leyland, Lauren Brock and Heather Nikki Lynch for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A2**).
- C. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-32** commending **Benjamin Pochet**, a member of the **Spring-Ford High School Boys' Golf Team** and his coaches Jeffrey Mast, Gerald Hollingsworth and Daniel Butterweck for winning the 2016 PIAA District One and PIAA East Regional Boys' Golf Championships. (**Attachment A3**).
- D. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-33** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Boys' Golf Team** and their coaches Jeffrey Mast, Gerald Hollingsworth and Daniel Butterweck for winning the 2016 PIAA District One Championship. (**Attachment A4**).
- E. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-34** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Boys' Cross Country Team** and their coaches Brian Sullivan, Heather Giovagnoli, John Kraynak and Matthew Varady for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A5**).
- F. The Board approved **Resolution 2016-35** in recognition of **Seth R. Jones** and the **Spring-Ford Area High School Golden Ram Marching Band** for successfully placing at the Cavalcade of Bands Patriot Open Championship, the US Bands State Championship and the Bands of America Regional Championship. (**Attachment A6**)

### IV. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Student Rep. Report                      Daniel Ciresi/Taylor Stevens**

Taylor reported that winter sports are starting now as we reach the end of November. The 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Tryouts will be held at the 8th Grade Center starting Monday, November 28th. The 7th grade tryouts will start on December 5th at the 7th Grade Center. Taylor next reported that winter cheer tryouts for 7th and 8th grade will begin after school on Monday, December 5th at the 7th Grade Center until 4:30. Spring-Ford 7th Grade Boys' Basketball Tryouts are Monday, November 28 to Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at the 7<sup>th</sup>

Grade Center. The Spring-Ford High School Student Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in the auxiliary gymnasium from 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM. You can schedule your appointment by going to GIVEaPINT.org & use SFHS Code: 145. Taylor reminded students that in order to donate they must be at least 17 years old and weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. A photo ID must be presented at the time of your appointment. She wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.

**Curriculum/Technology Dawn Heine**

**1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 6:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Heine reported that the Curriculum and Technology Committee met on November 1<sup>st</sup> and Mrs. Bast shared good news regarding the first Math Night reporting that they have over 350 registrants as well as the news that we are awaiting the official notification that we are a Project Lead the Way Certified School. The committee heard about 3 new courses for the start of the 2017-2018 school year; Technical Writing, Civil Engineering and Architecture and AP Capstone. These courses are on the agenda for approval. The committee next talked about the Global Studies Arcadia Program with a travel option to Philadelphia in the spring of 2017. The travel option is not mandatory and will be a 2 ½ day trip providing background on Refugee Employment and Advancement. Mrs. Bast shared plans for the November in-service days. The committee received a STEAM update which revealed that the Girl Powered Program was very well attended. Mrs. Gardy provided an ELA Update on the implementation of the Journey's Reading Program. Mrs. Rochlin provided an update on Math and Science and stated that they are looking forward to the first Math Night. Mrs. Heine reported that on the Technology side Mr. Webb provided a network update including wrapping up the design of the network and working with vendors on pricing. A telephony update was provided and the vendor list has been narrowed down to 2 vendors. Mr. Webb will be working with both vendors for a final design and further discussion in November. Information on this will be ready for the 2017-2018 budget. A Smartboard update was provided and revealed that the Technology Department is continuing to work on a list detailing the age of all Smartboards in the district. Mr. Webb and his team have identified the final set of cameras from the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center and the 10-12 Grade Center that are in need of an upgrade from analog to digital. Mr. Webb will provide additional information on this at the January Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting. Mrs. Heine reported that the Technology Department will be finishing the pilot of the IPTV which will soon replace the old coax connections from the TV studio to the classrooms. They will also be working on a recycling list but before preparing the list will work with Maker's Space to ensure that none the items to be recycled could be of use for that program. A suggestion was made to add a backup internet line in the high school and a motion for the approval of this appears on the agenda tonight. Mr. Webb advised that the mobile device management has been narrowed down to one vendor, Caper Mobile Device Management. Mrs. Heine commented that two items that were discussed and are on the agenda for approval tonight are the purchase of a 30 hour support block from Strategic Link. These hours will be used for system engineering support for district systems and initiatives. The second item on the agenda for approval is the extension of the contract with Blackboard for the provision of SchoolFusion services for six-months in order to cover the hosting of web-site services during the time period needed to fully switch the district over to the new provider. The committee also received an update on modernized learning from Dr. Nugent at the high school level. Mrs. Carboy had provided an update at the last School Board meeting so no additional update was necessary.

Mr. Dehnert asked about the overnight Global Studies Program in Philadelphia and whether the students participating are supervised. Mrs. Heine stated that the program is sponsored by Arcadia University and students will chaperoned by Arcadia staff. She indicated that the schedule students will follow was included in the board memo packet last week. Mr. Dehnert commented that he was referring to at night when students are supposed to be going to bed.

Mrs. Bast added that when they spoke with the two professors at Arcadia University they were very clear that they will err on the side of caution and know where the students were at all times.

Mr. Dehnert asked about Verizon Internet Diversity and whether it was for ISP diversity or entrance into the building diversity and Mr. Webb replied both.

**Policy**

**Kelly Spletzer**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Spletzer reported that the Policy Committee met and reviewed 5 policies that were a revisit from previous months. The first policy discussed was Policy 103.3 - Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students Policy. The committee decided that since laws regarding this subject are still unsettled and rapidly evolving, they would continue to table the discussion on a policy pertaining to this. Policy 247 – Hazing/Anti-Hazing was reviewed and revised and recommended for placement on the November agenda as a first reading. Policy 117 – Home-bound Instruction was also reviewed and revised and appears on tonight's agenda as a first reading. The discussion centered around changes that would address the increasing challenges with supporting students that are placed in or receiving treatment at a facility that provides educational services and then invoices Spring-Ford after the services are rendered. Policy 201.1 – Admission of Beginners – Early Entrance was reviewed. Dr. Roche provided clear data on testing of students whose birthdate did not make the August 31<sup>st</sup> cutoff date. The current policy allows for students to be tested with a birthdate all the way through January of the following year. The test results show that over-whelmingly students being tested with the further birthdate were not passing the test. Due to the costs involved and the time involved in the testing process the recommendation is that the window be shortened to September 15<sup>th</sup> rather than January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Spletzer reported that they will continue to look at the data on an ongoing basis with the thought of possibly getting rid of this exception all together. This policy is on the agenda tonight for a first reading. Dr. Roche advised that the overall results were that less than 20% of students passed the testing. He added that they looked at month by month and determined that moving the exception window from January 31<sup>st</sup> back to September 15<sup>th</sup> was best. Dr. Roche indicated that they would revisit this in a year to see what the impact may be. Mrs. Spletzer reported that the committee also went through Policy 707 – Use of Facilities line by line and feel that a large chunk of the policy can be eliminated and substituted with some verbiage saying see the facility schedule so that on an ongoing basis we can review what the costs can be for the different types of services, fee structures and type of organization classification. The committee also discussed PSBA's legal feedback on guidance for medical marijuana for PA school districts. The feedback came from the Department of Health and the Department of Education on whether parents would be able to administer medical marijuana to a student at school. Mrs. Spletzer stated that there is no discussion now on making this a policy in the school district but the committee was just discussing what PSBA is doing and what the discussion has been up to this point. Guidance is that this still is against federal law and there is no intention to make this a policy in the school district that would violate federal law. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that by the crimes code it is a violation of federal law but interestingly he suspects that what we will hear is a family or parent arguing that it would be a reasonable accommodation under another federal law. He added that in effect you will have two conflicting laws putting us right in the middle so how a policy is developed needs to balance those two conflicting realities. Mrs. Spletzer stated that it was an interesting discussion at the table and as this continues to evolve under the new administration we will have to see what happens at the federal level. Dr. Goodin offered an explanation on the distinction between marijuana which has the psychoactive ingredient THC and medical marijuana that is used as a tincture that does not have THC or produce a high. Dr. Goodin stated that he just wanted to make sure there was an understanding on the difference between the two. Mrs. Spletzer added that the committee will discuss this further at the January meeting. She also stated that they had an FYI on co-curricular activities with regards to the potential for a pre-approval process for co-

curricular activities that would involve competitions beyond a certain level. This will also be brought back to the January meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Dehnert questioned the Hazing Policy and stated that he felt the definition should clearly state that you cannot do any action that does humiliate or demean someone.

**Finance**

**Tom DiBello**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. 7:30 p.m.**

Mr. DiBello reported that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the monthly reports and with only two months into the school year it is tough to make any conclusions or decisions but as of now it appears that the financials are trending and seem to be on target as per budget. Mr. DiBello reminded the board that last month they talked about the refinancing of the bonds with a projected savings of \$3.2 million over a 9 year period but it looks like the actuals will be in the \$3.9 million range. Mr. DiBello commented that on the agenda this evening there are 4 assessment appeals which will have a net impact on the district of about \$30,000. Mr. DiBello reported that a protocol was put in place a few years ago when they were dealing GSK to set aside funds that can be used for these payments. Mr. DiBello pointed out that on the agenda this evening are two items; one being a fixed asset tracking module which is a Skyward add-on and the second is an accounts receivable module which is also a Skyward module. Mr. DiBello commented that the major part of the meeting was focused on discussing the 2017-2018 proposed preliminary budget which was already presented tonight.

**Property**

**Joseph Ciresi**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Ciresi reported that the Property Committee met on November 15<sup>th</sup> and discussed the standard yearly contracts that must go out to bid. The committee was provided information on the bleachers at the high school and the fact that they will need to be examined by an engineer to ensure that they are safe and no maintenance work needs to be done. The committee also discussed the turf field and the fact that it has come to end of its lifespan of 8-10 years. The field is at the 8 year mark and this upcoming summer we may have to go through the replacement of the field. Mr. Ciresi reported that there is also a fence that will be going up as part of the new walking path at Oaks Elementary as it is too close to Black Rock Road. Mr. Ciresi commented that on the agenda you will see a motion about moving forward with a contract to draw the schematics for the possible addition of the physical education addition and also the music area addition. Mr. Ciresi noted that there was no dollar amount in the motion and he asked Mr. Fitzgerald if there would be a figure for this motion at the next meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald replied he had hoped so but they were still in discussions with the attorney for Crabtree Rohrbaugh and he stated that he would like to be able to come back to the Board next week with a virtually complete contract including numbers that could be approved with the exception being that it would be subject to solicitor review. Mr. Ciresi stated that he would like to recommend that the Board have the opportunity prior to the meeting on Monday night to see what they are looking at which could prove difficult to do so it may have to be moved to a December meeting. Mr. Ciresi advised that also on the agenda is a motion for a contract with Center Stage which is for the lighting, sound and rigging in the theater in order to make sure we are up to par in making any additions, fixing whatever it is that we need to do for productions. Mr. Ciresi reported that they also discussed the replacement of trees on Lewis Road, shed repairs around Coach McNelly Stadium and equipment training for some of our staff especially at the stadium.

Mr. Dehnert questioned the architect's fee and why the district would not consider competitively bidding something that was going to cost well over ½ million dollars. Mr. Dehnert also questioned awarding this to the company who recommended through the feasibility study that this work be done. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that from a legal perspective this is a service so it does not have to



be competitively bid under the school code so how the district wishes to engage the services of an architect is at the Board's discretion but there is no procurement requirement under state law on how you would engage an architect. Mr. Dehnert stated that he is not talking about a legal requirement but rather a good business sense requirement. Dr. Goodin added that most contracts of this sort are stipulating that approximately 7% of the project costs are going to go towards schematic design. Mr. Cooper confirmed what Dr. Goodin stated and added his input on the longer process incurred by going through the bidding process. Dr. Goodin commented that the district was dealing with a very reputable firm across the state as far as working in schools and Mr. Cooper added that he has interviewed many architects over the years in doing various projects throughout the district and we did not just pick this one out of a hat. Mr. Dehnert stated that it did not get away from the fact that we are giving a sole source \$500,000 - \$700,000 when you can provide the contract that you want and they will bid to that and we can award the contract only to a qualified contractor. Mr. Dehnert asked why we would automatically pay 7% when we could possibly negotiate to pay less than 7%. Dr. Goodin stated that while that may be true you are not necessarily going to pick up an architect that has the experience in schools like you have with Crabtree Rohrbaugh.

Mr. DiBello asked what the projected cost was for the schematic design and Mr. Cooper and Dr. Goodin replied that it was approximately \$110,000. Mr. DiBello advised that he would not approve this motion next week without a dollar figure. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Fitzgerald agreed and stated that they will provide a dollar amount for next week. Mr. DiBello stated that the point he is getting to is that we are not agreeing to give an architect \$500,000 or-\$700,000 but rather agreeing to enter into an agreement that has 6-7 steps with an architecture firm and within that agreement there is a first step to create the schematic design at a cost of \$140,000 - \$150,000. Mr. DiBello pointed out that there would be a go or no go vote at each step along the way so the process can be stopped at any point along the way.

Mr. Dehnert commented that in correspondence Dr. Goodin shared with the Board there was a breakdown of the fees and his understanding of this is that if we would approve a contract and if we carried out the whole project we would pay 7% of whatever the project cost was. Mr. Dehnert added that the figure used in the correspondence was the low end figure which makes our cost \$545,000. Mr. Dehnert stated that the first piece of this is the design phase which is 20% of that fee. Mr. Dehnert said unless we have the ability to terminate the agreement we would be committed to Crabtree for the project moving onto the next step. Mr. DiBello replied that there is a go or no go decision at each step. Mr. Dehnert argued that we are committed to Crabtree unless the agreement has termination rights in it. Mr. Dehnert said that rather than talk about a contract that does not exist yet, after the solicitor's office negotiates it he would like a copy to be provided to the Board so that they can look at it before they vote on it. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the contract is not at a point that it can be shared where they have a final version. Mr. Dehnert stated that they should just wait and see what it says and then they can decide which way to go. He added that he is always in favor of competitively bidding. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that he does not know a district that would ever bid that type of service. Mr. Dehnert commented that they probably overpay.

Mr. Ciresi expressed his hope that they can move this process forward or end the process as he does not want to see them get back on the hamster wheel. He stated that this is no different than any other construction project done in the district. Mr. Ciresi commented that as a Board they can either vote this up or vote it down and move forward. He stated that he hoped that at the next meeting they can see the terms so they know what the final number is. Mr. Ciresi commented that he is disappointed that this is on the agenda without a number but he understands why but he would caution seeing it on another agenda without a number.

**Asst. Supt. Rpt.**

**Dr. Allyn J. Roche**

Dr. Roche reported that starting in November he had scheduled himself to spend a full day of school in each of the 7 elementary schools. He stated that it was a great experience to spend the entire day at each school as he had a chance to sit in many, many classrooms and talk to students, teachers, staff members and a few parents. Dr. Roche stated that he also had the opportunity to assist in the cafeteria, monitor the recess yard, and be available to help out with arrival and dismissals. He expressed thanks to the faculty, staff and administrators for a series of great events that took place across the District during the month such as Family Math Night, Veteran's Day Assemblies, American Education Week Programs in all of the schools, Unity Days, Parent Night Out with Thom Stecher, In-Service Presentations and Workshops, Parent-Teacher Conferences and tonight's parent program at the 10-12 center titled Opioid Awareness for Parents. Dr. Roche invited district families to attend Family Tech Night where parents can learn what kids are doing on the internet and how to keep their children safe while online. Information on this evening will be available in the near future through the district's website and through our social media outlets.

Mr. DiBello asked about the Irish students who have been visiting the district the past two weeks and if there was any update on their visit. Dr. Roche indicated that he had spoken to Mr. Landis who oversees the Irish Exchange Program and he advised that all was going extremely well and everything about the visit had been positive. Mr. DiBello asked if the students were in fact heading back to Ireland this weekend and Dr. Roche confirmed this.

**Solicitor's Report**

**Mark Fitzgerald**

Mr. Fitzgerald commented that as mentioned there are 4 assessment appeal settlements on the agenda for approval next week. He stated that these are agreements that have been the Business Office and the Solicitor's Office. Mr. Fitzgerald added that generally speaking they are comfortable with where the settlements are coming in. Mr. Fitzgerald advised that if these matters do not settle they will most likely be fast-tracked to a trial.

Mr. Dehnert asked what the tax loss would be from these settlements and Mr. Fink replied it was about \$30,000 per year on an on-going basis.

**V. MINUTES**

There were no comments or questions.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the October 17, 2016 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A7)**

**VI. PERSONNEL**

There were no comments or questions.

**A. Resignations**

1. **Catherine M. Brittingham**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: November 18, 2016.
2. **Gina Davila**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. Effective: November 3, 2016.
3. **Daniel J. Fox**; Asst. Wrestling Coach, 7/8/9th Grades. Effective: October 28, 2016.

4. **David M. Frankel**; Social Studies Teacher, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: January 25, 2017.
5. **Daniel J. Hoff**; Asst. Basketball Coach-Boys, Senior High School. Effective: October 25, 2016.
6. **Thomas J. Hontz**; Asst. Wrestling Coach, Senior High School. Effective: October 26, 2016.

**B. Support Staff Employees**

1. **Cristin M. Arbaugh**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Catherine M. Brittingham who retired. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 28, 2016.
2. **Corinda D. Bergey**; Instructional Assistant, Royersford Elementary School, replacing Shannon C. Sheridan who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 17, 2016.
3. **Marissa R. Bowlby**; College Career Coordinator, Senior High School, replacing Kathleen E. McNeil who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$45,000.00 prorated with benefits. Effective: November 14, 2016.
4. **Lindsay A. Brock**; 10-month IT Support Technician, Senior High School, replacing Joseph A. Giampa who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$19.40/hour with benefits. Effective: November 7, 2016.
5. **Carli R. Ducko**; Instructional Assistant, Evans Elementary School, replacing Emily A. Peden who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 17, 2016.
6. **Marissa R. Hoffman**; Instructional Assistant, Upper Providence Elementary School, replacing Marlo A. Oslon who had a change of assignment. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 7, 2016.
7. **Stefani Mortimer**; Instructional Assistant, Evans Elementary School, replacing Karen E. Doyle who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 14, 2016.
8. **Maria Van Horn**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 28, 2016.

**C. Personnel Information Items**

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

1. **Christopher Talley** Upper Providence Elementary School

- D. Administration recommends approval of the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2016-2017 school year. **(Attachment A8)**

## VII. FINANCE

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval for 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.

### B. Checks:

#### 1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 162820 – 163400	\$3,425,426.96
ACH 161700145 - 161700220	\$ 467,201.76

#### 2. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1226-1227	\$ 4,155.42
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#### 3. Food Service Checks

Check No. 13032 – 13162	\$ 114,816.17
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#### 4. Procurement Payments

201601248 – 201601387	\$ 164,545.41
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- C. The following monthly Board reports are submitted for your approval:

- Cash Balances – Liquidity
- Skyward Reports
  - General Fund Check Register
  - Athletic Fund Check Register
  - Capital Reserve Check Register
  - Food Service Check Register
  - Summary Revenue Report
  - Summary Expense Report

- D. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the properties located at 5 Kugler Road in Limerick Township (condo 100, condo 200 and common elements) and further identified as tax parcel Nos. 37-00-03772-20-5, 37-00-03772-21-4 and 37-00-03772-22-3 setting the total assessment of the properties at \$2,958,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,958,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$3,423,600 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$3,105,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$3,034,800 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$3,029,400 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the assessment of the properties pursuant to applicable law.

- E. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 341 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Condo unit 6) in Limerick Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 37-00-01522-00-7 setting the assessments of the property at \$696,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$744,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$760,800 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$690,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$674,400 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$673,200 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- F. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 536 Jones Blvd. in Limerick Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 37-00-01242-04-4 setting the assessments of the property at \$2,436,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,604,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$2,662,800 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$2,415,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$2,360,400 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$2,356,200 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- G. The Board of School Directors authorizes Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 100 Thoms Drive in Upper Providence Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 61-00-04470-37-4 setting the assessments of the property at \$1,993,750 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,131,250 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$2,179,375 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$1,976,563 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$1,931,875 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$1,928,438 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- H. Administration recommends approval to make public the 2017-2018 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 23, 2017.
- I. Administration recommends approval to seek bids and/or participate in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bids for supplies for the 2017-2018 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, paper, physical education, science, technology education and furniture.
- J. Administration recommends approval for a High School Activities account for the 2016-2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- K. Administration recommends approval for an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Activities account for the 2016-2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- L. Administration recommends approval for a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Activities account for the 2016-2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.

- M. Administration recommends approval for the establishment of the Class of 2020 High School Activities account.
- N. Administration recommends approval of a revised amount for the confidential settlement agreement (#2016-05 previously approved at the June 2016 Board meeting in the amount of \$1,731.00 for 2016-2017 and \$1,731.00 for 2017-2018). In Lieu of FAPE with the parents of a special needs student this revision includes an additional amount for transportation in the amount of \$1,066.20 for 2016-2017 and \$1,066.20 for 2017-2018. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,797.20 for 2016-2017 and \$2,797.20 for 2017-2018.
- O. Administration recommends approval of the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations, the Parent Teacher Organizations or an outside source:
1. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide 2 assemblies for kindergarten students at Evans Elementary School entitled *“Winter Secrets”*. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$660.00.
  2. **Schoolsculptures with Kevin Reese LLC – Washington, DC.** Provide an Artist in Residence Program enabling 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to experience creativity, teamwork, and collaboration of ideas as they design a permanent sculpture to be displayed at Upper Providence Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Organization and shall not exceed \$7,000.00.
- P. Administration recommends approval of the following independent contracts:
1. **Daniel Levy – New York, NY.** Provide four museum exhibitions for students in grades 1-4 at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled *“Eureka – The Invention Show”*. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Budget and shall not exceed \$1,350.00.
  2. **Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide a 1-1 Assistant for a special needs student who attends The Vanguard School. Services will be provided during the first two quarters of the 2016-2107 school year for 7.5 hours per day for 90 days at a rate of \$32.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$21,600.00.
  3. **Kidspace National Centers – Schnecksville, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student during the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 180 days at a rate of \$161.53 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$29,075.00.
  4. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide a 1-1 Assistant for a special needs student who attends Woods Services. Services will be provided for the 2016-2017 school year. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$41,055.30.

5. **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Norristown, PA.** Provide Personal Care Assistant services for a special needs student who will be transitioning back to the district from the Martin Luther School. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$21,070.00.
6. **Anderson Explorations PHP – Eagleville, PA.** Provide Educational and Mental Health services for special needs students during the 2016-2017 school year as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$25,000.00.
7. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Educational services for the 2016-2017 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct Program Supervision will be provided for 20 hours per month for 9 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour (\$17,100.00). In addition, one staff member trained in CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention will provide PCA services for 140 hours per month for 9 months at a rate of \$32.00 per hour (\$40,320.00). Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$57,420.00.
8. **Lakeside Educational Network – Souderton Vantage Academy.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student during the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 4 days at a rate of \$236.25 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$945.00.
9. **The Timothy School – Berwyn, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student for the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$67,400.00.
10. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide 1-1 Support services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 6.5 hours per day for 50 days at a rate of \$32.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$10,400.00.
11. **Devereux Schools – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Extended School Year and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,358.00.
12. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Direct Applied Behavior Analysis services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month for 10 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$7,600.00.
13. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Direct Applied Behavior Analysis services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 14 hours per month for 10 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour (\$13,300.00). In addition, Direct 1-1 Intervention shall be provided for 4 hours per week for 42 week at a rate of \$32.00 per hour (\$5,376.00). Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed a total of \$18,676.00.
14. **Dr. Claudia Chernow, Psychologist – Dresher, PA.** Conduct a psychiatric evaluation of a special needs student and provide a written report. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,000.00.

15. **Spring-Ford Family Practice (Pottstown Medical Specialists, Inc.) – Pottstown, PA.** Perform state mandated school physical examinations, provide standing orders and consultation regarding school-based medical issues during the 2016-2017 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$18.00 per student physical.
16. **Jack Bracale, DMD – Royersford, PA.** Perform state mandated dental screenings of students in grades 3 and 7 during the 2016-2017 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$5.00 per screening.
- Q. Administration recommends approval of the reimbursement to a parent of a special needs student for an Independent Educational Evaluation. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,800.00 for the completion of the evaluation, the written report and participation in the follow up meeting.

#### **VIII. PROPERTY**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval to award a contract for Snow Removal Services district-wide to C&C Landscaping Inc. – Glen Clarke, Royersford, PA the lowest responsible hourly RFP. The cost will be \$68.00 per hour/per truck, \$70.00 per hour/per 6 wheel dump truck, \$85.00 per hour for skid loader, and \$125.00 per hour for loader. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- B. Administration recommends approval to develop specifications for re-paving district-wide as per the Capital Improvement Plan. This work will be completed over the summer of 2017. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve.
- C. Administration recommends approval to go out to bid and or receive RFPs for the Maintenance Department Service Contracts district-wide for the 2017-2018 school year. All of these bids and RFPs will be placed on the June 2017 Board Agenda for approval. Funding will come from the 2017-2018 Maintenance Budget.
- D. Administration recommends approval to obtain a structural engineer to review and provide a report regarding footings and foundation for the bleachers for both the home and visitors side at McNelly Stadium. The report will be inclusive of their findings and suggestions if there are any repairs needed. This information will be brought back to the Property Committee for discussion as per the annual inspection report. Total costs for the engineer will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- E. Administration recommends having a fence installed at the walking path at Oaks Elementary School beside Blackrock Road for safety reasons. Total cost for the fence shall not exceed \$3,500.00 and will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- F. Administration recommends approval to enter into the AIA agreement involving the Performing Arts and Fitness areas addition as presented at the September Board Meeting. After final solicitor approval, it is recommended to move onto the schematic design phase of the project for total design and cost as per the agreement.



- G. Administration recommends approval to enter into an agreement with Center Stage Lighting and Rigging Inc. to provide training for Spring-Ford Technology personnel to oversee and work with the students and staff for school functions which involve lighting and sound in the auditoriums. The price is based on initial training on a flat rate of \$4,000.00 for 8 hours of training and a per hour cost of \$35.00/hr. plus travel for any re-training if needed. Funding will come from the Technology Budget.
- H. Administration recommends approval for annual repairs at Ram Stadium to be completed by Hummer Turfgrass Systems Inc. The costs are split on an annual basis between Spring-Ford Area School District and the Spring City American Legion. Spring-Ford's portion of the annual repairs and upgrades is a total of \$4,220.00. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- I. Administration is recommending replacing the dead Pin Oak trees along Lewis Road and Washington Street that were damaged by disease. The replacement trees will be a different species of Oak and shall not exceed \$6,000.00. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.

**IX. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval of an overnight Global Studies Program trip. As part of the Global Studies Program with Arcadia University we will be offering Introduction to Public Health (PBH110) in the spring of 2017. As part of this course, Arcadia University will run a three-day learning experience from Wednesday, April 12, 2017 to Friday, April 14, 2017 allowing students who are part of the spring program the opportunity to do direct public health service work in conjunction with Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia. The total cost to participate is \$325.00 per student and shall be paid by the students directly to Arcadia University. There will be no cost to the district.
- B. Administration recommends approval of the following new courses for the 2017-2018 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the process of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of the course in the student's course guide.

**NEW COURSES FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2017-2018**

**1. AP Capstone:**

This is a new program offered by College Board that consists of two courses: AP Research and AP Seminar. We had to apply and were accepted into the 2017-2018 cohort and will be among the first schools to offer this in the United States. These two courses will count as English credit, as the content and skills developed mirror our PA Core Standards in English. AP College Board describes AP Capstone this way: *AP Capstone™ is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions. AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — AP Seminar and AP Research — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses.* AP Seminar would be available for students in grades 10-12 and would be a pre-requisite for the AP Research course, made available to students in grades 11 & 12.

**Staffing:**

Additional staffing would likely not be needed to run AP Seminar, but with the addition of AP Research in 18-19, staff may be needed.

**Cost:**

AP Training	\$ 2,000.00
Textbooks	\$ 4,400.00
Initial Materials	\$ 400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,800.00</b>

**2. Project Lead the Way: Civil Engineering & Architecture:**

The PLTW Pathway To Engineering (PTE) Program is a sequence of courses which which follows a proven hands-on, real-world problem-solving approach to learning. Throughout PTE, students learn and apply the design process, acquire strong team-work and communication proficiency, and develop organizational, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students use the same industry-leading 3D design software used by companies like Intel and Lockheed Martin. It's STEM education, and it's at the heart of today's high-tech, high-skill global economy. In our fourth course offering Civil Engineering and Architecture, students learn important aspects of building, site design and development, and then they apply what they know to design a commercial building. This course would be a major course with honors weight, open to any interested 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who has completed Introduction to Engineering Design and Principals of Engineering.

**Staffing:**

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant. As the program grows, we anticipate needing additional staff.

<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Start Up</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
Training for 1 teacher	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 0.00
Lab Inventory	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**3. Technical Writing:**

This minor course will provide an alternative English course for students who are interested in engineering and/or technical careers after high school. This course would be open to any qualified 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student.

**Staffing:**

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant.

**Cost:**

Textbooks	\$2,000.00
Initial Materials & Curriculum Writing (Teacher Resources & Supplemental Items)	\$ 800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>

- C. Administration recommends approval to purchase the Fixed Assets Software module and the Accounts Receivable Software module from Skyward plus training, implementation and software maintenance fees. The total cost shall not exceed \$31,000.00 and will be funded from the Capital Reserve.

- D. Administration recommends approval of a 6 month extension of the contract with Blackboard for the provision of SchoolFusion Services from 1/1/17 through 6/30/17. The purpose of this extension is to cover the hosting of website services during the time period needed to fully switch the district over to the new provider. Funding will be paid from the Technology Budget and shall not exceed \$9,134.97 for this 6 month extension.
- E. Administration recommends approval of the purchase of Casper Mobile Device Management Solution to be used by the Technology Department to manage district-owned mobile devices. The total cost shall not exceed \$15,100.00 and will be paid from the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- F. Administration recommends approval for the addition of Verizon FiOS to provide internet redundancy. The 2 year contract shall not exceed \$500.00 a month and will be paid out of the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- G. Administration recommends approval to purchase a 30 hour support block from Strategic Link. The hours will be used for System Engineering support for district systems and initiatives. The total cost shall not exceed \$4,800.00 and will be paid from the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- H. Administration recommends approval for Catalyst Prep to host a two-day SAT Bootcamp to be facilitated at the 10-12 Grade Center on Saturday, May 20, 2017 and Sunday, May 21, 2017 in the Hurda Learning Center. The cost per student is \$150.00 and will be paid by students directly to Catalyst Prep. Catalyst Prep will reimburse the district \$150.00 for facility costs. There is no cost to the district.

**X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no questions or comments.

The following individuals are recommended for attendance at the following:

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

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

- A. **Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Jr.**, Board Member, to attend the “*NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition*” at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado from March 24, 2017 through March 27, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$2,400.00 (registration, airfare, transportation, lodging and meals).
- B. **Richard Grove**, System Technician, to attend “*Global Knowledge Enterprise Wi-Fi Administration*” in Arlington, Virginia from March 6, 2017 through March 10, 2017. The total cost of the conference is \$4,002.36 (registration, mileage, lodging and meals). No substitute is needed.

**HIGH SCHOOL**

- C. **Barbara Paige**, Speech Therapist, to attend “*The Use of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Programming in Your Classroom: Evidenced-based Teaching Strategies*” at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 20, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$150.00 (for one day of substitute coverage).

- D. **Kathryn Kruemmling, Nancy McDonough, and Indira Pothukuchi**, Teachers, to attend *"T1 Tips: Build 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Algebra 1 Confidence with Graphing Calculators"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 6, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$495.00 (mileage and one day of substitute coverage for each teacher).

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER**

- E. **Patricia B. Flynn**, School Counselor, to attend *"LGBTQ Students – Creating Safe Schools"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 5, 2016. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.

**DISTRICT-WIDE**

- F. **Heidi Rochlin**, Curriculum Supervisor - Math and Science, **Megan Ames, Sue Choi, Karen Connors, Amy Parsia, and Sheryl Wagenseller**, Teachers, to attend *"Grades 3-5: How to Implement Tasks that Promote Reasoning and Problem Solving"* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 1, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$1,290.00 (registration, mileage and substitute coverage).
- G. **Justin Webb**, Director of Technology, **Sandra Bernat**, Manager of Technology, and **Kathleen Cox**, Software Specialist, to attend *"Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)"* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center from February 12 through February 17, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$3,156.00 (registration, transportation, lodging and meals). No substitutes are needed.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the revised 2016-2017 school calendar. **(Attachment A9)**
- B. Administration recommends the approval for all 2016-2017 Winter Athletic Teams/Individuals that qualify for post season play to be granted permission for overnight travel, when deemed necessary by the Athletic Department, and approved by the Superintendent or their Designee. The School Board will be notified of this travel and Board approval will be sought at the next scheduled Board meeting. Funding will be paid from the Athletic Budget.
- C. Administration recommends approval of the following high school winter sport teams for overnight travel during the 2016-2017 school year. There will be no cost to the district as funds for lodging and meals will be paid from the respective team's Booster Club Account.

**Wrestling**

1. Cumberland Valley Tournament – Mechanicsburg, PA  
Cumberland Valley High School  
Depart 12/9/16 - Return 12/10/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Wrestling Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

2. Manheim Central Holiday Tournament – Manheim, PA  
Manheim Central High School  
Depart 12/28/16 – Return 12/29/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Wrestling Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

**Girls' Basketball**

3. Tina Thompson She's Got Game Tournament – National Showcase - Washington, DC  
Elizabeth Seton High School  
Depart 12/9/16 – Return 12/10/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Girls' Basketball Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

**Indoor Boys' & Girls' Track**

4. New Balance Games (Runners/Throwers/Jumpers must qualify) – New York, NY  
The Armory  
Depart 1/21/17 – Return 1/22/17  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the Indoor Track Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

D. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #117 – PROGRAMS: Homebound Instruction (**Attachment A10**)
2. Policy #201.1 – PUPILS: Admission of Beginners/Early Entrance (**Attachment A11**)
3. Policy #247 – PUPILS: Hazing (**Attachment A12**)

**XII. BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. Ciresi commented that each year for about the past 6 years they have done a Board Back to School Day Program and this year it did not take place. Mr. Ciresi indicated that he had a conversation with Dr. Goodin about this and one reason it did not occur was because of the lack of Board participation in the event the previous year. Mr. Ciresi stated that the reason the program was put in place was because many of the Board Members had not been in school in a lot of years so it was more for the Board to go back in the classroom and see what it is like to be a student. Mr. Ciresi clarified that this was not a teacher observation or an administrator observation but more for them to know and feel what it is like to be a student again. Mr. Ciresi added that this experience helps as they sit here at the table and make decisions. Mr. Ciresi stated that he knows the Board Members have busy schedules but he would like to see if this program could not be implemented again in some way as it is very important, especially if someone does not have a child any longer in the system. Mr. Ciresi expressed hope that this program could be run possibly later this year and he challenged the Board to take this unique opportunity.

Mr. DiBello commented that he believes the Board, as they get more information on the high school expansion project, should engage the community possibly through a town hall meeting. Mr. DiBello stated that he feels the Board needs to look at how they can educate the community on the hows and whys of the project, explain the need, address some of the misconceptions that are out there and allow for the public to give their position on the project. Mr. DiBello commented that he is not taking a position one way

or the other on the project but is just saying that they need to start forward thinking about how they are going to engage the community as we continue forward.

**XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Andreina Erwin, Royersford, questioned what Mr. Dehnert was expecting from the bidding process and if it was the cheapest price. Mr. Dehnert replied that he was looking for the lowest price that meets our needs. Mrs. Erwin asked if when we did the illumination system for the stadium if that was through the bidding process and Mr. Fitzgerald responded that it likely would have been done through a state contract or it would have been bid. Mrs. Erwin asked if it was bid and Mr. Fitzgerald replied likely yes. Mrs. Erwin commented that it was a really bad system and she knows this for a fact as she takes the pictures for the marching band. Mrs. Erwin added that if is what Mr. Dehnert is looking for then that is what you are going to get. Mr. Dehnert stated that he has 22 years' experience in sourcing, contracting, and purchasing and in the private sector they rarely just sole source things because you can get what you need if you specify what you want and you competitively bid it. Mrs. Erwin replied that she also had worked in the construction industry for 3 years in Venezuela so she knows a little bit about the bidding system and if you are going to be looking for the cheapest then that is what you are going to get. Mr. Dehnert stated that you should be looking for the lowest price that meets your requirements. Mrs. Erwin next spoke about the 11% county proposed property tax for Montgomery County. Mrs. Erwin advised that there will be a meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> and she was sure that this would be passed along to us the county. Mrs. Erwin wanted to make sure that it would not be taken that this tax hike was coming about due to the new addition. Mr. DiBello clarified that the county tax has nothing to do specifically with Spring-Ford but has to do with running the overall county. Mr. DiBello reported that last year they proposed a little more than a 30% tax increase and this year they are proposing 11%. Mr. DiBello explained that homeowners receive 3 tax bills and the county and township bills come out around March and the real estate tax bill comes out in August. Mr. DiBello reiterated that the 11% increase in the county tax bill has nothing to do with the school tax bill. Mr. DiBello agreed with Mrs. Erwin in that he does not want anyone to think that the county is raising taxes 11% and we are seeing this as it has nothing to do with us. Mrs. Erwin stated that she just wanted to make sure that we have clarification on this as it will be spread around that this is happening because we want an addition.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Spletzer seconded it. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern  
School Board Secretary

On November 28, 2016 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:	Dr. Edward T. Dressler
Region II:	Dawn R. Heine and Colleen Zasowski
Region III:	Joseph P. Ciresi and Mark P. Dehnert
Presiding Officer:	Thomas J. DiBello
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Taylor Stevens

The following Board Members were absent: Bernard F. Pettit, Kelly J. Spletzer and Todd R. Wolf

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Taylor announced that the winter concert season will be here before you know it and she reported that the Spring-Ford School District homepage has a complete listing of school concert events, dates and times. Taylor added that the Spring-Ford Music Department strives to make every student musically literate through creative, engaging, and sequential instruction so they can find meaning in the art of music.

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

There were no questions or comments from the public.

Mr. DiBello announced that the Board met in an executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel items and no decisions were made.

### **II. PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. McDaniel thanked the Board on behalf of the Athletic Department and all of the student-athletes for the opportunity to recognize all of young men and young women who have won championships this year. Mr. McDaniel added that the Athletic Department would also like to congratulate the Golden Ram Marching Band on the success they have had this year. Mr. McDaniel introduced the Girls' Tennis Team and their coaches and presented them with a resolution from the Board in recognition of their winning the 2016 PAC Championship.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-30** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Tennis Team** and their coaches Todd Reagan and Ryan Rendick for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A1**).

Mr. McDaniel introduced the Girls' Soccer Team and their coaches and presented them with a resolution from the Board in recognition of their winning the 2016 PAC Championship.

- B. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-31** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team** and their coaches Timothy Leyland, Lauren Brock and Heather Nikki Lynch for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A2**).

Mr. McDaniel introduced Benjamin Pochet a member of the Boys' Golf Team and his coaches and presented them with a resolution from the Board in recognition of his winning the 2016 PIAA District One and PIAA East Regional Boys Golf Championships.

- C. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-32** commending **Benjamin Pochet**, a member of the **Spring-Ford High School Boys' Golf Team** and his coaches Jeffrey Mast, Gerald Hollingsworth and Daniel Butterweck for winning the 2016 PIAA District One and PIAA East Regional Boys' Golf Championships. (**Attachment A3**).

Mr. McDaniel introduced the Boys' Golf Team and their coaches and presented them with a resolution from the Board in recognition of their winning the 2016 PIAA District One Championship.

- D. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-33** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Boys' Golf Team** and their coaches Jeffrey Mast, Gerald Hollingsworth and Daniel Butterweck for winning the 2016 PIAA District One Championship. (**Attachment A4**).

Mr. McDaniel introduced the Boys' Cross Country Team and their coaches and presented them with a resolution from the Board in recognition of their winning the 2016 PAC Championship.

- E. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-34** commending the **Spring-Ford Area High School Boys' Cross Country Team** and their coaches Brian Sullivan, Heather Giovagnoli, John Kraynak and Matthew Varady for winning the 2016 Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship. (**Attachment A5**).

Mr. DiBello commented that he wanted to recognize all of the groups. He stated that this is a great time of year when we recognize all of the success

Mr. Jones commented that tonight they were recognizing the Marching Band as they had a very successful competitive season. Mr. Jones announced that this year their final achievement was that they were crowned the Cavalcade of Bands Champions for the 6<sup>th</sup> time which culminated a great season. This year they were also crowned the Pennsylvania Class 6 Champions for the state and they were one of only two bands for Pennsylvania to be crowned for finalists at the Bands of America Show which is on the national circuit. Mr. Jones stated that there had been some pretty fantastic growth and experiences for the kids in the program. Mr. Jones spoke of the rewarding experience he is having as the band director as other schools and bands look towards Spring-Ford as what everyone else in the state should aspire to. Mr. Jones commented that all of the success and recognition is largely in thanks due to the School Board and Administration who have done a fantastic job in enabling decisions that allow the district to grow. Mr. Jones presented resolutions to the members of the Marching Band and the Board recognized them for their achievements.

Mr. DiBello spoke of the success of the Athletic Department and the Music Department and stated that the success does not come without a lot of hard work and dedication. Mr. DiBello expressed how proud the Board and the district is of these teams and individuals.



- F. Presentation of **Resolution 2016-35** in recognition of **Seth R. Jones** and the **Spring-Ford Area High School Golden Ram Marching Band** for successfully placing at the Cavalcade of Bands Patriot Open Championship, the US Bands State Championship and the Bands of America Regional Championship. **(Attachment A6)**

### III. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **WMCTC**

**Ciresi, Dressler, Heine**

**1<sup>st</sup> Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

Dr. Dressler reported that the Joint Operating Committee met on November 7<sup>th</sup> where Mr. Moritzen reported on the Sports Medicine Open House which took place on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Dressler reported that 50 families turned out to see the new 3000 square foot facility. Dr. Dressler added that the facility is designed to have a maximum of 30 students enrolled and already there have been applications to get into the program. Dr. Dressler advised that Girls Night Out took place on November 16<sup>th</sup>. He announced that next month on December 7<sup>th</sup> the Western Center will hold their own Open House at 7:00 PM.

#### **Personnel**

**Bernard Pettit**

**(As Needed)**

There was no report.

#### **PSBA Liaison**

**Dr. Edward Dressler**

There was no report.

#### **Legislative Committee**

**Dawn Heine**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Weds. 7:30 p.m.**

There was no report.

#### **MCIU**

**Tom DiBello**

**4<sup>th</sup> Weds. 7:00 p.m.**

There was no report.

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

Dr. Goodin reported that Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, is the fifth annual celebration of Giving Tuesday. He stated that since its inaugural year in 2012, Giving Tuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy within our community. It's an easy way to be a part of something big that includes what you care about. He advised that to participate the public can visit the Spring-Ford website and select a parent organization such as our elementary PTO or Home and School group, Spring-Ford Booster Club, Music Association, Educational Foundation, or SNAP. He added that they can make a charitable gift or volunteer their time with any of Spring-Ford's support organizations. Dr. Goodin thanked the Board for their continued support of the district operations, recognizing the athletic teams and extracurricular events. He added that there is a great winning tradition in the district and a great tradition of building character within our students and this all starts from the top down. Dr. Goodin thanked all of the parents of the students recognized as well as the students for coming out this evening.

#### **Solicitor's Report**

**Mark Fitzgerald**

There was no report.

Mr. DiBello spoke of an anonymous letter he received about the district not recognizing Veterans or showing support of our veterans on Veteran's Day. He stated that he was surprised at the letter and wanted to address this as Spring-Ford has a long tradition of recognizing and doing something to honor our veterans. Mr. DiBello commented that all of our schools in one way or another have planned events or have had conversations in the classrooms about the importance of Veteran's Day. Mr. DiBello provided this brief

overview of some of the activities that occurred throughout the district in recognition of our veterans on Veteran's Day:

- Brooke Elementary – 4th grade students visited SE Veterans Center in Spring City
- Oaks Elementary – There was a musical put on by the 2nd graders and there were also classroom visits by the veterans
- Royersford Elementary – Held an assembly for their students along with veterans
- Spring City Elementary – Held a Veteran's Day Celebration
- Upper Providence – Had a Wall of Honor in the hallway close to the lobby where families shared pictures of family members who were veterans
- 5th/6th Grade Center – Held Veteran's Day Assemblies to honor our veterans and any of their family members who were able to attend
- Veterans visited many of our schools throughout the day
- Articles highlighting the activities appeared in the Mercury and on The Patch.
- RCTV did a video on Veteran's Day

Mr. DiBello stated that as a district we take Veteran's Day very seriously and we are proud of all of the activities that occur throughout the district. Mr. DiBello commended the administration and the staff for all of their efforts in putting the many activities together.

#### IV. MINUTES

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-B and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

A. The Board approved the October 17, 2016 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A7)**

##### **New Minutes**

B. The Board approved the October 24, 2016 Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A8)**

#### V. PERSONNEL

Mr. Ciresi made a motion to approve Items A-E and Mr. Dehnert seconded it.

Dr. Goodin stated that he wanted to recognize and thank the Professional and Support Staff listed on the agenda this evening who are retiring for being valued employees and for their years of service to the district.

The motion passed 6-0.

##### **A. Resignations**

1. **Catherine M. Brittingham**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: November 18, 2016.
2. **Gina Davila**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Center. Effective: November 3, 2016.
3. **Daniel J. Fox**; Asst. Wrestling Coach, 7/8/9th Grades. Effective: October 28, 2016.
4. **David M. Frankel**; Social Studies Teacher, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: January 25, 2017.

5. **Daniel J. Hoff**; Asst. Basketball Coach-Boys, Senior High School. Effective: October 25, 2016.
6. **Thomas J. Hontz**; Asst. Wrestling Coach, Senior High School. Effective: October 26, 2016.

**New Resignation**

7. **Susan E. Fryer**; English Teacher, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: June 15, 2017.

**B. Support Staff Employees**

1. **Cristin M. Arbaugh**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Catherine M. Brittingham who retired. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 28, 2016.
2. **Corinda D. Bergey**; Instructional Assistant, Royersford Elementary School, replacing Shannon C. Sheridan who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 17, 2016.
3. **Marissa R. Bowlby**; College Career Coordinator, Senior High School, replacing Kathleen E. McNeil who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$45,000.00 prorated with benefits. Effective: November 14, 2016.
4. **Lindsay A. Brock**; 10-month IT Support Technician, Senior High School, replacing Joseph A. Giampa who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$19.40/hour with benefits. Effective: November 7, 2016.
5. **Carli R. Ducko**; Instructional Assistant, Evans Elementary School, replacing Emily A. Peden who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 17, 2016.
6. **Marissa R. Hoffman**; Instructional Assistant, Upper Providence Elementary School, replacing Marlo A. Oslon who had a change of assignment. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 7, 2016.
7. **Stefani Mortimer**; Instructional Assistant, Evans Elementary School, replacing Karen E. Doyle who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 14, 2016.
8. **Maria Van Horn**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour (degree rate) with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Plan. Effective: November 28, 2016.

**New Support Staff Employee**

9. **Tyler F. Emel**; Audio Visual Technician, Senior High School. Compensation has been set at \$23.00/hour with benefits. Effective: December 5, 2016.

**C. Personnel Information Items**

The individual listed below has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as a temporary professional employee and was granted tenure status:

1. **Christopher Talley** Upper Providence Elementary School

- D. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2016-2017 school year. **(Attachment A9)**

**New Personnel Motion**

**E. Professional Employee**

1. **Jeanette M. Walker**; Special Education Teacher, Senior High School, replacing Ryan N. Souder who had a change of assignment. Compensation has been set at MS, Step 7, \$52,700.00, prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: To be determined.

**VI. FINANCE**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-Q and Mr. Ciresi seconded it.

Mr. Ciresi commented that tonight the Board is approving the Proposed Preliminary Budget to put out for the public to see which is not the real budget but rather the proposed preliminary budget. Mr. Ciresi stated that he wanted to reiterate that as of today we still do not know what the state is giving the district in the budget. Mr. Ciresi expressed that the district is being asked to approve a budget in a vacuum without knowing what the state is giving us. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. Fitzgerald to explain what the consequences are if the Board does not approve a budget. Mr. Fitzgerald replied that it could be seen as a dereliction of duty and there could be a petition to remove Board Officers as a result. Mr. Ciresi asked what the law was with regards to the state mandate to come up with a budget and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that there was none. Mr. Ciresi stated that they need to stand united as School Boards across the state and tell the state that they need to have a budget in place before we do.

Mrs. Heine stated that she wanted to reiterate that this is a preliminary budget and is by no means the final budget. Mrs. Heine added that as Mr. Ciresi mentioned we do not know what our numbers are from the state and it is up to our business office as well as the Finance Committee and other members of the School Board to work hard to get to a lower percentage as that is their goal. Mrs. Heine stated that this is what is required of them but as mentioned these are strictly preliminary numbers.

Mrs. Zasowski stated that it is interesting that there are repercussions for them as volunteers but not for the people that are in the state offices and paid to be there. Mrs. Zasowski said it is a guessing game but it is as calculated as it can be but truly the district should have the state's numbers.

The motion passed 6-0.

- A. 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.
- B. Checks:
1. General Fund Checks

Check No. 162820 – 163400	\$3,425,426.96
ACH 161700145 - 161700220	\$ 467,201.76
  2. Capital Reserve Checks

Check No. 1226-1227	\$ 4,155.42
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  3. Food Service Checks

Check No. 13032 – 13162	\$ 114,816.17
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  4. Procurement Payments

201601248 – 201601387	\$ 164,545.41
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- C. The following monthly Board reports were approved:
- Cash Balances – Liquidity
  - Skyward Reports
    - General Fund Check Register
    - Athletic Fund Check Register
    - Capital Reserve Check Register
    - Food Service Check Register
    - Summary Revenue Report
    - Summary Expense Report
- D. The Board of School Directors authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the properties located at 5 Kugler Road in Limerick Township (condo 100, condo 200 and common elements) and further identified as tax parcel Nos. 37-00-03772-20-5, 37-00-03772-21-4 and 37-00-03772-22-3 setting the total assessment of the properties at \$2,958,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,958,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$3,423,600 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$3,105,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$3,034,800 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$3,029,400 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the assessment of the properties pursuant to applicable law.
- E. The Board of School Directors authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 341 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Condo unit 6) in Limerick Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 37-00-01522-00-7 setting the assessments of the property at \$696,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$744,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$760,800 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$690,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$674,400 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$673,200 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.

- F. The Board of School Directors authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 536 Jones Blvd. in Limerick Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 37-00-01242-04-4 setting the assessments of the property at \$2,436,000 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,604,000 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$2,662,800 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$2,415,000 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$2,360,400 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$2,356,200 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- G. The Board of School Directors authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 100 Thoms Drive in Upper Providence Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 61-00-04470-37-4 setting the assessments of the property at \$1,993,750 for tax year 2012 (school tax year 2012-13), \$2,131,250 for tax year 2013 (school tax year 2013-14), \$2,179,375 for tax year 2014 (school tax year 2014-15), \$1,976,563 for tax year 2015 (school tax year 2015-16), \$1,931,875 for tax year 2016 (school tax year 2016-17) and \$1,928,438 for tax year 2017 (school tax year 2017-18) and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- H. The Board approved making public the 2017-2018 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 23, 2017.
- I. The Board approved seeking bids and/or participate in the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit bids for supplies for the 2017-2018 school year. Supplies would include but not be limited to custodial, art, paper, physical education, science, technology education and furniture.
- J. The Board approved a High School Activities account for the 2016- 2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- K. The Board approved an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Activities account for the 2016-2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- L. The Board approved a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Center Activities account for the 2016-2017 school year. Each activity group has completed signature records and a listing of officers.
- M. The Board approved the establishment of the Class of 2020 High School Activities account.
- N. The Board approved the revised amount for the confidential settlement agreement (#2016-05 previously approved at the June 2016 Board meeting in the amount of \$1,731.00 for 2016-2017 and \$1,731.00 for 2017-2018). In Lieu of FAPE with the parents of a special needs student this revision includes an additional amount for transportation in the amount of \$1,066.20 for 2016-2017 and \$1,066.20 for 2017-2018. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,797.20 for 2016-2017 and \$2,797.20 for 2017-2018.
- O. The Board approved the following **independent contracts** that are offered free of charge or are being funded by the Home and School Associations, the Home and School Leagues, the Parent Teacher Associations, the Parent Teacher Organizations or an outside source:

1. **Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy – Schwenksville, PA.** Provide 2 assemblies for kindergarten students at Evans Elementary School entitled *“Winter Secrets”*. Funding will be paid by the Evans Elementary Home and School Association and shall not exceed \$660.00.
2. **Schoolsculptures with Kevin Reese LLC – Washington, DC.** Provide an Artist in Residence Program enabling 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to experience creativity, teamwork, and collaboration of ideas as they design a permanent sculpture to be displayed at Upper Providence Elementary. Funding will be paid by the Upper Providence Home and School Organization and shall not exceed \$7,000.00.

P. The Board approved the following independent contracts:

1. **Daniel Levy – New York, NY.** Provide four museum exhibitions for students in grades 1-4 at Upper Providence Elementary School entitled *“Eureka – The Invention Show”*. Funding will be paid from the Upper Providence Elementary Assembly Budget and shall not exceed \$1,350.00.
2. **Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide a 1-1 Assistant for a special needs student who attends The Vanguard School. Services will be provided during the first two quarters of the 2016-2107 school year for 7.5 hours per day for 90 days at a rate of \$32.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$21,600.00.
3. **Kidspace National Centers – Schnecksville, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student during the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 180 days at a rate of \$161.53 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$29,075.00.
4. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide a 1-1 Assistant for a special needs student who attends Woods Services. Services will be provided for the 2016-2017 school year. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$41,055.30.
5. **Montgomery County Intermediate Unit – Norristown, PA.** Provide Personal Care Assistant services for a special needs student who will be transitioning back to the district from the Martin Luther School. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$21,070.00.
6. **Anderson Explorations PHP – Eagleville, PA.** Provide Educational and Mental Health services for special needs students during the 2016-2017 school year as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$25,000.00.
7. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Educational services for the 2016-2017 school year for a special needs student as per the IEP. Direct Program Supervision will be provided for 20 hours per month for 9 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour (\$17,100.00). In addition, one staff member trained in CPI Nonviolent Crisis Intervention will provide PCA services for 140 hours per month for 9 months at a rate of \$32.00 per hour (\$40,320.00). Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$57,420.00.

8. **Lakeside Educational Network – Souderton Vantage Academy.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student during the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 4 days at a rate of \$236.25 per day. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$945.00.
  9. **The Timothy School – Berwyn, PA.** Provide Educational services for a special needs student for the 2016-2017 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$67,400.00.
  10. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide 1-1 Support services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 6.5 hours per day for 50 days at a rate of \$32.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$10,400.00.
  11. **Devereux Schools – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Extended School Year and related services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,358.00.
  12. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Direct Applied Behavior Analysis services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 8 hours per month for 10 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$7,600.00.
  13. **Education Alternatives – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide Direct Applied Behavior Analysis services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Services will be provided for 14 hours per month for 10 months at a rate of \$95.00 per hour (\$13,300.00). In addition, Direct 1-1 Intervention shall be provided for 4 hours per week for 42 week at a rate of \$32.00 per hour (\$5,376.00). Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed a total of \$18,676.00.
  14. **Dr. Claudia Chernow, Psychologist – Dresher, PA.** Conduct a psychiatric evaluation of a special needs student and provide a written report. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,000.00.
  15. **Spring-Ford Family Practice (Pottstown Medical Specialists, Inc.) – Pottstown, PA.** Perform state mandated school physical examinations, provide standing orders and consultation regarding school-based medical issues during the 2016-2017 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$18.00 per student physical.
  16. **Jack Bracale, DMD – Royersford, PA.** Perform state mandated dental screenings of students in grades 3 and 7 during the 2016-2017 school year as requested by parents/guardians. Funding will be paid from the General Fund and shall not exceed \$5.00 per screening.
- Q. Administration recommends approval of the reimbursement to a parent of a special needs student for an Independent Educational Evaluation. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$3,800.00 for the completion of the evaluation, the written report and participation in the follow up meeting.



# **VIII. PROPERTY**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approved Items A-H and Mr. Ciresi seconded it.

Mr. DiBello noted that last week they talked about having an architecture's agreement in place and he wanted to advise that the solicitor's office is still working on that so it is not on the agenda this evening. Once it is finalized and the Board can review it then it will be determined when it will be on the agenda for a vote. Mr. DiBello stated that he had mentioned to the Board that as they proceed down this line then they should talk about planning a town hall meeting or something to that effect so that the public can be invited and have the opportunity to understand what's going on, why the decisions are being made the way they are, what the short term and long term goals are and really understand rather than go off of discussions at the local diner.

Mr. Ciresi agreed and stated that the town hall meeting should be done sooner rather than later, possibly in February or March. Mr. Ciresi stated that this will also serve to kill the rumor mill once and for all as people understand what is being proposed.

The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved awarding a contract for Snow Removal Services district-wide to C&C Landscaping Inc. – Glen Clarke, Royersford, PA the lowest responsible hourly RFP. The cost will be \$68.00 per hour/per truck, \$70.00 per hour/per 6 wheel dump truck, \$85.00 per hour for skid loader, and \$125.00 per hour for loader. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- B. The Board approved developing specifications for re-paving district- wide as per the Capital Improvement Plan. This work will be completed over the summer of 2017. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve.
- C. The Board approved going out to bid and or receive RFPs for the Maintenance Department Service Contracts district-wide for the 2017-2018 school year. All of these bids and RFPs will be placed on the June 2017 Board Agenda for approval. Funding will come from the 2017-2018 Maintenance Budget.
- D. The Board approved obtaining a structural engineer to review and provide a report regarding footings and foundation for the bleachers for both the home and visitors side at McNelly Stadium. The report will be inclusive of their findings and suggestions if there are any repairs needed. This information will be brought back to the Property Committee for discussion as per the annual inspection report. Total costs for the engineer will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- E. The Board approved having a fence installed at the walking path at Oaks Elementary School beside Blackrock Road for safety reasons. Total cost for the fence shall not exceed \$3,500.00 and will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- F. The Board approved entering into an agreement with Center Stage Lighting and Rigging Inc. to provide training for Spring-Ford Technology personnel to oversee and work with the students and staff for school functions which involve lighting and sound in the auditoriums. The price is based on initial training on a flat rate of \$4,000.00 for 16 hours of training and a per hour cost of \$135.00/hr. plus travel for any re-training if needed. Funding will come from the Technology Budget.

- G. The Board gave approval for annual repairs at Ram Stadium to be completed by Hummer Turfgrass Systems Inc. The costs are split on an annual basis between Spring-Ford Area School District and the Spring City American Legion. Spring-Ford's portion of the annual repairs and upgrades is a total of \$4,220.00. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.
- H. The Board approved replacing the dead Pin Oak trees along Lewis Road and Washington Street that were damaged by disease. The replacement trees will be a different species of Oak and shall not exceed \$6,000.00. Funding will come from the 2016-2017 Maintenance Budget.

**IX. PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-H and Mr. Ciresi seconded it.

Mrs. Heine commented on Item B1 saying that the district had to actually apply to be a part of the AP Capstone cohort and we will be one of the first schools in the United States to be offering this type of program. She stated that this is something that will continue to set Spring-Ford apart and highlight our students and our school. Mrs. Heine offered congratulations to the district, Mrs. Bast and her hard work in getting the application submitted and us accepted.

The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved an overnight Global Studies Program trip. As part of the Global Studies Program with Arcadia University we will be offering Introduction to Public Health (PBH110) in the spring of 2017. As part of this course, Arcadia University will run a three-day learning experience from Wednesday, April 12, 2017 to Friday, April 14, 2017 allowing students who are part of the spring program the opportunity to do direct public health service work in conjunction with Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia. The total cost to participate is \$325.00 per student and shall be paid by the students directly to Arcadia University. There will be no cost to the district.
- B. The Board approved the following new courses for the 2017-2018 school year. Board approval is requested so that administration may begin the process of planning for curriculum development, budgeting, and inclusion of the course in the student's course guide.

**NEW COURSES FOR SPRING-FORD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL 2017-2018**

**1. AP Capstone:**

This is a new program offered by College Board that consists of two courses: AP Research and AP Seminar. We had to apply and were accepted into the 2017-2018 cohort and will be among the first schools to offer this in the United States. These two courses will count as English credit, as the content and skills developed mirror our PA Core Standards in English. AP College Board describes AP Capstone this way: *AP Capstone™ is a College Board program that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It cultivates curious, independent, and collaborative scholars and prepares them to make logical, evidence-based decisions. AP Capstone is comprised of two AP courses — AP Seminar and AP Research — and is designed to complement and enhance the discipline-specific study in other AP courses.* AP Seminar would be available for students in grades 10-12 and would be a pre-requisite for the AP Research course, made available to students in grades 11 & 12.

**Staffing:**

Additional staffing would likely not be needed to run AP Seminar, but with the addition of AP Research in 18-19, staff may be needed.

**Cost:**

AP Training	\$ 2,000.00
Textbooks	\$ 4,400.00
Initial Materials	\$ 400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,800.00</b>

2. **Project Lead the Way: Civil Engineering & Architecture:**

The PLTW Pathway To Engineering (PTE) Program is a sequence of courses which which follows a proven hands-on, real-world problem-solving approach to learning. Throughout PTE, students learn and apply the design process, acquire strong team-work and communication proficiency, and develop organizational, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students use the same industry-leading 3D design software used by companies like Intel and Lockheed Martin. It's STEM education, and it's at the heart of today's high-tech, high-skill global economy. In our fourth course offering Civil Engineering and Architecture, students learn important aspects of building, site design and development, and then they apply what they know to design a commercial building. This course would be a major course with honors weight, open to any interested 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who has completed Introduction to Engineering Design and Principals of Engineering.

**Staffing:**

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant. As the program grows, we anticipate needing additional staff.

<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Start Up</b>	<b>Recurring</b>
Training for 1 teacher	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 0.00
Lab Inventory	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

3. **Technical Writing:**

This minor course will provide an alternative English course for students who are interested in engineering and/or technical careers after high school. This course would be open to any qualified 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student.

**Staffing:**

Current staff would be utilized if enrollment numbers warrant.

**Cost:**

Textbooks	\$2,000.00
Initial Materials & Curriculum Writing (Teacher Resources & Supplemental Items)	\$ 800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>

- C. The Board approved purchasing the Fixed Assets Software module and the Accounts Receivable Software module from Skyward plus training, implementation and software maintenance fees. The total cost shall not exceed \$31,000.00 and will be funded from the Capital Reserve.
- D. The Board approved a 6 month extension of the contract with Blackboard for the provision of SchoolFusion Services from 1/1/17 through 6/30/17. The purpose of this extension is to cover the hosting of website services during the time period needed to fully switch the district over to the new provider. Funding will be paid from the Technology Budget and shall not exceed \$9,134.97 for this 6 month extension.
- E. The Board approved the purchase of Casper Mobile Device Management Solution to be used by the Technology Department to manage district-owned mobile devices. The total cost shall not exceed \$15,100.00 and will be paid from the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- F. The Board approved the addition of Verizon FiOS to provide internet redundancy. The 2 year contract shall not exceed \$500.00 a month and will be paid out of the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- G. The Board approved purchasing a 30 hour support block from Strategic Link. The hours will be used for System Engineering support for district systems and initiatives. The total cost shall not exceed \$4,800.00 and will be paid from the 2016-2017 Technology Budget.
- H. The Board gave approval for Catalyst Prep to host a two-day SAT Bootcamp to be facilitated at the 10-12 Grade Center on Saturday, May 20, 2017 and Sunday, May 21, 2017 in the Hurda Learning Center. The cost per student is \$150.00 and will be paid by students directly to Catalyst Prep. Catalyst Prep will reimburse the district \$150.00 for facility costs. There is no cost to the district.

**X. CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-G and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

The following individuals were approved for attendance at the following:

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

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

- A. **Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Jr.**, Board Member, to attend the *"NSBA Annual Conference and Exposition"* at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado from March 24, 2017 through March 27, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$2,400.00 (registration, airfare, transportation, lodging and meals).
- B. **Richard Grove**, System Technician, to attend *"Global Knowledge Enterprise Wi-Fi Administration"* in Arlington, Virginia from March 6, 2017 through March 10, 2017. The total cost of the conference is \$4,002.36 (registration, mileage, lodging and meals). No substitute is needed.

## HIGH SCHOOL

- C. **Barbara Paige**, Speech Therapist, to attend *“The Use of Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Programming in Your Classroom: Evidenced-based Teaching Strategies”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on April 20, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$150.00 (for one day of substitute coverage).
- D. **Kathryn Krueemmling, Nancy McDonough, and Indira Pothukuchi**, Teachers, to attend *“T1 Tips: Build 8<sup>th</sup> Grade/Algebra 1 Confidence with Graphing Calculators”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 6, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$495.00 (mileage and one day of substitute coverage for each teacher).

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CENTER

- E. **Patricia B. Flynn**, School Counselor, to attend *“LGBTQ Students – Creating Safe Schools”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 5, 2016. There is no cost for this conference and no substitute is needed.

## DISTRICT-WIDE

- F. **Heidi Rochlin**, Curriculum Supervisor - Math and Science, **Megan Ames, Sue Choi, Karen Connors, Amy Parsia, and Sheryl Wagenseller**, Teachers, to attend *“Grades 3-5: How to Implement Tasks that Promote Reasoning and Problem Solving”* at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit in Norristown, PA on December 1, 2016. The total cost of this conference is \$1,290.00 (registration, mileage and substitute coverage).
- G. **Justin Webb**, Director of Technology, **Sandra Bernat**, Manager of Technology, and **Kathleen Cox**, Software Specialist, to attend *“Pennsylvania Education Technology Expo and Conference (PETE&C)”* at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center from February 12 through February 17, 2017. The total cost of this conference is \$3,156.00 (registration, transportation, lodging and meals). No substitutes are needed.

## XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Dehnert made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 6-0.

- A. The Board approved the revised 2016-2017 school calendar. **(Attachment A10)**
- B. The Board gave approval for all 2016-2017 Winter Athletic Teams/Individuals that qualify for post season play to be granted permission for overnight travel, when deemed necessary by the Athletic Department, and approved by the Superintendent or their Designee. The School Board will be notified of this travel and Board approval will be sought at the next scheduled Board meeting. Funding will be paid from the Athletic Budget.
- C. The Board gave approval for the following high school winter sport teams for overnight travel during the 2016-2017 school year. There will be no cost to the district as funds for lodging and meals will be paid from the respective team’s Booster Club Account.

**Wrestling**

1. Cumberland Valley Tournament – Mechanicsburg, PA  
Cumberland Valley High School  
Depart 12/9/16 - Return 12/10/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Wrestling Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation
2. Manheim Central Holiday Tournament – Manheim, PA  
Manheim Central High School  
Depart 12/28/16 – Return 12/29/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Wrestling Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

**Girls' Basketball**

3. Tina Thompson She's Got Game Tournament – National Showcase - Washington, DC  
Elizabeth Seton High School  
Depart 12/9/16 – Return 12/10/16  
Meals and lodging provided by the Girls' Basketball Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

**Indoor Boys' & Girls' Track**

4. New Balance Games (Runners/Throwers/Jumpers must qualify) – New York, NY  
The Armory  
Depart 1/21/17 – Return 1/22/17  
Meals and lodging will be provided by the Indoor Track Team Booster Club Account  
The team will use district transportation

D. The following policies are submitted for a first reading:

1. Policy #117 – PROGRAMS: Homebound Instruction (**Attachment A11**)
2. Policy #201.1 – PUPILS: Admission of Beginners/Early Entrance (**Attachment A12**)
3. Policy #247 – PUPILS: Hazing (**Attachment A13**)

**XII. BOARD COMMENT**

There were no Board comments.

**XIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

**Andreina Erwin, Linfield**, stated that she wanted to read something as she knows the Board will be making a decision next week regarding the expansion. Mrs. Erwin read an article that highlighted the benefits of sports and music in education. She spoke of the lengthy discussions that have taken place with regards to the high school expansion project. Mrs. Erwin commented that we have the resources to help our students be successful but cannot seem to put them together to work appropriately. Mrs. Erwin spoke about the success of her two daughters who are both former and current Spring-Ford students. She commented that she calls their success not only progress but also an American dream. Mrs. Erwin cautioned that there are people without a vision who stopping our school district from progress. She said she would like to quote Albert Einstein and stated "if I were to remain silent I would be guilty of complicity".

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Heine made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Ciresi seconded it. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern  
School Board Secretary

On December 5, 2016 the Reorganization Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:38 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Bernard F. Pettit and Kelly J. Spletzer  
Region II: Dawn R. Heine, Todd R. Wolf and Colleen Zasowski  
Region III: Joseph P. Ciresi, Mark P. Dehnert and Thomas J. DiBello  
Presiding Officer: Diane M. Fern, Board Secretary  
Superintendent: Dr. David R. Goodin  
Chief Financial Officer:  
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.  
Student Reps.: Daniel J. Ciresi and Taylor Stevens

**I. CALL TO ORDER** (By Board Secretary)

Board Secretary, Mrs. Fern, opened the meeting with the call to order and noting of the attendance.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**III. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING** (By Mark Fitzgerald, Solicitor)

Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the Pennsylvania School Code requires that annually during the first week of December the Members of the School Board meet and reorganize. The Board will elect a new Board President and Vice President.

**IV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

There were no comments from the public.

**V. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TEMPORARY BOARD PRESIDENT**

Mrs. Fern opened the floor for nominations of a Temporary Board President. Mr. DiBello nominated Mr. Pettit. There were no other nominations. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0 and nominations were closed. The Board elected Mr. Pettit as the Temporary Board President by a vote of 9-0.

**VI. Nominations and Election for the Office of Board President**

Mr. Pettit opened the floor for nominations of a Board President. Mr. DiBello nominated Mr. Ciresi. Mr. Dehnert nominated Mrs. Spletzer. Dr. Dressler made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. There was a roll call vote for the Office of Board President with Mr. Dehnert and Mr. Wolf voting for Mrs. Spletzer. Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Zasowski, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Pettit, Mrs. Heine and Mrs. Spletzer voted for Mr. Ciresi. Mr. Ciresi was elected as the Board President by a vote of 7-2.

Mr. Ciresi thanked the Board for their support saying it is an honor. He thanked Mr. DiBello for the last year in serving as the Board President. Mr. Ciresi stated that it is a challenge at



times being the Board President and he felt Mr. DiBello did a great job serving in that capacity this past year and he thanked him for all he has done not only as the Board President but also as the chair of the Finance Committee.

**VII. Nominations and Election for the Office of Board Vice President**

Mr. Ciresi opened the floor for nominations of a Board Vice President. Mr. Pettit nominated Mr. DiBello. Mr. Dehnert nominated Mrs. Heine. Mrs. Spletzer made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. There was a roll call vote for the Office of Board Vice President with Mr. Dehnert and Mr. Wolf voting for Mrs. Heine. Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Zasowski, Mr. DiBello, Mr. Ciresi, Mr. Pettit, Mrs. Heine and Mrs. Spletzer voted Mr. DiBello. Mr. DiBello was elected as the Board Vice President by a vote of 7-2.

**VIII. Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee Members** – Members of the Joint Committee for the Area Vocational-Technical School serve three year terms. One term expires each year to assure continuity in the operation of the joint program. The most recent representatives and the date of expiration for their terms is as follows:

Joseph P. Ciresi	2018
Dawn R. Heine	2017
<b>Dr. Edward T. Dressler</b>	<b>2016</b>

Mr. Ciresi opened the floor up for nominations for a Board Member to serve on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee for a three-year term. Mrs. Heine nominated Dr. Dressler. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close nominations and Mrs. Spletzer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Dr. Dressler was elected to fill the three-year term on the Vocational-Technical School Operating Committee by a vote of 9-0.

**IX. The Board President should designate a **Member** and an **Alternate** to serve on the **Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee**.** This committee is sponsored by the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors to provide a forum in which local directors can learn about legislative issues, which can affect education in Montgomery County. Mrs. Heine currently serves in this capacity and Mr. DiBello serves as the alternate.

Mr. Ciresi asked Mrs. Heine if she wished to continue serving in this capacity and Mrs. Heine replied that she would prefer not to as the meetings fell on a night when it was a conflict with her schedule. Mr. Ciresi opened up the floor for nominations. Mr. Pettit nominated Mr. Ciresi. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Dr. Dressler was designated to continue serving as the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee. Mr. Ciresi asked Mr. DiBello if he wished to continue serving as the alternate to the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee and Mr. DiBello indicated that he would.

**X. The Board should also appoint a **PSBA Liaison** to represent the Spring-Ford Area School District.** Dr. Dressler currently serves in this capacity.

Mr. Ciresi asked Dr. Dressler if wished to continue serving in this capacity and Dr. Dressler replied that he would. Mr. DiBello nominated Dr. Dressler. Mr. Pettit made a motion to close the nominations and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Dr. Dressler was appointed to continue serving as the PSBA Liaison

- XI.** The Board shall appoint a **Representative** to the **Spring City American Legion**. Mr. DiBello currently serves as the representative.

Mr. Ciresi asked if Mr. DiBello wished to continue serving as the Representative to the Spring City American Legion and he replied yes. Mr. Ciresi nominated Mr. DiBello and Mr. Pettit seconded it. Mr. Ciresi made a motion to close the nominations and Mr. Pettit seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. DiBello was appointed to continue serving as the Representative to the Spring City American Legion.

- XII.** Board approval is needed for the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting Dates for 2017. **(Attachment A1)**

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting Dates for 2017 and Mr. Dehnert seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The Board approved the attached Listing of Work Session/Board Meeting Dates for 2017.

- XIII.** Board approval is needed to authorize the signature of \_\_\_\_\_ as the Board President so that he/she can sign all documentation on behalf of the Board.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to authorize the signature of Joseph Ciresi as the Board President so that he can sign all documentation on behalf of the Board and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. Mr. Ciresi's signature was authorized as that of the Board President and he may now sign all documentation on behalf of the Board.

- XIV. BOARD COMMENT**

There were no comments from the Board.

- XV. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

There were no comments from the public.

- XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Heine seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern  
School Board Secretary

**2016-2017 EXTRACURRICULAR CONTRACTS  
JANUARY 2016**

<b>Contract Title</b>	<b>Season</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Contract Rate</b>
Asst. Wrestling Coach (7/8/9th Grade)	Winter	Anspach	Jason R.	\$4,234.00
Athletic Event Supervisor-Winter - MS	Winter	Brobst	Bruce D.	\$1,181.00
Asst. Baseball Coach - HS	Spring	Deluzio	Charles	\$3,991.00
Asst. Wrestling Coach (7/8/9th Grade)	Winter	Fisher	Zach	\$2,540.40(60% - Yr. 1)
Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach-Boys - HS	Winter	Hoff	Daniel J.	Volunteer
Scoreboard Operator (as needed)	as needed	Leyland	Timothy	\$50/game
Asst. Wrestling Coach - HS	Winter	Morreale	Giancarlo	\$5,189.00
Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach - HS	Winter	Reber	Randy	Volunteer
Athletic Event Supervisor-Spring - MS	Spring	Rinehimer	Jeffrey W.	\$1,181.00
Ski Board Club - HS	Winter	Scott	Melissa	\$678.00
Asst. Baseball Coach - HS	Spring	Souder	Ryan N.	\$3,991.00



# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

## RESOLUTION 2017 – 01

### ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin  
Superintendent

Dr. Allyn J. Roche  
Assistant Superintendent

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph P. Ciresi  
Board President

Thomas J. DiBello  
Board Vice President

Mark P. Dehnert  
Region III

Dr. Edward T. Dressler, Jr.  
Region I

Dawn R. Heine  
Region II

Bernard F. Pettit  
Region I

Kelly J. Spletzer  
Region I

Todd R. Wolf  
Region II

Colleen Zasowski  
Region II

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collectors of Limerick Township and Upper Providence Township, Royersford Borough and Spring City Borough all collect taxes for the Spring-Ford Area School District, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors wish to revise their compensation beginning with the next tax collectors term beginning in 2018-19 school year.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Tax Collector will be compensated at a rate of \$2.00 for each Real Estate Tax bill.
2. The Tax Collectors will be compensated at a rate of \$2.50 for each interim bill.
3. Where a taxpayer that is permitted to pay a particular tax in installments and chooses to do so, the Tax Collectors will be compensated at the rate of \$1.00 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> installment.
4. Payments to the Tax Collectors shall be paid equally over 26 pay periods based on the number of real estate tax bills generated from the tax duplicate at the beginning of each tax-year. Payments for the generation of interim tax bills and the receipt of installment payments shall be made monthly in arrears as incurred.
5. The Tax Collectors shall have their compensation reduced as a result of not remitting funds on a timely basis and in accordance with District Policy and in accordance with Spring-Ford Area School District Resolution #97-1(attached) for tax monies that have been collected but not remitted. The deduction shall be interest-calculated on the base of 6% per annum for each day of the total amount of funds not remitted in accordance with said regulations.
6. The School District reserves the right to conduct an independent audit on a random basis of Tax Collector's records to insure strict adherence to the District's policies and to the current tax collection laws as last amended.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, this **23<sup>rd</sup>** day of **January, 2017**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Joseph P. Ciresi**  
**Board President**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Diane M. Fern**  
**Board Secretary**

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 97-1

WHEREAS, the Tax Collectors of Limerick Township and Upper Providence Township, Royersford Borough and Spring City Borough all collect taxes for the Spring-Ford Area School District, and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors wish to revise their compensation beginning with the tax collection for the 1997-98 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The base rate shall be paid in accordance with the following schedule:

Limerick Township	\$13,200
Upper Providence Township	\$13,200
Royersford Borough	\$ 9,040
Spring City Borough	\$ 8,460

2. The above referenced base rate shall include the cost of per capita collection of up to 5,000 bills. For any additional bills beyond 5,000, the base rate will be supplemented with a \$1.00 per capita bill.

3. The Tax Collectors will be compensated at a rate of \$2.50 for each interim bill.

4. The Tax Collectors shall have their base compensation reduced as a result of not remitting funds on a timely basis and in accordance with District Policy and in accordance with Spring-Ford Area School District Resolution 93-3 for tax monies that have been collected but not remitted. The deduction shall be interest-calculated on the base of 6% per annum for each day of the total amount of funds not remitted in accordance with said regulations.

5. In addition to the reduction set forth in Paragraph 4 above, the base compensation, which shall be payable by 26 pay dates, shall be withheld if the Tax Collector has not acted in accordance with District Policy or this Resolution.

6. The School District reserves the right to conduct an independent audit on a random basis of Tax Collector's records to insure strict adherence to the District's policies and to the current tax collection laws as last amended.

*Paul Phillips*

President

ATTEST:

*Doreen Williams*  
Secretary

*27 April 1997*  
Date

# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: April 24, 2006

**REVIEWED: November 14, 2016**

	117. HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION
1. Purpose SC 1329 Title 22 Sec. 11.25	<p>The Board shall provide, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, individual instruction to students confined to home or hospital for temporary physical disability, illness or injury; or when such confinement is recommended for psychiatric reasons. The period of homebound instruction for an individual shall not exceed three (3) months.</p>
2. Delegation of Responsibility   Title 22 Sec. 11.25	<p>Applications for individual instruction shall certify the nature of the illness or disability and state the probable duration of the confinement; and must be approved by the Superintendent or a designee. Applications must include a letter from the parent/guardian and a statement from the primary care physician.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee may request approval from the Department of Education to extend the period of homebound instruction for an individual, which shall be reevaluated every three (3) months.</p>
3. Guidelines	<p>The Board will provide individual instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least two (2) weeks but such exceptions may be made as the Superintendent or designee deems advisable and so recommends. <b>Each child should have up to five (5) hours of instruction per week. Exceptions may be authorized by the Superintendent or designee but any allotment of hours above five (5) must be pre-approved.</b></p> <p>The program of individual instruction given each student shall be in accordance with the standards established by the Secretary of Education.</p> <p>The Board reserves the right to withhold individual instruction when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The instructor's presence in the place of a student's confinement presents a hazard to the health of the teacher.</li> <li>2. A parent/guardian or other adult in authority is not at home with the student during the hours of instruction.</li> <li>3. Parents/Guardians fail to establish suitable conditions under which such</li> </ol>

	<p>instruction can occur.</p> <p><b>In some situations, students may require immediate homebound instruction due to an emergency situation and/or a placement in a hospital, partial-hospitalization program, rehabilitation facility or detention center. If the placement facility and/or hospital, detention center or program offers and provides educational instruction, the District will initially approve two (2) weeks of educational instruction with a maximum of five (5) hours per week at the current District homebound rate for professional staff (based upon the current professional agreement). If a specific student situation requires additional educational instruction beyond the five (5) hours per week for two (2) weeks or the cost is above the current District homebound rate for professional staff, pre-approval is required by the Superintendent or designee. If additional hours are requested or the rate per hour needs to be negotiated, this policy provides the Superintendent or designee the authority to make such decisions. The pre-approval must include the rationale for the additional hours of educational instruction, total number of hours per week requested, the approximate ratio of teacher to students during the instruction and the requested hourly rate for instruction if the rate exceeds the current District homebound rate for professional staff.</b></p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1329</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 11.25</p>
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SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ADMISSION OF  
BEGINNERS/EARLY  
ENTRANCE

# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADOPTED: March 25, 1991

REVISED: March 23, 1998

**REVIEWED: November 14, 2016**

<p>1.Guidelines SC 1301 Title 22 Sec. 11.14</p> <p>Title 22 Sec. 11.16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">201.1 ADMISSION OF BEGINNERS/EARLY ENTRANCE</p> <p>Chronological age is the best single indicator of maturity. Any child who desires to seek admission to the kindergarten classes of the Spring-Ford Area School District shall have attained the age of five (5) years by August 31 if they are to be admitted in the Fall. A child who has successfully completed kindergarten in a school system which has a lower entrance age requirement may be entered into first grade without regard for chronological age.</p> <p>Exceptions to these regulations shall be considered by the Superintendent for <b>those students who have attained the age of five (5) years for kindergarten on or before September 15<sup>th</sup> and for those students who have attained the age of six (6) years for first grade on or before September 15<sup>th</sup> of the year they are requesting enrollment.</b> Early entrance <b>for either kindergarten or first grade</b> will be <b>considered</b> if application for early entrance is submitted in writing to the Superintendent of Schools between April 1st and June 1st of the year the child is to be considered for entrance. Requests for children who become residents between June 2nd and August 31st of the year the child is to be considered for entrance must be submitted at the time of inquiry or registration up until August 31st.</p> <p>Early entrance will be recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the child exhibits a mental age of six (6) years (kindergarten) or seven (7) years (first grade), or</li> <li>2. An individual test of intelligence administered by the District Psychologist and a visual-motor integration age of five (5) years and ten (10) months or higher, and</li> <li>3. Subjective or objective evaluation techniques indicate the child possesses the emotional stability and social maturity to substantially benefit from immediate school placement, or</li> <li>4. The child has been diagnosed as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. blind,</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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201.1 ADMISSION OF BEGINNERS/EARLY ENTRANCE - Pg. 2

	<div>b. deaf,</div> <div>c. autistic,</div> <div>d. severely socially and emotionally disturbed, or</div> <div>e. multi-handicapped, and</div> <div>the district psychologist and the members of the multi-disciplinary evaluation team recommend educational services to reduce the length of time the child is assigned to a special program or placement other than District or Intermediate Unit operated special education classes.</div>
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# SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: November 27, 2000

REVISED:

**REVIEWED: November 14, 2016**

	<b>247. HAZING</b>
1. Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.
2. Definitions	For purposes of this policy, <b>hazing</b> is defined as any <b>action or situation which</b> recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental <b>or physical</b> health or safety of a <b>person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property</b> for the purpose of initiation or <b>admission into</b> or affiliation with, <b>or as a condition of continued membership in</b> , any organization.
<b>24 P.S. 5352</b>	<p><b>The term shall include, but not limited to:</b></p> <p><b>Any</b> brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding;</p> <p><b>Forced</b> calisthenics;</p> <p><b>Exposure</b> to the elements;</p> <p><b>Forced</b> consumption of any food, <b>liquor</b>, drug, or <b>other</b> substance;</p> <p><b>Any</b> other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health <b>and</b> safety of the individual,</p> <p><b>and</b> shall include any activity that <b>would subject the</b> individual to extreme mental stress, <b>such as</b> sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which <b>is intended to or could result in humiliation</b>, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which <b>could</b> adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; <b>or</b></p> <p><b>Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.</b></p>
<b>24 P.S. 5352</b>	For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an

<p>3. Authority  <b>24 P. S. 511</b>  <b>24 P. S. 5354</b>  Pol. 122,123</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>5. Guidelines  24 P. S. 5354</p> <p>24 P. S. 511  2 P. S. 5354</p>	<p><b>organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.</b></p> <p><b>For purpose of this policy, student activity or organization is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.</b></p> <p>The Board <b>prohibits hazing in connection with any student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours.</b></p> <p>No student, <b>parent/guardian</b>, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, <b>condone or ignore</b> any <b>form of hazing</b>.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.</p> <p><b>Students, parent/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal as soon as they are made aware of any possible incidences.</b></p> <p>Building administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual <b>or student activity or organization found to be in violation of this policy. Building administrators shall immediately inform district administration of any and all reports of hazing including the outcome of all investigations.</b></p> <p><b>In addition to posting this policy on the district’s website, the district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, sponsors, volunteers and district employees that hazing is prohibited, by means of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. publication in student handbooks</li> <li>2. verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program</li> <li><b>3. posting of notice/signs.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>This policy, along with other applicable district policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and all sponsors and volunteers affiliated with a student activity or organization annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in a student activity or</b></p>
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<p>24 P. S. 511 24 P. S. 5354 Pol. 218 Pol. 233</p> <p>Policy 317 Policy 417 Policy 517</p> <p>24 P.S. 5354</p>	<p><b>organization.</b></p> <p><b><u>Complaint Procedure</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When a student believes that <b>s/he</b> has been subject to hazing, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal.</li> <li>2. The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing.</li> <li>3. The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint.</li> <li>4. <b>The district shall document the corrective action taken.</b></li> </ol> <p><b><u>Consequences for Violations</u></b></p> <p>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action <b>up to and including expulsion</b>, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Code of <b>Student</b> Conduct. <b>Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.</b></p> <p><b>Building principals shall take such disciplinary action for violations of this policy as is appropriate and within their authority, as set forth in policy and the Code of Student Conduct.</b></p> <p><b>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor, or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, s/he shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor, or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment.</b></p> <p><b>If a student activity or organization authorizes hazing in blatant disregard of this policy or other applicable district rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.</b></p> <p><b>Any person who causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution.</b></p>
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	<p><b><u>Related Policies</u></b></p> <p>122 – Co-Curricular Activities 123 – Interscholastic Activities 218 – Student Discipline 218.1 – Weapons 218.2 – Terroristic Threats 222 - Tobacco Use 227 – Drug Abuse 233 – Suspension and Expulsion 248 – Sexual Harassment <b>317 - Disciplinary Procedure</b> <b>417 - Disciplinary Procedure</b> <b>517 - Disciplinary Procedure</b></p>
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