

On November 23, 2020, the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:42 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I: Wendy Earle and Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region II: Clinton L. Jackson and David R. Shafer
Region III: Thomas J. DiBello, Christina F. Melton and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer: Colleen Zasowski
Assistant Superintendent: Robert W. Rizzo
Chief Financial Officer: James D. Fink
Solicitor: Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.: Eshika Seth and Allison McVey

The following Board Member was present via Zoom: **Linda C. Fazzini**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Zasowski announced that the Board met in an Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel and security.

Mrs. Zasowski made a motion to remove Item VIII, C, from the agenda and hold it until the January meeting. Mrs. Earle seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0. Item VIII, C, was removed from the agenda and will be placed on the January agenda.

Mrs. Zasowski noted that she was amending Item VI, D, 10, to include the language "pending solicitor approval". There was no objection by the board. The motion was amended.

Mrs. Zasowski reminded the public of the process for attendance at the meeting and for making public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Heather Bixler, Collegeville, encouraged the board to approve the additional funding for Spring-Ford Cyber Learning saying she and her family were very happy with this program.

II. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. McDaniel recognized the athletes, coaches and teams on their outstanding accomplishments during the fall season.

- A. Presentation of **Resolution 2020-28** commending **Mia Matriccino**, a member of the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team, for winning the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Girls' Tennis Singles Championship and qualifying for the PIAA District One Girls' Tennis Singles Tournament. **(Attachment A1)**
- B. Presentation of **Resolution 2020-29** commending the **Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team** and their coaches **Todd Reagan, Devon Staino** and **Karen Canuso** for winning the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Girls' Tennis Championship, the PIAA District One AAA Championship and the PIAA-AAA State Championship. **(Attachment A2)**

- C. Presentation of **Resolution 2020-30** commending the **Spring-Ford High School Girls' Soccer Team** and their coaches **Tim Raub, Rob Rooney, Jamie Mahar** and **Will Geosits** for winning the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Girls' Soccer Championship. **(Attachment A3)**
- D. Presentation of **Resolution 2020-31** commending the **Spring-Ford High School Football Team** and their coaches **Chad Brubaker, Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, Gary Rhodenbaugh, Charles Nesley, Steve Entenman, Jim Algeo, Tyler Hartranft** and **Will Geosits** for winning the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference Football Championship. **(Attachment A4)**
- E. Presentation of **Resolution 2020-32** commending the **Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team** and their coaches **David Cain, Danielle Stauffer, Matt Varady** and **Will Geosits** for winning the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference (PAC) Girls' Tennis Championship, the PIAA District One AAA Championship and the PIAA-AAA State Championship. **(Attachment A5)**

Mr. Fink presented the 2021-2022 Proposed Preliminary Budget. He highlighted the preliminary and final budget timelines, the challenges in the budget preparation, the unknowns with the state budget, district expenditures and district revenues. Mr. Fink advised that the preliminary budget gap was approximately \$7.2 million but that additional work will be done on the budget to bring that amount down. He added that the Act 1 Index for 2021-2022 was 3% and that estimated referendum exceptions the district would apply for totaled around \$1.75 million.

- F. **James D. Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to present the 2021-2022 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the Spring-Ford Area School District.

Mr. Rizzo presented the most recent available municipality data for COVID-19 rates. He advised that the district was currently observing week one of a two-week closure instituted by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. He added that the district was already closed for the fall break this week and that next week all students will be virtual. Mr. Rizzo stated that there were new orders issued by Governor Wolf and that the impact of those orders on the district were still to be determined. He spoke about an attestation form that the district must complete basically stating that we are going to comply with the masking order, the reporting of cases, and contact tracing. Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed the information provided by Mr. Rizzo and added his expertise on the completion of the attestation form.

An update via Zoom was provided by Trisha Smith, School Nurse, regarding COVID exposure and the contact tracing processes to be completed by the school nurses.

Mr. Rizzo provided additional updates on technology, student schedules, school police additional duties with student drop offs and pick-ups, staffing and staffing shortages, and the training of virtual substitute teachers. Mr. Rizzo expressed his appreciation to the administration for keeping things up and running during these uncertain times. He also provided an update on bussing saying all routes and schedules have been established and are up and running smoothly.

The board spoke about and asked Mr. Rizzo to confirm that the district was following proper cleaning and sanitizing protocols. Mr. Rizzo confirmed that he had spoken with Mr. Hunter and was assured that the district had a regular daily cleaning practice and that all cleaning protocols were being followed. The board also discussed the exposure notification process, the understanding of camera use as it pertains to student participation in virtual classes, confusion over the instruction schedule for Wednesdays, how substitute shortages were being handled and the district's communication strategy if there is a need to remain virtual.

- G. **Dr. David R. Goodin**, Superintendent, to provide an update on the Delivery of Education in the Spring-Ford Area School District.

III. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Rep. Report Eshika Seth and Allison McVey

Eshika reported on events that took place which included the Thanksgiving break, virtual instruction through December 6th, National Honor Society inductions, student pictures, the senior gathering, the end of the first marking period, the start of the second marking period, the start of the hybrid model for grades 7-12, Limerick Elementary Camp Kindness Food Drive, Spring City Elementary Letters to the Troops, Marching Band Senior/Parent Night, Kutztown Instant Decision Day, Oaks Elementary Unity Day, High School Building Tours and Grades 1-4 Virtual Parent-Teacher conferences. Allison reported on upcoming events which included the start of winter sports, picture retakes, winter break, parent teacher conferences, the Future Planning Center Selective College Admission presentation, Spring City Elementary California Tortilla Fundraiser, ACT Testing, the Online Winter Concert, Faculty Recital Night, Junior Parent Future Planning Center presentation, Winter Guard Show, and the AP and Dual Enrollment Information Night.

Policy Colleen Zasowski 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Zasowski reported on the Policy Committee meeting that took place on November 16, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

Curriculum/Technology Linda Fazzini 3rd Mon. 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Fazzini reported on the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting that took place on November 16, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

Finance Thomas DiBello 2nd Tues. 6:30 p.m.

Mr. DiBello reported on the Finance Committee meeting that took place on November 10, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

Property Clinton Jackson 2nd Tues. 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Jackson reported on the Property Committee meeting that took place on November 10, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

Legislative Committee Christina Melton 3rd Weds. 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Melton reported that Governor Wolf signed into law House Bill 2536 as well as Senate Bill 1350 which provides Pennsylvania with a budget through June 30, 2021. She advised that the budget is flat funded as far as education goes but includes an additional \$200 million which is part of the Cares Act money and is owed to school districts for property tax reduction. Mrs. Melton stated that there will also be an expansion of the Early Intervention Programs for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. She reported that the budget itself is at approximately \$35.5 billion. Mrs. Melton advised that there are a couple of bills that are awaiting the governor's signature such as Senate Bill 1216, Senate Bill 835, House Bill 1342, and House Bill 1737. She added that school director email addresses was signed into law which requires that the email addresses for school directors be placed on the district website which Spring-Ford already does. Mrs. Melton announced that Senate Bill 530 which pertains to sexual assault in schools was also approved.

Discussion and clarification took place regarding the Keystone Exams.

Superintendent's Report Dr. David R. Goodin

Mr. Rizzo provided the superintendent's report on behalf of Dr. Goodin since he was unable to be at the meeting. Mr. Rizzo noted that there were four professionals listed on the agenda who are retiring and that their combined years of service in the district totaled 72 years. He thanked them for their service to the district and wished them well in their retirement. He wished everyone a great break, a great holiday and hoped that everyone is able to do their best to find joy.

Solicitor's Report Mark Fitzgerald

There was no report.

IV. MINUTES

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mrs. Melton seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

A. The Board approved the October 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A6)**

NEW MINUTES

B. The Board approved the October 12, 2020 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A7)**

C. The Board approved the October 26-27, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A8)**

V. PERSONNEL

Mr. DiBello asked that Item H be separated and Mrs. Zasowski asked that Item E1 be separated.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve Items A-G minus E1 and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve Item E1 and Dr. Wright seconded it. Mrs. Zasowski asked about the motion listed under Programming and Curriculum, Item VIII, Letter A, that was related to this motion and additional information was provided regarding funding of the consultant help. The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Item H and Mr. Jackson seconded it. Additional clarification was provided on a meeting to take place regarding PAC guidelines for winter sports participation. The motion passed 9-0.

A. Resignations

1. **Colleen M. Deschamp**; Food Service Part-Time (3 hour/day), 5/6 Grade Center. Effective: November 6, 2020.
2. **Ann E. Richardson**; French/Spanish Teacher, Senior High School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: February 2, 2021.
3. **Mary E. Sheehan**; Elementary Teacher, 5/6 Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: December 23, 2020.
4. **Cheryl C. Viscardi**; Family and Consumer Science Teacher, 9th Grade Center for the purpose of retirement. Effective: January 4, 2021.

5. **Tiffany S. Williams**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6 Grade Center. Effective: November 3, 2020.

New Resignations

6. **Cathy E. Bradfield**; Certified School Nurse, 8th Grade Center, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: February 1, 2021.
7. **Kathleen L. Mills**; Food Service Part-Time (3 hour/day), 5/6 Grade Center. Effective: November 6, 2020.
8. **Melanie A. Pierce**; Instructional Assistant, 5/6 Grade Center. Effective: December 3, 2020.
9. **Elizabeth E. Robillard**; Food Service Full-Time (6 hour/day), Royersford Elementary School. Effective: November 20, 2020.
10. **Kathryn E. Wilson**; Instructional Assistant, 8th Grade Center. Effective: November 23, 2020.

B. Leaves of Absence

1. **Beverly E. Reimund**; Elementary Teacher, 5/6 Grade Center, for an extension of Sabbatical Leave per Board Policy. Effective: February 1, 2021 through the 2020-2021 school year.
2. **Amanda M. Samperi**; Speech Therapist, Limerick Elementary, for a child-rearing leave of absence per the Professional Agreement. Effective: December 25, 2020 through the end of the 3rd marking period of the 2020-2021 school year.
3. **Jennifer B. Young**; Instructional Assistant, Royersford Elementary, for an unpaid leave of absence per Board Policy. Effective: December 31, 2020 (estimated date) for approximately 6-8 weeks.

C. Professional Staff

1. **Tara Carlo**; Art Teacher, 5/6 Grade Center, replacing Cheryl A. Kramer-Zabrecchi who retired. Compensation has been set at M, Step 5, \$54,673.00 with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: November 23, 2020.
2. **Maria Castro**; Title I Math Teacher, Brooke Elementary School and Spring City Elementary School. Compensation has been set at M+30, Step 3, \$60,896.00 prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Salary and benefits will be funded 100% through Title I. Effective: November 30, 2020.
3. **Jessica L. Mastromatto**; Elementary Teacher, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Rebecca H. Steiner who retired. Compensation has been set at M, Step 3, \$52,750.00 with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: November 4, 2020.

D. Support Staff

1. **Emily A. Walker**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Danette M. Dewey who retired. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Benefit Summary. Effective: November 12, 2020.

New Support Staff

2. **Maria C. Henderson**; Instructional Assistant, Upper Providence Elementary School, replacing Christina M. Giamo who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$16.36/hour with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Benefit Summary. Effective: November 18, 2020.
3. **Aaron R. Rhoads**; Support Technician, 7th Grade Center, replacing Susan F. Yaroch who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$19.60/hour with benefits per the Support Technician Benefit Summary. Effective: November 18, 2020.
4. **Sharon L. Wiltsie**; Registered Nurse, Limerick Elementary School, replacing Amy L. Bonner who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$27.25/hour with benefits per the Registered Nurses Benefit Summary. Effective: November 30, 2020.

E. Change of Status

1. **Keith A. Bortz, Jr.**; Support Technician, Senior High School, to Software Specialist, District Office, replacing Kathleen Cox who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$55,000.00 prorated with benefits per the Administrative Support Benefit Summary. Effective: November 9, 2020.
2. **George D. Koloch**; Head Custodian, Upper Providence Elementary School, to Head Custodian, 5/6 Grade Center and 7th Grade Center, replacing Michael J. Barber who had a change of status. Compensation has been set at \$23.58 plus \$3.00 head custodian stipend per the Custodian Benefit Summary. Effective: November 23, 2020.

New Change of Status

3. **Andrew J. Coan**; Custodian, Upper Providence Elementary School, to Head Custodian, Upper Providence Elementary School, replacing George D. Koloch who had a change of status. Compensation has been set at \$22.58 plus \$1.50 head custodian stipend per the Custodian Benefit Summary. Effective: November 23, 2020.

F. Substitutes

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|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Leanne M. Bath | Recess/Lunch Aide | Rate: \$10.75/hour |
| 2. Kristen M. Cathers | Recess/Lunch Aide | Rate: \$10.75/hour |
| 3. Kelly Connor | Recess/Lunch Aide | Rate: \$10.75/hour |

New Substitute

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 4. Eileen Morelock | Recess/Lunch Aide | Rate: \$10.75/hour |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|

G. Tenure Status

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

1. **Maura F. Groff**

- H. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Payments of extra-curricular stipends shall be contingent upon the reopening of schools and the ability as determined by the Administration to provide such extra-curricular offerings to students consistent with CDC guidelines and guidelines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The district reserves the right to prorate or not pay stipends in the event of a school closure, school modification, and/or discontinuation of the activity due to pandemic or other events surrounding the pandemic. *New additions since the work session. **(Attachment A9)**

VI. FINANCE

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Items A-J and Mrs. Earle seconded it. Mrs. Zasowski noted that Item D10 was revised to include the language "pending solicitor approval". The motion passed 9-0.

- 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. <u>General Fund Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 211723 – 211965 | \$ 794,927.77 |
| 2. <u>Food Service Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 1982 – 2029 | \$ 2,852.50 |
| 3. <u>Capital Reserve Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 2092 | \$ 26,952.00 |
| 4. <u>General Fund, Food Service, & Capital Reserve and Projects ACHs</u> | |
| ACH 202100483 – 202100685 | \$ 2,481,505.66 |
| 5. <u>Wires</u> | |
| 202000041 – 202000054 | \$ 2,799,011.68 |

C. The following monthly Board reports were approved:

- Skyward Reports
 - Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, Capital Projects, Scholarships and Wires)
 - ACH Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)
 - Wires Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)

D. The Board approved the following independent contracts:

1. **Personal Health Care, Inc. – Valley Forge, PA.** Provide nursing services for a special needs student during the school day and/or on transportation during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$8,820.00.

2. **Dr. Claudia Chernow - Dresher, PA.** Conduct a psychiatric evaluation for a special needs student. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$2,500.00.
3. **Capstone Academy – East Norriton, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$88,200.00.
4. **Education Alternatives for ABA, LLC - King of Prussia, PA.** Provide direct program supervision and direct applied behavior analysis services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$12,000.00.

New Independent Contracts

5. **Education Alternatives for ABA, LLC - King of Prussia, PA.** Compensation for 5.5 hours of Board-Certified Behavior Analysis and Applied Behavior Analysis services provided to a special needs student during the 2020 Extended School Year Program. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$361.00.
 6. **Overbrook School for the Blind - Philadelphia, PA.** Provide Extended School Year services for a special needs student as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$5,500.00.
 7. **The Vanguard School – Malvern, PA.** Provide one-to-one assistant support for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$37,945.00.
 8. **Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide school year services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$40,320.00.
 9. **Chester County Intermediate Unit – Downingtown, PA.** Provide school year services for 6 special needs students during the 2020-2021 school year as per their IEPs. Services shall also include 3 one-to-one assistants. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$245,700.00.
 10. **Lakeside Youth Service dba Lakeside Educational Network – North Wales, PA.** Provide one in-school counselor for the 2020-2021 school year, pending solicitor approval. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$77,500.00.
- E. The Board approved an addendum to the 3-year independent contract agreement (7/1/2020 – 6/30/2023) with Pediatric Therapeutic Services, Inc. in Conshohocken, PA which was board approved in June 2020. This addendum is necessary due to additional costs to provide speech and language services during a 16-week staff leave of absence. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$41,400.00.
 - F. The Board approved the renewal agreement with Spring Valley YMCA for the rental of their pool facilities for the District's Swim Team's practices. Funding will come from the Athletic Budget and shall not exceed \$14,000.00.

- G. The Board approved the additional funding to pay the per diem hourly rate for teachers providing instruction in Spring-Ford Cyber Learning beyond their contractual weekly hours. This is in addition to the original motion from the July 20, 2020 board meeting. It is an unbudgeted expenditure and will be funded from the Unassigned Fund Balance and shall not exceed \$450,000.00.

New Finance

- H. The Board approved making public the 2021-2022 Proposed Preliminary Budget for the required 20 days and advertise the Board's intent to adopt the Preliminary Budget on January 25, 2021.
- I. The Board approved the confidential settlement and release agreement **#2020-06** with the parents of a special needs student. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$7,500.00.
- J. The Board approved the confidential settlement and release agreement **#2020-07** with the parents of a special needs student. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$79,234.85.

VII. NEW PROPERTY

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve Items A-B and Dr. Wright seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. The Board approved replacing the two (2) existing Avigilon NVR servers with Genetec servers and software at the High School thereby allowing the entire High School to be on one system, the Genetec System. Each server includes 5-year Genetec Advantage licenses, Active Directory, Plan Manager, and Threat Level Assessment licenses. Funding will come from the Capital Reserve Fund and shall not exceed \$106,200.00, PSX CoStars.
- B. The Board approved the installation of five (5) replacement cameras and Genetec licenses at the High School. The replacement of inoperable Avigilon Cameras and the installation of Hanwa PSX Cameras shall be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund and shall not exceed \$12,996.00, PSXD CoStars.

VIII. NEW PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Item A and Ms. Sullivan seconded it. Discussion took place regarding the terms of the contract for this and it was determined that this contract approval would be contingent upon solicitor review and approval. The motion passed 6-3 with Mr. DiBello, Mrs. Zasowski and Mr. Jackson voting no.

- A. Administration recommends an agreement between Spring-Ford Area School District and Kathleen Cox for technology consulting services between November 24, 2020 and June 30, 2021, pending solicitor review and approval. The agreement will be for up to 150 hours of consulting services at a rate of \$50.00 per hour. Funding will come from the Technology Budget and shall not exceed \$7,500.00.

Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Item B and Ms. Earle seconded it. Discussion took place on additional data being needed for a decision to be made on this motion. Mrs. Melton made a motion to table Item B and Ms. Sullivan seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The motion was tabled.

- B. Administration recommends an agreement with EBS, Inc. of Media, PA for Information Technology Consultants. This is to extend the technology consultant services from

January 4, 2021 to June 1, 2021. These consultants will be used on an as-needed basis. Funding will come from the Unassigned Fund Balance and shall not exceed \$20,200.00.

There was no vote on Item C as it was pulled from the agenda by Mrs. Zasowski at the beginning of the meeting. It will be placed on the January agenda for approval.

- C. Administration recommends the purchase of a NAC (Network Access Controller) from SHI including installation, configuration, license and 3-year support contract. The total cost shall not exceed \$80,000.00 and will be self-finance from the Capital Reserve and repaid from the Technology Budget over the next 4 years.

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve Item D and Mr. Jackson seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- D. The Board approved entering into a 3-year subscription agreement with Toshiba to utilize the DocuWare indexing software and storage solution as part of the modernization of the human resources and business offices pending contract approval by the solicitor's office. Costs of the project is as follows and shall be funded from the business and human resources office budgets: System and workflow set up, scanning and indexing of existing documents, and professional services time shall not exceed \$35,000.00; plus ongoing monthly software subscription cost of \$425.00 per month.

IX. NEW CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve Item D and Dr. Wright seconded it. The motion passed 9-0.

- A. **Katie Baker, Kristin Beideman, Melody Bish, John Blazusiak, Tanya Chambers, Brad Murless, and Melissa Wobensmith**, School Counselors, to attend "*The Elephant in the Room: Assessment and Management of Suicide Risk During COVID-19*" on December 9, 2020 via Zoom through the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The total cost of this virtual conference is \$30.00 per person for a total of \$210.00 (registration).

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Melton asked that going forward the board be given a draft showing what changes were made to the policies being submitted for approval.

- A. The following policies are submitted as first readings:

1. Policy #115 – PROGRAMS: Career and Technical Education (**Attachment A10**)
2. Policy #124 – PROGRAMS: Alternative Instruction Courses (**Attachment A11**)
3. Policy #126 – PROGRAMS: Class Size (**Attachment A12**)
4. Policy #203 – PUPILS: Communicable Diseases and Immunization (**Attachment A13**)
5. Policy #205 – PUPILS: Postgraduate Students (**Attachment A14**)
6. Policy #211 – PUPILS: Student Accident Insurance (**Attachment A15**)
7. Policy #212 – PUPILS: Reporting Student Progress (**Attachment A16**)
8. Policy #219 – PUPILS: Student Compliant Process (**Attachment A17**)
9. Policy #224 – PUPILS: Care of School Property (**Attachment A18**)
10. Policy #228 – PUPILS: Student Government (**Attachment A19**)
11. Policy #230 – PUPILS: Public Performances by Students (**Attachment A20**)

New Other Business

The following policies are additions as first readings:

12. Policy #125 – PROGRAMS: Adult Education (**Attachment A21**)
13. Policy #204 – PUPILS: Attendance (**Attachment A22**)

XI. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Zasowski commented that she believes the board lacks consistency at their committee meetings with regards to board members commenting at those meetings. The board members were in agreement that any board member should be permitted to make comment at any time during a committee meeting but that only those board members assigned to that committee should be permitted to make recommendations.

Mrs. Melton, expressed that district staff, the administration, the students and their families have done an amazing job this school year in managing the transitions that have taken place this year. She expressed her thanks to everyone and wished that everyone take time to enjoy their time together as a family over the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, spoke about the attestation, mask compliance, updating metrics the district provides by school level, the teacher and technology roll out, technology consultants, the virtual Wednesday schedule, communication of cleaning protocols, the unassigned funding and the school counselors providing feedback on the conference they were approved to attend.

Amy Billetta, Royersford, expressed her support of Mr. DiBello's comments on the notification process for positive COVID-19 cases in classrooms as well as making sure everyone understands the definition of close contact.

Michael Lebieczinski, Royersford, asked for clarification on the COVID information provided in Mr. Rizzo's report citing information from several sources.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiBello made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Jackson seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin
Superintendent

Robert W. Rizzo
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Zasowski
Board President

Thomas J. DiBello
Board Vice President

Wendy Earle
Region I

Linda C. Fazzini
Region I

Clinton L. Jackson
Region II

Christina F. Melton
Region III

David R. Shafer
Region II

Diane C. Sullivan
Region III

Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region I

RESOLUTION 2020-28

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends Mia Matriccino a member of the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team, and Spring-Ford Girls' Tennis Head Coach Todd Reagan and his Assistant Coaches Devon Staino and Karen Canuso.

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team member Mia Matriccino, under the guidance, leadership, and direction of its coaches, was able to win the Pioneer Athletic Conference Girls' Tennis Singles Championship and,

Whereas, Spring-Ford High School's Mia Matriccino won the Pioneer Athletic Conference Girls' Tennis Singles Championship by scoring 6-1, 6-2 in the championship match and,

Whereas, Spring-Ford High School's Mia Matriccino also qualified for PIAA District One Girls' Tennis Singles Tournament,

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the student-athletes and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals set by the 2020 Pioneer Athletic Conference Girls' Tennis Singles Champion Mia Matriccino, demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in being a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of **November 2020**

By: _____
Colleen Zasowski
Board President

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

RESOLUTION 2020-29

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin
Superintendent

Robert W. Rizzo
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Zasowski
Board President

Thomas J. DiBello
Board Vice President

Wendy Earle
Region I

Linda C. Fazzini
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Clinton L. Jackson
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Christina F. Melton
Region III

David R. Shafer
Region II

Diane C. Sullivan
Region III

Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region I

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team, their Head Coach Todd Reagan and his Assistant Coaches Devon Staino and Karen Canuso for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 8 wins and 0 losses, the PIAA District One AAA Championship and the PIAA-AAA State Championship.

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference, PIAA District One and the PIAA State Association,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win their fourth PAC Championship in school history defeating Boyertown 7-0 and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win their first District One Championship in school history defeating Wissahickon 4-1 and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win their first PIAA-AAA State Team Championship in school history defeating Southern Lehigh 4-0 in the semifinals and Greater Latrobe 3-2 in the finals and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team's varsity and junior varsity players all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding tennis season.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford High School Girls' Tennis Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of November 2020

By: _____
Colleen Zasowski
Board President

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. David R. Goodin
Superintendent

Robert W. Rizzo
Assistant Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Zasowski
Board President

Thomas J. DiBello
Board Vice President

Wendy Earle
Region I

Linda C. Fazzini
Region I

Clinton L. Jackson
Region II

Christina F. Melton
Region III

David R. Shafer
Region II

Diane C. Sullivan
Region III

Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region I

RESOLUTION 2020-30

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford Girls' Soccer Team, their Head Coach Tim Raub and his Assistant Coaches Rob Rooney, Jamie Mahar and Strength and Conditioning coach, Will Geosits for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 10 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win the PAC Championship defeating Pottsgrove by a score of 5-2,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team won their fourth PAC Soccer Championship,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team's varsity and junior varsity players all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding soccer season.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford Area High School Girls' Soccer Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of November 2020

By: _____
Colleen Zasowski
Board President

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Board Secretary



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David R. Shafer
Region II

Diane C. Sullivan
Region III

Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region I

RESOLUTION 2020-31

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford High School Football Team, their Head Coach Chad Brubaker and his Assistant Coaches Steve Schein, Jim Mich, Chad Strickler, Gary Rhodenbaugh, Charles Nesley, Steve Entenman, Volunteers Jim Algeo, Tyler Hartranft and Strength and Conditioning coach, Will Geosits for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 5 wins, 0 losses,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win the PAC 10 Championship defeating Owen J Roberts 28-0,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team won their 13th Championship in school history,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Football Team's varsity and junior varsity players all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding football season.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford High School Football Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of November 2020

By: _____
Colleen Zasowski
Board President

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary



SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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857 SOUTH LEWIS ROAD, ROYERSFORD, PA 19468

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Region III

David R. Shafer
Region II

Diane C. Sullivan
Region III

Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region I

RESOLUTION 2020-32

The Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education commends the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team, their Head Coach David Cain and his Assistant Coaches Danielle Stauffer, Matt Varady and Strength and Conditioning coach, Will Geosits for winning the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship with a league record of 7 wins, 0 losses and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team is a member of the Pioneer Athletic Conference and won their fourth championship in school history and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team under the guidance, leadership, and direction of both its coaches and captains was able to win the Pioneer Athletic Conference Championship and,

Whereas, the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team's varsity players and junior varsity runners all contributed and played a significant role in having a successful and outstanding season and,

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Spring-Ford Area School District Board of Education recognizes the coaching staff for creating a disciplined and caring environment for the players and,

Further resolved, that the achievements, the recognition, the accomplishments, the goals and the new records set by the Spring-Ford High School Boys' Cross Country Team demonstrated over and over throughout the season the toughness, good-will, sportsmanship, and all that is embodied in a **SPRING-FORD RAM**.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 9th day of November 2020

By: _____
Colleen Zasowski
Board President

By: _____
Diane M. Fern
Board Secretary

On October 5, 2020, the Special 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:	Wendy Earle, Linda C. Fazzini and Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region II:	Clinton L. Jackson and David R. Shafer
Region III:	Thomas J. DiBello, Christina F. Melton and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer:	Colleen Zasowski
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Eshika Seth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Zasowski announced that due to reinstatement of Governor Wolf's mandate restricting group meetings to 25 people and that which does not allow for any percentage of any room capacity, the best way to participate in a Spring-Ford School Board meeting is by watching on YouTube or Zoom. She stated that this meeting is not open for in person attendance beyond a total of 25 people. She added that speaking on her own behalf she can assure the public that she has been sent a number of emails and she had reviewed them all and has done her best to respond to as many as possible. Mrs. Zasowski commented that with regards to tonight's presentation, she asked all members of the community to remain open-minded, listen intently to the options presented, and to remember that they do always have a choice to follow the prescribed plan of action that will hopefully be approved this evening by the board or to go cyber. She stated that in any case, the choice they make will be the right choice for your family. Mrs. Zasowski advised that the commitment survey is set for distribution on the 7th and she asked that they watch for this and respond as they see fit. She asked that instead of taking the initial public comment at the start of the meeting they are going to start with the discussion of the district's proposed reopening and should there be a motion to approve a reopening plan then public comment will be taken on the motion prior to voting.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Postponed until after the discussion.

II. DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Goodin advised that tonight they will propose an opening plan for 7-12 grade students which was developed in coordination with the SFEA Leadership and has components of live instruction and virtual elements. He stated that students at the secondary level change classes every period, so a hybrid structure is being proposed in order to limit student density. Dr. Goodin provided an overview of the presentation say they will cover reopening goals, reopening timeline, what in person learning will look like for marking period 2, what virtual learning will look like in marking period 2 and what the next steps will be. He advised that on September 28th administration was directed to develop an in person virtual opening plan that has the support of SFEA. He stated that they have identified 3 plans that would be supported by the SFEA; first an in person hybrid with a Spring-Ford Cyber Learning option, second an in person hybrid with an asynchronous virtual option and a Spring-Ford Cyber Learning option and third an in person hybrid with a synchronous virtual option and a Spring-Ford

Cyber Learning option. He provided an overview of each of the options including the daily schedule recommendation. Dr. Goodin spoke about why the hybrid model works for the secondary grade levels. He spoke about the K-6 plan that was approved last week providing some additional details as there were some questions that had come in regarding that plan. He next explained class changes at the 7th grade level and at the 8-12 grade levels.

Mrs. Ritter spoke about the 7-12 hybrid option and virtual option which allows students to be in class two days a week and it will allow teachers to use the virtual component by making sure that there is digital content that will fit with the lesson plan. She stated that for some teachers on some given days this may include a livestreaming option when it will work, an option for recorded videos for students to watch with the Canvas content which will give students the opportunity to watch those recorded videos at home if the teacher is not live-streaming. Ms. Ritter stated that this gives teachers the opportunity to make sure that the students who are not present will have the best possible learning environment for that instruction. She commented that the student support that had always been available would still be available whether in person with the hybrid option or whether following the virtual option.

Dr. Goodin provided a quick recap of the information he presented at last week's meeting which included the reopening schedule recommendation, a special education student return timeline review, mask requirements, cafeteria and lunch procedures, changing of classes, bus procedures, daily cleaning of buildings, parent expectations, employee expectations, Spring-Ford COVID-19 Task Force including the update from the school nurses, the weekly COVID Communication, how students will continue learning while quarantined, the timeline for return to full in person learning and the next steps.

Discussion took place on the plan being proposed and supported by the administration and SFEA which was the in-person hybrid model with the synchronous virtual option and the cyber learning option. The options for Wednesday were discussed with regards to the option of the day following the bell schedule or being left for the students to go at their own pace on this day in order to allow greater flexibility to students. There was confusion expressed over livestreaming and why it seemed to be an issue at the last meeting but not as great an issue this week.

Mrs. Ritter spoke on behalf of SFEA saying the understanding is that livestreaming is an option and teachers will implement their lesson plan in the manner that works best for them. She advised that the virtual component is challenging especially when trying to engage kids both in person and at home at the same time. Mr. Laurie commented that it is not the actual technology that is the issue but rather the way it was being approached and with the model presented tonight it provides much more flexibility to the teachers to be able to engage the virtual students.

Mrs. Zasowski made a motion to approve the district's hybrid with the virtual option reopening plan for grades 7-12 and Mrs. Fazzini seconded it.

Mrs. Earle asked about the distance between desks in a hybrid environment wondering if only half of the students are reporting each day then wouldn't you be able to obtain the 6 feet needed for social distance and Dr. Goodin confirmed that was correct. Mrs. Earle next asked if a parent chooses to send their child in the hybrid mode and then decides they do not like it or vice versa, would they be locked into their decision and in what way would this be enforced? Dr. Goodin replied that the district could not enforce it but we are asking parents to make a commitment for the marking period but circumstances arise and if changes need to be made then we will make accommodations for them. Mr. Fitzgerald responded that many districts are requiring commit-

ments for a specific time period and most districts will allow for the move from hybrid to virtual but from virtual to hybrid is generally limited and based on capacity for the most part.

Mr. Jackson stated that he struggles with the hybrid at this time as we have no data to support this.

The floor was opened up for public comment on the motion that was just proposed.

Karin Deeney, Royersford, commented that she wants her kids back in school and they desperately want to be back in school as virtual is not working for them and they need to be in school full-time hands on with full periods of learning. She spoke about her daughter's struggles with Canvas and asked why the district changed the learning system. Ms. Deeney stated that kids are currently playing sports together, working together and are participating in marching band together and questioned why they cannot be back in school. She expressed her frustration over other schools being back in either full-time or with hybrid. She asked when school became childcare as it is referenced that the younger ones need to be in school for childcare and she stated that school is meant for kids to get an education. Ms. Deeney stressed that the older kids need to be in school as mentally they are drained and as fed up with this as she is. She spoke of the students returning to school full-time in February and asked if this could be reevaluated every two weeks rather than waiting until the end of the marking period. She urged the board and Dr. Goodin to do a better job and get the kids back in school.

Colleen Emmons, Collegeville, questioned how parents are expected to make an informed decision on whether to send their kids to school when the school district is not telling them the COVID numbers in the schools. Mr. Fitzgerald interrupted her and advised that this comment section was on the motion at hand.

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, stated tonight completely contradicts last week's meeting as facilities has been solved, capacity has been solved and the district will still have 20% virtual students all of the time as per the survey results. She questioned Mrs. Ritter asking with 20% of the students participating virtually why it was okay not to livestream and leave them behind. She urged the district to bring the students back to school and felt that the hybrid model was taking a step backwards. Ms. Mcnamara asked Dr. Goodin to do his job and come back with a virtual option for five days a week. She stated that the board previously voted for K-12 to return in person on November 12th.

Venkat-Priya Parigi, Royersford, commented that he agreed with Mr. DiBello that the hybrid option is a compromise with the teacher's union and administration and does not give options to parents. Mr. Parigi expressed that he wants to go completely virtual. He questioned teachers being given the option to choose to either livestream or not. He stated that every other district has implemented having a camera in the classroom rather than having teachers have to carry an iPad around. Mr. Parigi urged the district to go virtual for the rest of the year. He asked that before voting the board let parents decided who wants to be in school and who does not.

Michael Lebie dzinski, Royersford, stated that the hybrid with a virtual option will result in teachers having more students remote into the classroom than if students were to return to school 4-5 days a week in person. He felt that the teachers would unconsciously ignore students who are virtual and focus on those in the classroom. Mr. Lebie dzinski stated that hybrid was a step backwards as student interact now 5 days a week and it will go down to 2 days a week and this was decided without any benefit or data. He added that based on the survey numbers, grades 7-12 will have fewer students in each classroom than at the K-6 grade levels. He stated that no options presented address what parents clearly vote on via

the survey as an option was provided for virtual and one for hybrid but nothing for those who want their kids in school 5 days a week.

John Mentzer, Limerick, stated that he wanted to understand blue and gold and whether they would all be from the same classroom or different classrooms. He spoke about going from 5 days a week via Zoom down to 2 days a week and added that they want 5 days a week in the classroom but will take 4 days in school with Wednesday being the asynchronous day. Mr. Mentzer commented that the current program with Canvas is very difficult and he hears nothing but complaints from his children and does not understand why the district did not stay with Google Classroom.

Sheri Zawislak, Collegeville, commented that she agrees with most of the callers that this is a step backwards. She added that this is a worse option than virtual for students who take broadcasting as the entire program is based around the kids working together as groups. Ms. Zawislak stated that kids need to be in school at least 4 days a week. She expressed that virtual and Canvas are not working and she did not feel that hybrid would work or that it was a good option. She advised that her kids are up all hours and getting more work this year than they had their previous years in high school. Ms. Zawislak urged the board and administration to go back and reevaluate this as it is not going to work. She stated that they want the SFEA's approval and the administration's approval but asked if anyone had asked the students what is best for them. She expressed that Spring-Ford needed to do better as there are other school districts that are way ahead of us and thinking of the kids.

Jill Schadler, Royersford, implored the board with the motion in front of them to listen to every caller who has spoken and her comments as well as not one parent felt this plan would work and they do not support it. She felt that the plan last week to the plan this week made no sense and is a step backwards. Ms. Schadler said she did not agree with the SFEA and felt that they blew their own analogy by not presenting anything different tonight. She asked that the board forget the parent's anger and speak to the kids. She indicated that her 8th grader did not feel the students were being treated with decency and added that the students are ready to petition. She expressed that anxiety was up for students and there are kids in therapy. She asked Dr. Goodin to think about whether he should resign as she did not feel he was doing his job.

Marie Cagliola, Royersford, said she was speaking tonight on behalf of all of the children of Spring-Ford and stated that all of them should be able to go back together in a safe way. She applauded Dr. Goodin for doing the right thing by the kids and offering a hybrid option that allows kids to return back in a safer way than five days a week. She spoke about the large number of parents that have been emailing the board and Dr. Goodin and felt that there were parents out there that should be able to be heard in the same might as those that came and protested as even though they are not present their voices still matter. Ms. Cagliola spoke about the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in other states that started to return carelessly full-time and are being closed. She felt that the hybrid plan offers the ability for all kids to go back together, permits safe social distancing, allows for less kids in the hallways and cafeterias, and most importantly cuts the risk of COVID-19. She urged the board to vote the hybrid option so that kids can go back to school together and experience school once again in a way that works for every family and not just the ones who scream the loudest. Ms. Cagliola said in order for Spring-Ford to be stronger than ever the parents need to stop thinking about themselves and their children. She stated that hybrid was not an option in any of the surveys and added that they were not good surveys. She implored that the district get better surveys and a plan that works for all and not just the ones screaming the loudest.

Hope Bodenschatz, Royersford, expressed her concern saying that the plan says that on the virtual synchronous days' instruction will be accessed through livestream or recorded video. She stated that teachers can then choose to use the recorded video option so students could end up with only 2 live instruction days a week. Ms. Bodenschatz stated that anything less than 4 days they are getting right now is a step backwards and is not in the best interest of our students' academics. She added that if the hybrid plan is what we have to have then our kids need at least 4 days of live instruction and no less.

Annie Schlichter, Spring City, stated that she agrees with most of the previous callers as well as Mr. Jackson and Mr. DiBello that last week it was an issue with the hybrid option and that it would not work but now this week it works. She asked about the hybrid plan saying if the 25 people per room is a mandate per Governor Wolf with 6 feet distance as a recommendation then how do we plan to accommodate 30 students per class and would some children be turned away and made to go virtual?

Joy Crowle, Collegeville, commented that she agrees with Mr. DiBello and Mr. Jackson that this hybrid option makes no sense whatsoever. She stated that she agrees with teachers that it is too much for them to do all in class and stream virtual all at the same time. She added that she also heard last week and the week before that we could not do virtual as we did not have the equipment which sounds like the PPE as first we do not have it and then we do have it. She expressed frustration over this going back and forth and said it is a never-ending cycle. Ms. Crowle stated that she is concerned over her son's SATs for next year as half of last year and so far this year has been a wash. She commented that she understands people being afraid of sending their kids back and she feels there should be two options and if you cannot do virtual livestreaming for the full 5 days per week then do cyber. She stated that cyber is an approved Spring-Ford alternative to being in class. Ms. Crowle added that if a parent is afraid to send their kid back 5 days then they should be afraid to send them back 2 days. She stated that keeping all of the other kids home that want to be in school is not fair.

Faith DeRose, Collegeville, stated that she is in agreement with most of the callers that this plan makes no sense in relation to any of the other meetings she tuned into all summer. She commented that education is essential and we are falling behind all of the other districts that have kids in school. She asked if parents are not comfortable sending kids to school 5 days a week then how are they going to feel comfortable putting their kids on a bus and sending them to school with a classroom that might have half of the alphabet in there with them. She stated that this plan does not look into what the kids need and deserve. Ms. DeRose commented that we are a blue-ribbon district and want our kids to succeed and this plan is failing them. She advised that she has so many friends who are teachers and would love to be back in the classroom and those that are in districts that are using hybrid hate it. She expressed that she thinks the kids should have the options of being in school 5 days a week, cyber or a classroom with a camera set up focused on the teacher so kids can watch virtually that way. She questioned why the district was spending so much time on this as it is a temporary solution and hopefully the kids will be back in school sooner rather than later.

Meg Kyle, Collegeville, commented that regarding the 7-12 plan, the presentation has no discussion about kids with IEPs. She stated that it was previously decided that those students were being brought back in October and very limited information has been shared on this. Ms. Kyle asked what happens with the special education students as currently as of 10/22 they are to be back in school 4 days per week but what happens on November 12th, will they go in only 2 days per week rather than the 4 they were doing? She felt that voting on this without knowing those details was not in the best interest of the kids.

Christine Grines, Royersford, stated that they voted as a board to go back in person K-12 or some other plan. She asked if they didn't have to go back and revote or do something to amend that motion? She added that with the survey that was sent out 71.7% voted for in person 5 days a week and questioned why send a survey if they are not going to listen to the results. She noted that there are 161 days before the Class of 2021 walk out of the door and said that we are failing these kids. Ms. Grines felt the plan to go back hybrid made no sense and asked why it did not work last week but now works this week. She urged that the district figure out how to bring the students in 5 days a week and if parents are not comfortable with that then they can choose cyber. She added that right now the students are faceless, voiceless, black boxes on a screen and this is not how our teachers were taught to teach or how our students were taught to learn. She pleaded with Mr. DiBello, Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Zasowski to not go back on their word as she knows they want the kids back in school 5 days a week.

Tara Grotto, Royersford, expressed that she was fearful that with this particular option the district was going backwards academically. She stated that with having two students at the secondary level her experience is that virtual has not been productive. She commented that she fears students will get less content than what they are now and she asked that the district really think about what the lessons will look like for those students at home for those 3 days. She advised that she knows for a fact that some schools in New Jersey that are hybrid and have teachers teaching the same lesson two days in a row. Ms. Grotto added that her concern, based on what she has heard from SFEA, is that most teachers will not livestream and the students will suffer. She stated that the teachers are doing an amazing job and she has concerns that the hybrid models will cause the teachers to have to put in more work than they are currently.

Lisa D'Annunzio, Royersford, stated that she has a daughter who was supposed to start her high school year and has been home since March and a son who just went back because of his IEP. She stressed that the district needs to get the kids back because we are not doing right by them and we are doing them more harm than good and they are starting to regress. Ms. D'Annunzio implored the board to make the right decision and bring students back 5 days a week. She addressed Dr. Goodin saying she hoped he would step up and support this decision as we are in October and no further along than we were in July.

Roland Olsen, Collegeville, stated that the last caller reflected a lot of emotion that a lot of people have right now. Mr. Olsen's call was lost.

Jasmine Ewing, Royersford, said she is calling as a parent and as a teacher. She asked the board to consider bringing everyone in full-time or keeping everyone virtual. Ms. Ewing stated that back in August the Canvas platform was thrown at them and they have worked really hard to train and get it together to be ready for the kids. She advised that they put in a ton of hours working together as a team and she believes they did a great job and that the system is working. Ms. Ewing said she teaches the entire class period interacting with students just as she would if they were in the classroom. She expressed that she is nervous about the hybrid option thrown at them and again stated that things are working fine as it is. She urged the board to keep things the same for one more marking period and felt kids were getting everything they would be getting in the classroom.

Danielle Folino, Mont Clare, stated that she agrees with other callers and is flabbergasted that anyone feels this is an acceptable plan to vote on. She commented that what she is hearing is that they want to do hybrid to help the minority of kids, based on the survey results, that don't want or can't be in the classroom and she questioned why the choice would be made to leave the majority of the kids behind by limiting them to only 2 days in person. Ms. Folino stated that right now they are getting 4 days of dedicated synchronous learning albeit

virtual. She commented that last week teachers said they could not teach students physically in the room with them and some online so that was voted down to be looked at again as it was said to be impossible last week but now a week later they are saying they want to do the same thing but have more people at home being left behind. Ms. Folino felt this was absolutely not acceptable. She relayed that her son had told her there were numerous times where a teacher spent an entire class trying to figure out how to share their screen with the class. Ms. Folino asked how the district can expect a teacher to be able to teach an entire class effectively in a hybrid situation. She stated that she did not think the board should vote for that.

Mrs. Zasowski proposed taking another 15 minutes of public comment and ask the public to limit their comments to 2 minutes and try to offer a differing opinion or thought from what has already been said tonight.

Kate Palladino, Royersford, stated that she supports tonight's presentation and proposal as she feels the hybrid proposal reaches and provides the best education for all students, not only those who are okay with limited social distancing. She commented that more families will choose hybrid rather than an in-school model than if there was only a choice of 5 days in school or virtual. Ms. Palladino felt that hybrid provided the social distancing that many are looking for and teachers will have more contact with more students which makes instruction more productive as students are regularly physically engaging with their teachers. She stated that the original survey was very skewed as 71.1% isn't even close to accurate. She added that she for one chose back in school but she only felt comfortable doing so if social distancing guidelines are met and she knows there are many who did the same. Ms. Palladino said she is speaking in support of hybrid as it is an option that will allow social distancing.

Kim Anderson, Collegeville, commented that she has a lot of confusion and would love to see the board stall on this vote tonight as she believes that it is necessary to go back to the drawing table. She agreed with others in questioning what the difference was between last week and this week. Ms. Anderson stated that the teachers who were concerned with juggling approximately 20% on some sort of device while on a Zoom are now going to have more kids to juggle on a device if they are doing a livestream and she questioned how this was better. She commented that she had a problem with the teacher who spoke tonight and said they will have more students in person overall, like globally, under this hybrid model as the survey showed 71% which some consider to be flawed but that is what the survey showed. She added that the teacher's statement of pursuing more inclusion now gives all students much less face time seems to be a very negative solution for those 70% wanting to be back. Ms. Anderson addressed another comment on digital medium made by a teacher regarding filling time when you are not livestreaming saying obviously everyone knows that at teacher teaching the class is the best way for kids to learn and she has a concern as she hears more and more about filling time with digital medium.

Gabrielle Deardorff, Royersford, encouraged the board to accept this plan, vote on it, approve and move and make progress so that life can continue for those that want their kids back in school as soon as possible. She stated that to keep wanting this revisited, revamped and redone is just keeping us virtual longer. She again urged that the board please vote, approve this and keep it going.

Kim Huston, Royersford, stated that she is extremely disappointed in all of the hybrid options presented this evening. She commented that there are quite a bit of other local schools who are moving forward to get their kids in school 5 days and we are now just presenting hybrid. Ms. Huston stated that by the time we start this the other schools are well on their way to add more in-person live instruction days. She expressed that she felt

we were going completely backwards as kids will get less live learning than they are getting within the current 100% virtual environment. She added that within the plan the students are in school 2 days and then on the virtual days instruction is left up to the teachers to either teach live or provide reported instruction. She relayed that she has a junior and this year is so important as they try to learn as much as possible to be ready to take the SATs and the ACTs in the spring and she questioned how the kids are going to be ready when with the hybrid options they will be receiving less instruction than in a virtual environment. Ms. Huston stated that she did not understand why we would have in the plan to continue with this until February. She asked what the purpose of the survey was as 70% indicated that they wanted to be back in school but that is all being dismissed. She added that she knows that administration is concerned as everyone is with capacity and social distancing but the plan tonight specifically indicates that there will be no social distancing on the school bus which she said makes no sense. She commented that the kids need to be in school in person 5 days and if parents do not want to send them back then there is a cyber option.

Yvonne O'Dea, Royersford, said she is a proud Spring-Ford community member and even more proud Spring-Ford teacher for 25 years. She stated that she disagrees with those people saying that students will get less instruction with the hybrid model as anytime she can look at a student face to face, even if there is a mask, that is part of their education. She added that yes, students want to be in full-time and she wants to see her kids full-time every day but can it be done safely as 2,000 kids moving around the high school hallways makes people a little uncomfortable and it is just not the right thing to do. Ms. O'Dea commented that hybrid gives teachers a chance to see the kids and interact with them which is so important and that is what kids are missing. She added that they are missing the interaction and that she does not care if they are six feet apart as they can still hear each other and can see each other's faces. She stated that this hybrid plan is going to have to work and for her, personally, she plans on livestreaming every day so her kids will have live class every day and she knows a lot of teachers who will do this as well.

Erica Love, Royersford, voiced her support for this plan as she believes it is the plan that works best for staff and students and actually follows the guidelines put into place by the Department of Education and health officials. She said it is very important to listen to the health experts at a time like this because obviously not everyone feels safe as it is still a scary time as COVID still exists and is out there. Ms. Love commented that brining in everyone 5 days a week does pose an increased risk of spreading the virus as well as an increased risk of staff shortages. She stated that she believes this is the safest option for both staff and students and again voiced her support for it.

Syl Kailey, Royersford, stated that she is a senior and is in no way a representative of the entire student body. She commented that the majority of students do want to go back to school but they also understand the risks that are associated with this and full-time simply is not feasible at the moment and complete virtual is not ideal for any of them. Ms. Kailey felt that although the hybrid model has its faults, it is the best option for students at the moment. She added that in addition, the cyber learning was referenced on multiple occasions and is not an option for some students specifically those who take AP classes. She stated that choosing cyber learning would restrict student progress and later impact their AP scores. She stated that although two days a week is not what they would like it is better than where they are now and a steppingstone to be fully in person. She thanked SFEA and the administrators for all the work they have put in so far.

Joy Moore, Limerick, commented that she is not for this plan at all. She advised that she is the parent of a senior and a freshman and expressed how upset she is as she has never seen her kids so disconnected and not interested in school. She urged that the district come up with a solid plan, a real plan and actually listen to the callers.

Hillary Borzillo, Royersford, stated that it is that time of year where the numbers will be going up and people will be interacting with their family members during the holiday season. She commented that while there is no great solution here she felt that the board and the school district had come up with a nice compromise that helps keep the kids safe considering the large numbers within the school. Ms. Borzillo added that it sounded like some of the issues that are coming up about the virtual learning are issues that go beyond the classroom and she stated that she would appreciate if the loudest voices were not the only ones heard as she would like all voices to be heard.

Courtney Dougherty, Schwenksville, said she wanted to echo what a lot of parents are saying in that the hybrid option was an option because of the 71% as people do want their kids to go back into the school setting. She stated that last week when Dr. Goodin made his presentation he said none of the teachers were comfortable with the current hybrid situation which is why it sounds like the teachers are being wishy-washy but they are not as they are compromising. Ms. Dougherty urged the board to vote in favor of it but it does not mean it is permanent. She added that we are a month into the last plan we voted on and it's changing so it doesn't mean we can't change the hybrid to make it better but this is a start and a stepping stone. She felt it was a compromise between the kids who want to do virtual and the kids who want to go back full-time. Ms. Dougherty stated that this is a safe compromise that the teachers, board and parents are comfortable with and it is just a steppingstone. She urged the board to vote for this but to continue to evolve it moving forward.

Mrs. Zasowski stated that it was not her understanding that it would be teaching the same criteria twice a week as her understanding is that it is new content and she confirmed that Mrs. Ritter was nodding her head in agreement.

Mrs. Zasowski advised that there was a motion on the table to approve the hybrid with virtual option reopening for 7-12.

Mr. Shafer said he would like to clarify before voting and he then provided an example of a student who comes into school on Monday, Tuesday the student is home but checking in on the bell schedule and participating and we are allowing the teachers to teach, Wednesday is, as he called it, Wacky Wednesday, Thursday this student repeats Monday and Friday he repeats Tuesday. He asked is that where we are at and Mrs. Zasowski replied that was correct.

The motion passed by a vote of 7-2 with Mr. Jackson and Mr. DiBello voting no.

A. Return to In-Person Learning Plans for Students in Grades 7-12

III. **BOARD COMMENT**

Mr. DiBello stated that he did not want to give anyone the impression that the teachers were compromising with the 7-12 plan as he knows they worked very hard along with administration on the plan. He explained his reasoning for voting no on the 7-12 return to in-person learning plan saying he could support starting in a hybrid plan and moving forward but he was disappointed that the next step is not until the 3rd making period where we plan on going from hybrid to all in and he said he does not support this. He also stated that he was not comfortable with seeing that the instruction the students would be getting when they are virtual at home. Mr. DiBello stated that he does not believe that teachers would ignore any student who was virtual. He felt that the survey should be refined and ask for a commitment for the 7-12 teachers. Mr. DiBello advised that there will be changes announced tomorrow from Governor Wolf regarding capacity limits. He stated that some districts had gotten creative with assigning sectors or sections to their stadiums with their own entrances and exits thereby permitting more parents in to be able to see

their student participate. Mr. DiBello next spoke about the Montgomery County website which breaks down Covid cases by school districts and municipalities. He questioned how much information a district could disclose if informed of a student being infected and Mr. Fitzgerald encouraged the district to make weekly announcements regarding cases within the school community but discouraged identifying any buildings.

Mrs. Zasowski commented that the first survey was flawed in that the piece regarding hybrid was omitted and she said it will definitely be included in the next survey.

Mr. Jackson stated that he respects the decision of the board but struggles with the fact that a survey was sent out that came back with data that we now seem to be dismissing that data. He said the district could have gone with hybrid back in August as the same data was available.

Mrs. Melton commented that the number of students walking throughout the building is not desirable so while hybrid may not be optimum as there is no right answer for every family. She thanked everyone involved in pulling together the best option for our families as this is a prudent first step to getting students back into the buildings. Mrs. Melton expressed her concerns with the way Spring-Ford handled some of the crowd capacity requirements and was offended that the district offered Perkoimen Valley tickets when it was clearly disallowed and not supported by the board. She stated that this was in direct opposition to what the PAC has put out and she hoped in the future that the district adhered to the guidelines.

Mr. Shafer disputed Mrs. Melton's comments that the board supported the PAC and said that this topic is coming up for discussion at the Extracurricular Committee meeting tomorrow which Mrs. Melton serves on and he indicated that he was looking forward to that conversation.

Discussion took place on what PAC had allowed, the decision made by some to offer tickets to the opposing team and permitting parents to be admitted in order to watch their children participate in the events surrounding the game on Friday night. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke about the PAC versus the Governor's ruling and which one supersedes the other saying that on the night of the Perkiomen Valley versus Spring-Ford game, the only guidelines in effect were the ones issued by PAC. He stated that now the governor's order has been reinstated by the Third Circuit Court but in addition there is new guidance issued by the Montgomery County Department of Health saying they may be willing to exempt sizes or make larger sizes if a safety plan is submitted to the County Department of Health. He added that they would have to stay within whatever guidance PAC provides for us a member school of that athletic conference. There was confusion over how the original motion read as Mr. DiBello understood it to say tickets for both home and visiting teams and Mrs. Zasowski felt it was only for home team participants. The decision was made to move the discussion to the Extracurricular Committee.

Eshika stated that she felt it was important to get this out to the board and have it verbally stated, she asked when students and staff return, what would happen if a teacher got sick with COVID, what the plan would be, would they have to use sick days or would their absence be covered under some type of COVID days plan? Mrs. Zasowski replied that this would be a personnel issue. Mr. Fitzgerald added that Mrs. Leiss is very knowledgeable in the FFRCA and on top of all different types of leave aspects for the entirety of staff.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Arlene Hudak, Schwenksville, stated that she is very happy that the board approved the hybrid learning. She commented that we have a lot of great teachers who work together and co-teach and she recommended that they work together as far as one of them taking care of the kids in the classroom and the other taking care of those who were virtual and then switching. Ms. Hudak conveyed that she felt it was important that the kids feel that they are being heard as well as having all of their educational needs being met both in the classroom as well as online. She felt it was important for the seniors have a year this year to be able to go in and talk to the teachers and the FPC so that they can help them make their college choices, look at recommendations, and find out more about the colleges they would like to attend. She expressed appreciation for all of the work that has been going on.

Kate Doyle, Collegeville, thanked the board for approving the hybrid plan and listening to guidance offered from the administration and teachers as they are the experts that have often been referenced and they have the best interest of students in mind. She asked that the board trust them as they know what will and will not work in the classroom. Ms. Doyle commented that opening in the hybrid model will allow the district to lower the risk of transmission through greater social distancing as well as allow the returning students to acclimate to the new environment ensuring that the safety precautions can be followed. She added that if things proceed as expected then hopefully students could return full-time when the risk is low enough. She asked the board to consider revisiting the hybrid option for grades K-6.

Venkat-Priya Parigi, Collegeville, commented that the board voted 7-2 in favor of the hybrid option and although his child will remain virtual he questioned why no one had addressed the concern over how synchronous learning will work for the virtual students. He stated that he hoped to see a plan with regards to extensively using technology, new webcams or whatever they want to install in the classrooms to allow livestreaming of all classes. Mr. Parigi said his main concern is that the teachers were very clear about what would not be live and what would be live and as the parent of a junior he needs to understand this option. He stated that safety and security have been severely compromised and based on the recommendation of six feet it has been said that there is none of this on the buses so many kids are at risk of exposure. Mr. Parigi commented that one thing he has not seen is a virtual option post February and he asked why the district is not prepared for the eventuality that this entire academic year may extend being virtual as we do not know how the pandemic is going to span out.

Colleen Emmons, Collegeville, stated that she wanted to be sure that the district planned on emailing families once per week on the number of COVID cases in the district.

Cindy Wisienski, Collegeville, advised she has been listening to all of the board meetings and she has one comment which does not seem to be addressed which is whether or not our students are making progress and if they were having meaningful educational experiences whether virtual or hybrid. She relayed that she has one child making progress and one that is regressing and she questioned how this was being monitored. Ms. Wisienski felt that the district was trying to satisfy everybody by giving a little bit here and a little bit there but if there were kids that were not progressing then the plan is not working.

Julia Allen, Royersford, asked if kids will have the opportunity to tour schools as many kids are switching buildings this year and that is huge concern. She next stated that the board clearly did not listen to any of the parents who said they wanted their kids back in

school full-time and she questioned why they cannot just start now and why are we wait until November to bring them back hybrid? She felt there was no sense in waiting as this was the same schedule as back in July. Ms. Allen added that if board members did not have kids in Spring-Ford then they do not understand that this is a parenting issue and as a board member they are supposed to care. She stated that she was appalled at a board member stating they didn't care about Wednesdays as they are not dealing with it because they are not up until 11:30 at night with a child, after working all day, trying to get homework done.

Michael Lebieczinski, Royersford, commented that he wanted to point out the complete lack of accountability within the board as they have to realize that they created this problem by not pulling a survey they knew was bad and not the one they wanted to go out. He asked what type of data they expected to get back from a defective survey. He added that from the bad survey came bad data and bad decisions which now has to be pulled back on based on actual parent feedback. Mr. Lebieczinski stated that the board also created this problem by not listening to the SFEA early and often and it was clear that despite the union trying to engage they were not being listened to. He commented that the next survey must distinguish between parents who want children in school 5 days a week and those who only want them in 2 days a week. Mr. Lebieczinski felt that the board continually ignores and disregards the actual data of what is happening with the virus in Montgomery County and he urged everyone to check out the Montgomery County website.

Kim Huston, Royersford, stated that in regards to the plan that was presented earlier, how does the plan impact special education. She stated that during the presentation it was indicated that the supplemental IEP students receive actual live instruction which seems to be completely contradictory to the email parents received from the Special Education Department. Ms. Huston reported that the email had stated that students would be receiving instruction virtually with teacher support and live instruction will be provided if possible. She stated that supplemental IEP kids are supposed to be back in school one week from today and at this point parents are not sure what type of instruction they will be receiving. Ms. Huston commented that clarification on all of this was needed sooner rather than later.

Kim Anderson, Collegeville, commented that she was very disappointed that the vote went through tonight as she felt that there was very passionate feedback from the parents that was completely ignored. She thought that it would have been discussed further but it was as if the parents had no voice. Ms. Anderson advised that she does not have kids in Spring-Ford sports and that she found that the whole discussion about the PAC and football has her really fired up. She asked that the board use commonsense and stated that we have two bleachers and at the last game against PV, the visitor bleachers were entirely empty. She urged the board to forget the PAC and if they deemed it safe to have two tickets per participant on our bleachers then why is it not safe for the visiting team to have the exact same thing. She stated who cares and added that they are parents who want to see their children at home games and away games. She asked the board to set a precedent and see if other districts will follow and what PAC will do. She stated that this was worth the push back.

Erica Hermans, Royersford, stated that there was a comment made that elementary kids are likely to be able to maintain the 4-5 foot distancing in the classrooms but this was not the message last week and it is not necessarily true. She indicated that she had talked to teachers and staff in both of her children's buildings and at Brooke, for example, with a maximum of 24 kids in the classroom there is approximately two feet of distancing which is a considerable difference. She added that with 20-21 kids it is three feet and with 16-18 it is four feet. Ms. Hermans stated that she would bet the

elementary schools are not going to have the class sizes of 12-15 kids which is the number necessary to maintain the five-foot distancing that is being suggested. She commented that she felt that the administration and board did not take into consideration how much elementary kids do move around the building. She stated that overall there are statements being made during the board meetings without care which is leading to general misinformation when parents need transparency. She asked how families can make an educated decision when the messaging is inconsistent from week to week. She added that if a school could guarantee four to five-foot distancing then some families might be more inclined to choose live in-person instruction. Ms. Hermans asked that the district not lead families who are on the fence into a false sense of security when it comes to their children's health by claiming four-five feet when the surveys are still out and the math does not add up. She stated be straightforward, consistent and choose your words wisely.

Alison O'Brien, Collegeville, questioned why there was no public comment prior to voting last week for the K-6 where parents were able to state their thoughts as the 7-12 parents were able to do tonight. She added that it was stated that there were multiple emails received by the board asking where hybrid went and that a lot of parents were not comfortable sending their children back full-time. Ms. O'Brien said parents in K-6 are asking this same question and that she would feel much more comfortable sending her child to school in a hybrid setting as it is obvious it would be far more safe to go back in a hybrid setting where there will be less children in a classroom and in school in general. She said it was also stated this evening by the board that there is county data that states that hybrid is the safest option in which to go back to school and questioned why they are not using the safest option for the youngest children. She felt that as a parent she had to pick between the safety of her child by keeping her home or between her education by sending her to school and that it was not fair to put a parent in that situation. Ms. O'Brien said that it was stated that this evening there would be four to five feet between desks in K-6 but many parents are being told by school principals that it would be far less than this and she asked which was the correct answer? She urged the board to find a plan that allows the youngest children to be in school but to be in school safely and address parent's concerns about their children's safety and education. Ms. O'Brien asked why the district is spending valuable time talking about football and extracurricular activities when there are parents at home desperately trying to figure out why the safety of their children is not being taken into full consideration.

Meg Kotes, Royersford, stated that she is the parent of a senior and 8th grader and while her senior is disappointed not to be back in school as of yet, she supports the hybrid model and the teachers. Ms. Kotes said she feels it would be presumptuous of her to try and guess the educational models as well as other people's health and safety considerations. She expressed concern over college students returning home in mid-November to district households and the community and stated that this is something to keep in mind as we move forward and that possible considerations should be made for 10 day quarantines of siblings of those returning students in order to keep everyone safe.

Joy Crowle, Collegeville, commented that she is very disappointed in the vote today but that she supports the teachers 100% and she thinks they are doing a great job. She wished the teachers good luck as it sounds like hybrid model is two full-time jobs. She also wished the students good luck as it sounds like two full-time jobs for them as well. Ms. Crowle addressed Mrs. Zasowski saying she is very offended and appalled by her comments tonight regarding telling callers to please only call and comment on things that have not been commented on yet. She stated that they are taxpayers and if the board has to sit there and listen to every single comment and that goes until 4:00 in the

morning then that's what it should be. She felt that no one cuts off the board members from speaking and stated that the taxpayers have a right to speak about whatever they want even if the board has to hear the same topic over and over again.

Jill Schadler, Royersford, stated that now that this ludicrous plan has been approved we might as well start now and get it going. She added that for the seven board members who voted yes, you are publicly elected officials and you did not represent the majority that has been stating their opinions and they should all be voted out. Ms. Schadler expressed that she hoped that everybody votes them out.

Christine McCreary, Schwenksville, thanked the board for voting on thanked board for voting for the hybrid plan and putting safety first for the staff, students and everyone else that works in the building. She stated that she believes the coronavirus is here to stay for a little while and we will have the flu on top of that plus a lot of college students coming back to their families. Ms. McCreary commented that one thing she noticed in the presentation was that one day the 7th and 8th graders will be back and then the 9th graders will be back in order to get the technology up and running but the 10th graders will not have a chance to be in the building earlier than when the juniors and seniors come in. She asked that there be consideration to having a 10th grade orientation so that they have a chance to learn the building a little bit. She voiced that her 6th grader was upset over not having a hybrid option and she is very sad that she does not have recess this year. Ms. McCreary expressed hope that there will be a way to get the kids outside if they choose to send her back. She stated that she was waiting to hear what tonight's vote was going to be before making that decision for her. Ms. McCreary reiterated that her daughter would like a hybrid plan and she again thanked the board for putting safety first.

Trish Puleo, Collegeville, said she cannot begin to tell the board how disgusted she is with them except for Mr. DiBello. She stated that she cannot understand why they cannot just put cameras in the classroom for livestreaming for virtual. Ms. Puleo added that all she is hearing is parents that want to send their kids back five days a week so give it to them and let the rest of us stay home. She urged that there be cameras in the rooms and let the teachers teach live. She next expressed her disbelief that the district went against PAC rules and said she cannot believe we have a group of rebels on the board that don't care about public safety.

Sarah Daunoras, Royersford, stated that parents at this point, after this meeting, are getting some conflicting information about what the actual social distancing and mitigation efforts can be and without complete and accurate information it is not possible for them to make an informed decision. She said a potentially full class size of up to 24 students in K-4 or 30 students in 5-6 does not leave any room for social distancing. Ms. Daunoras said no social distancing on school buses is also a major concern. She added that with regards to grades 7-12, she was glad that the board voted to move ahead with hybrid as she feels it is the only safe plan at this time that protects staff and students. She asked for clarification on what options would be available for grades 7-12 and will full virtual still be offered in addition to hybrid and cyber.

Wendy Campo, Schwenksville, commented that she was highly disappointed in tonight's discussion and the inconsistency going back from week to week. She stated that as a parent following the board meetings and what they say one week and then what changes to the next week has been very discouraging. Ms. Campo said she feels like the board might be sitting there listening to the public but they are not hearing the comments and opinions of the public. She did not feel that the decisions are supported by the data being put out there by Montgomery County and how low we are. She added

that she has a senior and the seniors cannot get this time back as they were off school for 7 months and now they had their first opportunity to start taking the SATs again. She stated that all of this time is being lost and all of the things they are supposed to be learning in their senior year and programs like Broadcasting 2 cannot get this time back. Ms. Campo commented that with only going back two days a week what opportunities are being given to these students? She replied that they are not equal opportunities as one of the teachers expressed earlier this evening. She advised that she was glad that the kids may possibly be starting to get back in school in November but questioned why we are waiting and putting out there that we will wait until the next semester to figure out what's going to happen. She asked that this be looked at a lot sooner and reevaluate it every two weeks looking outside the box.

MaryJo McNamara, Royersford, stated that she was extremely disappointed in the board's vote tonight and she does not understand the inconsistencies and the contradictions. She said she was appalled by a board member telling her that it is the parent's responsibility to figure out what to do and what time to get their child up on a Wednesday. Ms. McNamara stated that Wednesday is a school day, figure it out and tell parents what they need to do. She said she did not know what kids were going to do in the hybrid model when there is no livestreaming and it is a prerecorded video and they have a question. Ms. McNamara relayed that she has a senior and in every single class he has a question so what happens to those kids that need to ask questions and the teacher is not available because they are teaching the 15 kids who are in the classroom. She reiterated that she does not want to be called the loudest but rather called the majority and whether you like the survey or not that's the numbers and there are 20% of the people that want to be 100% virtual. She added that you have all said yourselves and the teacher's union said themselves that those students that are 100% virtual will be left behind which is a joke. She thanked the board for not representing them.

Ashley Swanson, Collegeville, stated that she understood that K-6 is not on the agenda but as she is hearing the board meeting unfold she is understanding that the driving force is reducing class sizes in 7-12. She asked why reducing class sizes is not being done in grades K-6? She said she heard the wording self-contained classrooms and this is why K-6 is not considering the hybrid model. She implored the board to reconsider a hybrid model as self-contained classrooms are not synonymous with reduced class sizes which allows for proper social distancing. Ms. Swanson stated that in the elementary schools they are talking about reshuffling the children, new teachers if you are virtual or if you are in person and if they do the hybrid model it allows everyone to maintain their teacher, stay in the classroom, reduce class sizes and have social distancing. She highly implored the board to reconsider the hybrid model on the new survey that can be put out for K-6 just like you are on 7-12.

Roland Olsen, Collegeville, commented that last week Dr. Goodin and the teachers recommended against livestreaming of classes because it was a poor way of teaching but this week it is a good way of teaching and even better we are going to double the number of kids that are now going to have to us this methodology. He stated 4 months without a plan and in one week the teachers and Dr. Goodin came up with a plan, that with virtually no lead time, we were ready to vote on. Mr. Olsen said it sounds a lot like July when we had a 9-0 vote when half of the board did not ask a single question. He advised that tonight there are people wondering if some of the microphones work on some of the board members due to a lack of conversation and questions related to this. He added that this vote had already been taken before everybody saw this plan so he did not feel that this needed to be discussed. Mr. Olsen agreed with Maria Cagliola that the survey was useless and we need her company to do a survey which allows everyone

to have their say, not that it was going to matter as there are two people.....the Zoom call was lost.

Ed Kaercher, Collegeville, stated that he had a question regarding social distancing in the classrooms as it was brought up about the reduced class sizes versus the self-contained as mentioned by another caller. He commented that we are going somewhere now from a 4-5 feet distance in between and a concern he has is in regards to the policing of face masks. Mr. Kaercher stated that in looking at the CDC guidelines, it appears that they are recommending two layers or more for the masks and gators are not effective at this point, so how will we police that and especially how are we going to deal with that when we have a reduced number of square footage between kids? He asked if a second survey would be sent out for grades K-6 so parents can provide true data and feedback regarding this as there is obviously a little bit of cavalier and confusion between the reduced classroom size and the self-contained definition.

Olivia Trego, Royersford, commented that she is in 10th grade and said she is not speaking on behalf of all the sophomores but they feel left out. She stated that they are actually the ones who have to learn and participate in what is happening. Ms. Trego relayed that in speaking with some of her fellow classmates it is frustrating feeling like their opinions do not matter and they are constantly pushed down and they are not being listened to.

Mrs. Zasowski said she wanted to clarify a couple of things that were brought up. She advised that with regards to the 2 surveys that are out there, K-6 is still open and will close on October 8th and the 7-12 will go out on October 7th and will remain open until the 14th. She stated that there was a good question brought up regarding special education and she asked Mr. Rizzo to explain how this may or may not be impacted by the hybrid program. Mr. Rizzo advised that if a special education student is receiving instruction 4 days a week now or when they come back into the building then this will continue as long as parents choose to take this option. Mrs. Zasowski commented that one other piece that came up in tonight's conversation is regarding K-6 which is also a hybrid model because from the baseline that we have from the survey, not all are going to come back in so with that it does become a combination of in person, virtual or cyber and as such is a hybrid model also. Mr. Fitzgerald clarified that the state uses the term blended as they do not actually use the term hybrid. Mrs. Zasowski stated that Dr. Goodin had clarified for her that there is an option for grades 7-12 to choose hybrid, virtual or cyber and Dr. Goodin confirmed this was correct. Mrs. Zasowski stated that another caller brought up about a 10th grade initiation and Mr. Rizzo confirmed that the secondary administration is looking at creating an opportunity for them to come in as they have in the past. She asked Dr. Murray to provide more clarification on the Wednesday schedule. Mrs. Zasowski next asked Mr. Fitzgerald for clarification on where we stood for Friday night and he advised that as Mr. DiBello had hinted there could be movement on this as early as tomorrow with regards to attendance maximums. He stated that the county has also been given a green light to expand the number of attendees at football games. Mr. Fitzgerald advised that his recommendation would be, if this is what the board desires, to empower the administration to go to whatever the maximum extent possible is but stay within the mandates of the county or whatever comes out from the governor's office. He added that he did not think a motion was need but rather the board to be supportive of the administration staying within whatever the mandates are of the county or whatever the governor comes out with tomorrow to expand from the 250 max for Friday's football games.

Mrs. Melton asked about the PIAA and PAC and Mr. Fitzgerald replied that they all punted and clarified that they would go with whatever the district's guidelines became.

Mrs. Zasowski asked if the board was comfortable with giving that direction to administration to allow attendance beyond the 250 to whatever the rule is at the time and the board all confirmed their agreement with this.

Mr. DiBello asked if it was clear that this is both for home and visiting teams. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he believes the governor will come out with a maximum number for in the stands whether that be home or visiting fans.

Mr. Shafer added that as a courtesy to the board after tomorrow night's Extracurricular Committee meeting, if there is an update as he would suspect, he will provide them with an update via email as a mechanism to communicate unless something is sent around prior to that.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DiBello made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Shafer seconded it. The motion passed 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

On October 12, 2020, 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:	Wendy Earle, Linda C. Fazzini and Dr. Margaret D. Wright
Region II:	Clinton L. Jackson and David R. Shafer
Region III:	Thomas J. DiBello and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer:	Colleen Zasowski
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Eshika Seth

The following Board Member was absent: **Christina Melton**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Zasowski asked for a moment of silence in memory of the Spring-Ford student who passed away today. She stated that the district's condolences, thoughts, and prayers go out to the family and to all of the Spring-Ford community members impacted by this loss. She advised that supports are available both in-person and virtually and she asked that Dr. Goodin speak about the supports available during his Superintendent's report this evening. Mrs. Zasowski reported that the Board met in an executive session prior to the start of this meeting tonight regarding personnel. She next reminded the public of the process for the meeting and for making public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting and she asked that everyone be respectful of each other.

Eshika announced that the Interact Club was holding a Community Food Drive during Homecoming Week. She advised that the community was invited to drive by and drop off non-perishable food items on October 21st to be donated to Project Outreach in Royersford. She stated that additional information was available via the High School webpage on the food drive and on all of the homecoming plans.

Mr. DiBello spoke about the Friday night football game and said he wanted to clarify what happened with regards to the attendance capacity. He explained that Governor Wolf had increased the attendance capacity for outdoor arenas, but that Montgomery County had overridden this and determined that only 918 were permitted to be in attendance and that it would be enforced. He spoke of how the district was forced to handle the last-minute decision and offered his apology on the decisions that had to be made. Mr. DiBello stated that the district and the board did nothing wrong as the Governor's order was followed to the "T" and that the decision was made solely by Montgomery County. There was discussion on the potential of filing an injunction to override the county decision and Mr. Fitzgerald advised that this discussion should be explored in an executive session. The board agreed to meet in an executive session following the adjournment of tonight's meeting.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Roland Olsen, Collegeville, stated that the district needs to move faster to get the kids back in school sooner than a month from now. He said that events for homecoming needed to get scheduled and announced so that the kids and families have them to look

forward to and he questioned what the delay was. Mr. Olsen advised that he received an email from Dr. Colyer saying that there are plans for homecoming and other typical events such as Powderpuff that occur the week of homecoming that will be revisited for implementation. He asked what was standing in the way as the attendance restrictions have been greatly lessened. He thanked the many Spring-Ford Teams for showing the way as players, coaches and trainers, the ability to play sports this fall has been shown to be safe. He added that the Powderpuff game in particular is important as it is a worthy tradition at Spring-Ford which many of the kids look forward to participating in. He stated that there was no reason why this could not be held in the near future and he offered to help find volunteers to work it, a field to host it, footballs or t-shirts. Mr. Olsen commented that the kids have done nothing wrong and when you vote against these events you are voting against these kids who deserve and need to have these events. He urged the board to start moving faster and better as the kids need them to. He stated that we have so far been the district of can't and he asked that they please change this to can and added because we can and we should. Mr. Olsen said he fully endorses the district fighting back versus the county on behalf of our rights and he expressed hope that the executive session deems the same.

II. BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Extracurricular **David Shafer** **1st Tues. 6:30 p.m.**

Mr. Shafer reported on the meeting that took place on October 6, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

Mrs. Zasowski asked that administration look at homecoming activities and see what can be done to add to them in light of the restrictions being lessened. Discussion took place regarding what activities were being referred to and some board members expressed that they felt this was micro-managing and that decisions should be left up to the administration. Dr. Colyer provided an overview of what he and his team were working on with regards to homecoming and what events would possibly have to be held at a later date due to some restrictions still in place.

Community Relations **Colleen Zasowski** **1st Tues. 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Zasowski reported on the meeting that took place on October 6, 2020. The minutes from this meeting will be posted on the district-wide website once approved at the committee level.

WMCTC **DiBello/Melton/Zasowski** **1st Mon. 7:00 p.m.**

There was no meeting in October.

MCIU **Thomas J. DiBello** **4th Weds. 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. DiBello reported that he was not able to attend but that the MCIU Board met and took care of the normal monthly business. He advised that the meeting was the last meeting for Dr. George as the Executive Director and he spoke of the work that Dr. George had done in his role at the MCIU as well as in overseeing the management of the Harrisburg School District. He advised that Dr. Regina Speaker was the new Executive Director replacing Dr. George.

Ad-Hoc **Thomas DiBello** **(As Needed)**

Mr. DiBello reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee held their initial meeting about a month ago and had many people that attended via Zoom. He stated that it was communicated that they were planning on putting together a smaller parent group that the committee could meet with and interact. He advised that an email was sent out regarding this and about 40 people indicated that they were interested in being part of this group. Mr. DiBello

said they were ready to move forward with getting a meeting set up when the mandate on attendance restrictions was put back in place so this was put on hold. He advised that now that the governor has issued new capacity issues they will find a date and will be reaching out to this group to invite those who indicated their willingness to participate to a meeting. He assured the board that they will all be copied on all correspondence regarding meeting dates and times.

Superintendent Eval. Christina Melton (As Needed)

Mrs. Zasowski reported that the Superintendent Evaluation Committee met with Dr. Goodin and Mr. Rizzo via Zoom. She stated that a follow up meeting is being planned and that possibly Mrs. Melton would have those details when she returns next week.

PSBA Liaison David Shafer

Mr. Shafer stated that he had no report. Mrs. Zasowski advised that on October 8th it was PSBA Fall Virtual Advocacy Day and she asked if anyone had an opportunity to tune in to this event to which no one indicated they had participated. Mrs. Zasowski reminded the board that the PSBA School Leadership Conference was coming up and she asked that anyone interested please be sure to register for the conference.

Superintendent Rpt. Dr. David R. Goodin

Dr. Goodin notified the public that the K-6 commitment form has closed. He advised that there are a total of 3,692 K-6 students with approximately 2,227 wanting to return in person, 1,056 wanting to remain virtual, 185 enrolling in the cyber program and 213 unknown. He stated that last Friday and today, the elementary principals were reaching out to contact the unknown to discuss their preferences. He added that the elementary principals are beginning to build their class rosters based on this information. Dr. Goodin spoke about the next steps which is to get the class rosters built, notify parents and teachers. He reported that all of the teachers will be back on October 26th. He advised the board and community that the district's application for our flexible instruction day has been approved. He explained that what this means is that in the future when we have a snow day then that snow day will be a virtual day.

Board discussion took place on class sizes, grouping the K-6 together in pods, virtual learning dedicated teachers, potentially hiring more teachers in order to achieve greater social distancing and whether it was possible to entertain the thought of bringing in students any earlier than November 12th.

Solicitor's Report Mark Fitzgerald

There was no report.

III. MINUTES

There were no questions or comments.

- A. Administration recommends approval of the August 31, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes. **(Attachment A1)**
- B. Administration recommends approval of the September 14, 2020 Work Session minutes. **(Attachment A2)**

IV. PERSONNEL

Mr. Jackson asked about Item A1 wondering if a replacement had been found. Mrs. Leiss responded that the position had been posted and interviews will be starting but that there is a substitute nurse lined up to cover that building in the interim.

A. Resignations

1. **Amy L. Bonner**; Registered Nurse, Limerick Elementary School. Effective: October 13, 2020.
2. **Barbara M. Bono**; Administrative Assistant, Limerick Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: February 1, 2021.

B. Leave of Absence

1. **Kaitlyn A. Morrison**; Elementary Teacher, Brooke Elementary for a child-rearing leave of absence per the Professional Agreement. Effective: September 1, 2020 through the 2020-2021 school year.

C. Change of Status

1. **Aimee E. Kemp**; Instructional Assistant, 7th Grade Center, to Administrative Assistant-Human Resources, District Office, replacing Sydney E. McGill who had a change of status. Compensation has been set at \$19.23/hour with benefits per the Secretarial Benefit Summary. Effective: To be determined.

D. Tenure Status

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

1. **Jessica L. Noecker**

- E. Administration recommends approval of the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Payments of extra-curricular stipends shall be contingent upon the reopening of schools and the ability as determined by the Administration to provide such extra-curricular offerings to students consistent with CDC guidelines and guidelines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The district reserves the right to prorate or not pay stipends in the event of a school closure, school modification, and/or discontinuation of the activity due to pandemic or other events surrounding the pandemic.
(Attachment A3)

- F. Administration recommends the creation of seven (7) elementary Student Assistance Program Coordinator positions (1 per K-4 building) at a cost of \$402.00 per position for the 2020-2021 school year. School entities are mandated to establish and maintain Student Assistance Programs (SAP) and coordinators at each site as per the PA School Code. The total cost shall not exceed \$2,814.00 and is an unbudgeted expenditure. Additionally, the administration requests approval to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Spring-Ford Education Association (SFEA) for these positions.

V. 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. <u>General Fund Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 211574 – 211722 | \$ 939,658.54 |
| 2. <u>Food Service Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 1975 – 1981 | \$ 725.63 |
| 3. <u>Capital Reserve Checks</u> | |
| Check No. 2091 | \$ 28,829.99 |
| 4. <u>General Fund, Food Service, & Capital Reserve and Projects ACHs</u> | |
| ACH 202100337 – 202100482 | \$ 3,487,739.78 |
| 5. <u>Wires</u> | |
| 202000031 – 202000040 | \$ 2,333,996.43 |
| 6. <u>Procurement Payments</u> | |
| 190000151 – 190000411 | \$ 70,533.56 |

C. The following monthly Board reports are submitted for your approval:

- Skyward Reports
 - Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, Capital Projects, Scholarships and Wires)
 - ACH Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)
 - Wires Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)

D. Administration recommends approval of the following independent contracts:

1. **Martin Luther School dba Gemma Services – Plymouth Meeting, PA.**
Provide educational 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 \$59,252.00.
2. **Behavior Interventions – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide 1:1 Registered Behavior Therapy (RBT) support services and Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) support services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$134,045.00.
3. **Communication Associates, LLC/Karen M. Clapper – Collegeville, PA.**
Provide direct speech and language services for one hour per week and 1 hour of consultation with teachers for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$5,290.00.

E. Administration recommends approval to enter into an agreement with the MCIU regarding the distribution of CARES Act funding from Montgomery County. The MCIU is acting as the pass-through agent for federal funds received by Montgomery

County that have been allocated to school districts. The District will receive \$413,504.00 through this program to offset COVID-19 related expenditures.

- F. Administration recommends approval of pass-through funds from the MCIU for the 2020-2021 IDEA Section 619 - Age of Beginners in the amount of \$6,882.00 and IDEA Section 611 in the amount of \$1,527,619.10.

VI. BOARD COMMENT

Mrs. Zasowski commented that she had previously mentioned to the Board the possibility of holding a board retreat. She stated that she is not going to ask Dr. Goodin to secure or spend money to bring in a facilitator for this if everyone is not all-in. She stated that she thought that they need to debrief as they have been through a tragedy as a group in terms of this whole pandemic. She advised the board members to watch their email for an Evite to a board breakfast on November 7th. Mr. Jackson responded that he did not feel this was the place to discuss this and if they are going to have it they just have it and he did not believe that four hours was going to change anybody's mind about anything.

Mr. Jackson spoke about the vote last week to purchase \$100,000.00 worth of microphones prior to the administration and SFEA presenting the new direction we are moving forward with. He asked if the microphones would still be necessary for the approach we are taking now and whether a beta test was done with the teachers. Dr. Murray advised that the microphones were still needed and that they would provide quality audio for livestreaming while allowing teachers to move around the classroom. She also advised that both she and some teachers tested them out. Mr. Jackson asked if teachers were going out and purchasing cameras to use in their classrooms and he was advised that there was no directive to teachers to do this but if they were doing it on their own then the district had no control over that. Dr. Murray also advised that the district was able to repurpose iPads to be used by teachers as cameras in their classrooms or they have the option to use their Chromebooks which also have cameras.

Mr. DiBello commented that he did not support the use of iPads for cameras as he did not feel this was setting the teachers up for success in the classroom with livestreaming. He spoke about what the Daniel Boone School District has in place that he visited and saw how it worked. He advised that he contacted Lenovo, the camera vendor, and found they had cameras in stock. Mr. DiBello asked if the district was exploring the option of purchasing cameras to be used in the classrooms or was the only plan to use iPads. Dr. Murray advised that the plan was to use iPads but if the board wants a motion for the purchase of cameras then that can be done.

Mr. Shafer suggested that the Board Curriculum and Technology could take this up for discussion at their meeting next week.

Mrs. Fazzini felt that the decision should be left up to the teachers to decide what tools would be the most useful for them as part of their curriculum. She added that she feels the process should be for the curriculum department or the teachers to come to the board with what they need and not the board giving them a directive of what they need to use.

Board discussion took place regarding what the educational plan, goal and expectations were and what equipment may or may not be needed to accomplish them.

Dr. Goodin spoke about the value of the iPad and that it allowed teachers to see the student's participation via Zoom and for the students to be able to see their teacher. He added that a static camera only permits the students to see the teacher. He commented

that he was hesitant to put a lot of additional expense into the purchase of cameras for a temporary short-term solution while we are in the hybrid model.

Dr. Wright agreed with Dr. Goodin saying she recalls that the cost was very high for the cameras. She added that she is not sure every teacher wants a camera but that possibly it is something that could be revisited as we are always looking to evolve.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to bring students back from hybrid on January 4th and Mrs. Zasowski seconded this.

Dr. Wright objected to an important motion and decision coming at the end of the work session and during the board comment section of the meeting. She stated that she needed more input from administration. Mrs. Fazzini agreed with Dr. Wright.

Mr. Shafer asked if there could be an addition to the motion to state that we will bring the elementary students back before November 12th. Dr. Goodin emphatically replied no, it was not possible to bring the elementary in before November 12th as there was a lot of work to be done prior to them coming back. He added that it may be possible to look at the secondary students to see if they can be brought back hybrid before the November 12th date and he indicated that he will challenge his team to try to do that but that this cannot happen with the elementary students returning full-time.

Mr. DiBello stated that based on this information he is withdrawing his motion. He asked for further information on bringing back full-time grades 7-12 on January 4th and also that the district further investigate cameras in the classroom. He asked that there be discussion items on both of these things for the next board meeting. Mrs. Zasowski added that she would also like to see an update on bringing in grades 7-12 before November 12th.

Mrs. Fazzini commented that she feels like all of the administration is working so hard to get things going and the board keeps piling on to do it faster. She urged the board to let administration focus on getting people in on the timeframe they say they can do it.

VII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Dave Fazzini, Phoenixville, stated that he found it very frustrating for the past several months to watch the men on the board condescend to the women and waste everybody's time both in here and on Zoom. He felt Mr. DiBello should be ashamed of himself as the way he acts is absolutely ridiculous and the time he wastes for the administration. Mr. Fazzini commented that Dr. Goodin and his staff have worked their butts off and the only reason we are not back in school is because Mr. DiBello wanted to go back full-time and left hybrid off of the survey. He added that after the board voted to go back Mr. DiBello all of a sudden want to start it all over again. He urged that they just let administration do their job and support them as it is not that difficult. Mr. Jackson replied that there is no decision made here without a majority of the board so it is not just one person. Mr. Fazzini stated that he gets that and then added that Mr. Shafer is on his computer and his phone every meeting, all meeting and that never gets attributed to him but yet Mr. Olsen accuses the women. Mr. Fazzini felt that Mr. DiBello, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Shafer were the problem with the board. He stated that Mr. Jackson will not even go to breakfast with the board and that Mr. DiBello is condescending to every woman on the board and he added that he is tired of it, tired of watching it and he wishes he would stop it. He expressed that he felt Mr. DiBello was a bully. Mr. Jackson invited Mr. Fazzini to talk after the meeting.

Kim Anderson, Collegeville, thanked Mrs. Zasowski for bringing up the importance of Extracurriculars and she stated that many of the group she is involved in are perfectly willing to help. She offered her help with the Powderpuff Game and said she did not have high school students but volunteered to help with the tailgate. She again reiterated that there are so many parents willing to help and asked the board to create a parent group and said they will all join it and let them know of their ability and willingness to help. Ms. Anderson commented that it was a little scary for her being here tonight as she was mostly here supporting her friends who are parents of students in grades 7-12. She advised that her kids are in 3rd grade and 6th grade so this is not an issue for her with regards to the hybrid model until tonight when it sounded like it was being threatened. She thanked the board members who spoke up about the importance of students being back in school. She advised that her 3rd grader is suffering miserably with the virtual model and she added that she has to be in the room with him at all times, she feels like a prisoner in her house and with regards to Wednesdays they call it TGiW (Thank God it's Wednesday) as that is when they can breathe again, leave their homes and get some stuff done. Ms. Anderson stated that the biggest fear she is seeing from her 7-12 friends is that they are going to have "free Wednesdays" and she does not blame them. She advised that what she is hearing is that they are going to use a lot of digital media, which is not the same and if they are getting a lot of instruction now and it is going to be decreased under the hybrid model then we have taken a gigantic step backwards. She expressed that she feels the vote was a mistake but that mistakes can be corrected. She urged the board to listen to everybody and what they are talking about. Ms. Anderson said she has seen a lot of comments on Facebook from a variety of groups and she wanted to point out that our school district area numbers are actually quite good as we have had zero deaths in Spring-Ford, Limerick, Royersford and 54 in Upper Providence and about 52 of those were Parkhouse Nursing Home.

John Yonchuk, Royersford, stated that as a scientist in real-life unlike most of the board and most of the people who are commenting at the board meetings, he is severely disappointed with the behavior and actions of the board over the past 6 months and especially tonight. He stated that the Spring-Ford Area School District and its board approved plans that explicitly state, "schools may provide in-person instruction only in accordance with PDE guidance". He added that PDE guidance states that for full in-person learning cases are under 10 per 100,000, no matter what Mr. DiBello thinks of that guidance, and test positivity must be below 5%. Mr. Yonchuk stated that PDE also defines a blended model as "any model in which the number of students in a school building is reduced that allows for reduced to allow for social distancing of six feet". He advised that currently Montgomery County is recording 38 cases per 100,000 residents and a 2.5% positivity rate which fails to meet PDE guidance for full in-person learning. Mr. Yonchuk stated that presentations and emails around the K-6 plan also state that the distance in the various buildings will be 4-5 feet as a goal only with none meeting the six feet in guidance; thus failing to meet the definition of blended in the guidance. He challenged the board tonight and the administration to square this circle as they are not meeting the benchmark for full in-person guidance and also don't meet the definition of a blended model. He stated that they are not following their own approved plans that are the official plans of the school district so why would any parent trust any word any of them say about anything else. He asked what the point was of writing all of those plans. Mr. Yonchuk felt that it has been clear since the board voted to open in virtual that the one and only goal of some, most notably Mr. DiBello and Mr. Jackson, was to bring the kids into the buildings no matter what. He stated that they won't follow the best advice of health experts and they play lip service to the safety of the children. He commented that they spend more time arguing about sports, sports tickets, board meeting attendance and the powderpuff game than actual education. He added that they are rude and dismissive to the health experts and the women on the board. Mr. Yonchuk stated that the infamous Parents Back in School Council that claims to speak for all viewpoints does not even mention safety in their mission statement

on Facebook. He said it is time to end this charade and accept that full in-person school is not a realistic goal for this school year. He urged the board to stop being bullied by its loudest members and do what's right and protect the kids by following science, public health and focus on the hybrid plan or virtual learning.

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, volunteered her assistance to get the powderpuff game off of the ground and as a working parent she is happy to volunteer and help out in way possible. She stated that with regards to the K-6 comments that were done tonight, the numbers she heard were approximately 66/33% and the general rule is that the class sizes are usually 24-28 then if you peel off the 33% who indicated they will be going virtual then you are down to numbers that can support 6 foot social distancing. Ms. Mcnamara added that for the 7-12 she has a very difficult time and she does not know how any parent is making any commitment in the survey if you cannot tell them what is the committed level of livestreaming if a parent chooses 100% virtual for their student. She indicated that she is not even going near whether a teacher wants to decide for those in the hybrid model whether they want to pre-record, go asynchronous or synchronous. She commented that if she wants her kid home 100% of the time in virtual then what is the commitment from the administration for what livestreaming they have and without that being answered she cannot submit her commitment survey. Ms. Mcnamara next spoke about the direction from the board to look at cameras and stated that the administration are the experts and she feels that they should be the ones bringing that to curriculum and this is what the board members are saying. She stated that she applauds Mr. Jackson and Mr. DiBello for representing the concerns of a parent group. She added that she is truly considering bringing her child back virtual because we cannot get our act together, as a district, on what our hybrid model looks like. She asked how a physics or calculus teacher will be able to teach, hold an iPad in their hand, walk around a classroom, write an equation on the board and see all of the students via livestream? Ms. Mcnamara said that is impossible and felt that motion cameras should be mounted in the back of the classrooms. She stated that let the teachers teach means the teacher is available and if her student has a question on a virtual day and that teacher is not doing livestreaming then when does her student get to ask a questions?

Kristy Ward, Collegeville, said she was calling in to comment on the statement made by Mrs. Fazzini, "if a 7th to 12th grader misses a year of social development that's not that big of a deal" which she felt was a very insensitive comment made by someone sitting on the school board. Ms. Ward stated that multiple studies have reported that there is a major health crisis right now for high school aged students dealing with COVID and school closure. She advised that she has sat through many weeks of public comment listening to multiple parents calling in regarding the health and mental effects to their own children who are students. She added that anxiety, depression and sadly suicides are all increased across the country in this age group. She stated that it is a huge deal to miss a year of social development as a 7th -12th grader. Ms. Ward felt that Mrs. Fazzini should take a look at that comment and re-evaluate it. She commented that Mrs. Fazzini spoke about all of the doctors she spoke to and the online training she took and suggested that possibly Mrs. Fazzini could go back and ask the doctors about the consequences of missing a year of school as she is sure they will tell her that the older kids are suffering and how detrimental it is for them to miss a year of social development. Ms. Ward said kids are suffering and for Mrs. Fazzini to make that insensitive comment is unacceptable as it is not acceptable for any grade to miss a year of social development let alone grades 7-12.

Gabrielle Deardorff, Royersford, said she wanted to applaud Mr. Fazzini and Mr. Yonchuk for their comments tonight as it is what she wants to scream through the screen every single Monday. She stated that she has had enough of the disrespect of

the women and of the people who are not in this little crew. Ms. Deardorff commented that as Mr. Shafer had mentioned there are 439 students participating in fall sports and the last she checked there were 8,000 students in the school district yet the board wastes hour after hour after hour of everyone's time talking about football and your football tickets. She stated that she was a cheerleader in high school and she understands that football is important to high school but what is important is getting the kids back to school. Ms. Deardorff added that she may not be on the Back in School Council and said she is sick of their bullying of this whole situation. She urged the board to listen to the administration, listen to the scientists and get the kids back to school and to stop pushing their political agenda's conspiracy theories and their own personal gains.

Joy Crowle, Collegeville, expressed that she cannot believe people would talk the way they have about Clinton and Tom saying they are talking down to women just because they ask hard questions, the good questions and the questions that need to be answered. She stated that this does not mean they are talking down to anybody and that they happen to be the only ones listening to the public and they are listening to the scientists, the safety features and the concerns to get the kids back in school but nobody seem to be listening. Ms. Crowle said she was offended by anyone saying this about either one of them and stated that it made her sick and disgusted and she asked that they stop using the word bullying as she is so sick of that word. She added that if you cannot ask and listen and answer the hard questions it's not called bullying; it's enough already, move on, get the kids back in school five days a week. She commented, look at the hybrid plan; wake up, it's ridiculous as the kids are getting less face-to-face time then they did as it is now. Ms. Crowle urged people to see the plan, ask about it, ask the questions as they won't get any answers. She said Clinton and Tom are the only ones that ask the questions at the board table and nobody wants to answer. She asked when it would be time for a town meeting so the public can stand up, ask a question, and get an answer. She again stated that it is ridiculous.

Samantha Favacchia, Spring City, commented that she wanted to thank Mrs. Fazzini for refusing to be steamrolled and for speaking up for the great majority of the parents that just want people to listen to reason. She added that they should also listen to the scientist that spoke earlier.

Rachel Kerchner, Phoenixville, stated that if anyone should be ashamed in this room then it is Mrs. Fazzini for her comment saying any year of a child's social development being lost is not that big of a deal. She commented that she hoped that is not what she meant and that she will restate what her true intention was with that comment. Ms. Kerchner said that everyone is talking about why we are rushing the administration and she stated that she is pretty sure that they have known since June to put some plans in place so she questions if the time crunch is anything but self-imposed due to poor planning. She added that she takes it as a personal insult as a woman that because someone is speaking to you in a direct way and asking for an answer that it should be any different than if you were speaking to a man or anybody else. Ms. Kerchner stated that everybody on the board is a grown adult and if you can be bullied by anybody, not that it is happening, then you should not be on the board and everybody is perfectly capable of standing up and speaking their mind and defending their opinion. She said she does not want the woman-man thing being thrown around anymore as this is 2020 and we have a woman running for the vice presidency, so it is not about gender but it's about ability. She commented that as board members it is their job to represent the majority or their constituents and she finds it very hard to understand how you voted a plan into place and you do not know the actual number of parents who support it. She stated that she does not think any vote should have taken place until a survey was sent out that had full in-person, hybrid and virtual as choices so that you have legitimate, empirical data to base your decision on.

Chrissy Pergine, Limerick, asked Dr. Goodin why the elementary students cannot go back until mid-November and stated that she asked this question a month ago and was told it is just a stake in the sand and it could be moved. She stated that she did not see it being moved as it more like a stake in the cement. Ms. Pergine said she is thankful that we are finally looking to see what other districts are doing. She added that Dr. Goodin mentioned that there will be no more snow days as kids will learn virtually and she asked how the teachers will prepare for that if school is not called off until five o'clock in the morning and are they going to be able to prepare for that as it seems now like we need Wednesdays off in order for teachers to prepare for the week. Ms. Pergine addressed Mr. Fazzini saying that he should be embarrassed to talk like that and if he is Mrs. Fazzini's husband then she should be embarrassed too. She stated that nobody is bullying anyone and she thanked Tom DiBello and Clinton for all of the work they are doing to get the kids back to school.

Sarah Daunoras, Royersford, stated that it came up tonight that hiring more teachers could help to solve the problem of in-person class sizes of 24 students and with class sizes this large it won't be possible to offer appropriate social distancing. She said she believes this is the frustration they are hearing from many parents. Ms. Daunoras added that even though there's 30% of students approximately choosing to remain virtual in K-6 for the second marking period, those students will require their share of the teachers which leaves the class sizes in-person still around 24. She asked the board to please consider this idea seriously although it is unlikely that there will be teachers available to hire at this time. She added that as Dr. Goodin stated you cannot have in-person learning and virtual learning and social distancing. She stated that in order to get all three you need more teachers so please plan to allow for as many layers of protection as possible including social distancing and math. She expressed her appreciation to Dr. Goodin for stating that it's not possible to speed up the process of getting K-6 open any sooner than the date that's already been set in November. Ms. Daunoras asked everyone to please recognize the huge amount of work the administrators and teachers are doing to make these plans become reality and that they not be given more and more directives to change and revise plans as this constant back and forth is why the return is so delayed to begin with.

Dr. Jacob Erickson, Schwenksville, advised that he is an emergency medicine physician and had offered his services up to the board many times. He stated that he works at a very large tertiary center in an urban area and they are all going back to school. He commented that he felt we should be back to school as we are in a suburban area. Dr. Erickson reported that the tertiary center has 0 hospitalized pediatric cases. He again stated that we should be back to school and added that the virtual is not working. He commented that the teachers are saying that students are getting less than about 1/5 of what they would normally teach the children. He stated that students are not getting the adequate education they deserve. Dr. Erickson advised that the AAP recommends full in-person learning. He added that all of the school districts around us are going back and they are successful and also able to do all of the other virtual options with it.

Kory Parsia, Schwenksville, thanked the board for all of their hard work as this is not easy. He stated that he wanted to talk about the asynchronous day on Wednesday and that as a parent he has concerns about why there is a need for an asynchronous day and if there is a need then he questions why it is on Wednesday? Mr. Parsia commented that he feels as if his children gain some momentum when they learn Monday and Tuesday and then they are kind of off on Wednesday as asynchronous is not like real live instruction and then students go Thursday and Friday and then they are off. He questioned the need for asynchronous learning and felt that we should continue a regular school day on Wednesday so that kids get as much education as possible. Mr. Parsia added that if an asynchronous day is needed then why can't it be moved to a Friday where kids can garner

four consecutive days of coherent instruction, establish momentum, have time to digest if that extra day is needed and then start fresh on Monday. He stated that he does not care about the cycle of days one through six as these are different times now. He commented that with regards to assessments, he finds it frustrating but understandable, and he wanted the board to understand that the kids are not getting legitimate tests that they need to study for and be held accountable for. He added that while the teachers are doing a phenomenal job and doing their best with the cameras, another component is kids learning how to study, learning how to be resilient, deal with small little failures because they do not understand something on a test and learning how to improve. He said this is another component that is missing and he knows the board cannot control this but asked that they please take that into account as they have to be able to give the kids some legitimate test grades so that their progress can be adequately monitored and make sure we are fulfilling those needs so they can move onto the next grade accordingly. He stated that he just wanted to give them some feedback and thanked them for doing a great job.

Heather Staley, Spring City, thanked Dr. Erickson for his comments as she agrees that virtual is not working. She stated that she has been seeing a lot more with other students and other parents that she has talked to who are having the same problems with social and emotional issues as the kids are missing a lot of things. She added that she also agrees with the last speaker that students are just getting that momentum and then have to stop dead on a Wednesday and then parents have to force them again on a Thursday to try and get it. Ms. Staley commented that her daughter was always a great kid in school, a learner and was always excited to go to school but she has lost that and she feels that a lot of people have lost that. She stated that students can go back safely and she wants to make sure that other people realize that those are guidelines from the Department of Education in Pennsylvania; guidelines not rules. She added that we do the best that we can but COVID-19 is going to be here just like the flu, like H1N1 and we are going to have to learn to deal with it and there is no way to escape no one getting the disease. Ms. Staley said she feels that if someone is related to someone on the board then they should not be speaking as they are a little too emotional and they should understand that their wife is more than capable of defending herself. She stated that everyone on the board is an adult and everyone on the board has a voice. Ms. Staley said she also wanted to address the comments made that people say it is bullying and she does not feel it is bullying but it is parents saying this is not working for my kid, let's do better and she asked that they all agree tonight to do better.

Annie Schlichter, Spring City, stated that she keeps hearing we need to get the kids back in school a lot and she is completely all for that if that is for you and your family. She commented that she felt that attacking the board members such as calling them ridiculous, disgusting and all of these things because of them disagreeing and maybe getting a little loud but then you have parents calling in who are screaming at you which does not make the situation any better. She said she believes everybody is going to do what they need to do as far as what they feel is right for their family and that she respects friends of hers who want to send their kids and they respect her as a parent that does not want to send her kids. Ms. Schlichter said she felt the board was doing everything they need to be doing. She added that she was a little disappointed with the discussion on sports and sports tickets and she gets that all of the kids want to be social and do their sports and things like that but she believes the education piece is the first and most important at this point. Ms. Schlichter advised that she asked about the Ad-Hoc meeting and that she had nominated herself and her friend Samantha DiMarcello but have not yet received an email so she wanted to find out about that. She commented that this is not an easy decision and as much as she wanted to get on this call and scream because she is so frustrated, as many parents are, she urged a little less screaming from the commentators that are calling as we all disagree. She expressed her thanks to everybody and

told them to keep pushing, keep doing the hard work as she appreciates it and knows a lot of other people appreciate it.

Roland Olsen, Collegeville, said he wanted to address the back in school council saying they were formed for one reason and that was to ensure that everybody within the school district was given a choice as to what was best for their family and they expected Spring-Ford to be able to provide those solutions that gave everybody a choice. He stated that it is not their job to figure out what the safety plan is as that is the job of the administration. Mr. Olsen said their job was to hold the board and the administration accountable to make sure they provided what the children needed whether it is for his kids or for anybody else kids. He stated that if the option exists that works for you then that is what they were after so for anybody out there saying they were bullying this person, they want this or they are not for safety or anything along those lines then you better look in the mirror and figure out what it is that you are all about because all you are telling him is that you don't want him to have a choice. Mr. Olsen commented that he wants everybody including all his friends and their families to have the choice to send their kids to school if they want to or stay home if they choose that for safety reasons. He addressed the board and administration saying make those plans happen as we are Spring-Ford and we have the ability to do it. He stated that we are becoming the district of can't but we can walk and chew gum at the same time, we can have football games, soccer games, powder puff games and send out kids to school as we have the ability to do it. Mr. Olsen said the powder puff game is a microcosm. He relayed that a couple of weeks ago Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Miscavage what he needed to televise classes and he responded that they needed everything. Mr. Olsen said make a list and let's figure it out because we can do it. He stated the powder puff game what does it need, to which he replied time and resources and what are they let's figure it out. He pleaded let's stop throwing our hands up in the air and saying we can't do it as Methacton is doing it, PV's doing it, so why can't we do it? Mr. Olsen stated that everyone is yelling at each other and everyone is trying to come up with something better to say over everybody else. He said we need choices, we need execution, and we need answers and we can do it so let's start doing it. He added that he considers the Back to School Council a failure as they failed to engage with the administration, the board, and the teachers as none of them spoke to them. He asked where we are as we are not back in school and November 12th is 8 months which is a long time and unprecedented in the history of American public schools for kids to be out of school. He pointed out that he was seeing people texting on their phones right now while he is talking and they can't do it and he expressed that he wished people at home could see it so they could see who was on their phone ignoring his comments and they are the same people representing them.

Mr. DiBello clarified that he was on his phone keeping time and that he was sorry.

Michael Lebie dzinski, Royersford, commented that he cannot imagine why we do not listen to the scientists as in the 1970's they predicted an ice age coming, in 2000 it was sea level rise, for COVID 2.2 million deaths, hospitals overrun, colleges are supposed to be an outbreak so he cannot imagine why we don't listen to scientists. He stated that one gentleman who spoke before left out important information and as Dr. Goodin has said several times that PDE issued guidelines and an important phrase was left out that says "where feasible". Mr. Lebie dzinski said he thinks Dr. Goodin and his team have done a great job of trying to maintain the maximum feasibility possible there. He asked how we know that these scientists have been wrong and responded because other school districts are doing this safely, other colleges and universities are doing this safely. He added that the physician who spoke and had firsthand experience in a hospital indicated that there were zero hospitalizations and deaths. Mr. Lebie dzinski stated that we know it is a realistic goal because we have been there. He said there was talk earlier about the PDE guidelines and again as usual the important parts are left out. He stated

that Spring-Ford has been in the low end of the moderate range for some time and Mr. DiBello is absolutely right that the threshold is way too low with the testing being what it is with the cycle threshold and it will never be at five per 100,000 per seven days in this district. He added that we have been at the low end of that range, in the low 30's, for several weeks and that band goes from 10 to 100 so we're in the very low end of that range which matches perfectly with the level of feasibility and the more important measure is really a positivity rate which the person who spoke about that failed to mention that. He stated that we have been in the very low end of the low positivity range which is 3.15 as of today and the low range is 0 to 5. He said we just need to tell the full story and not only the side of the story that supports your narrative.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jackson made a motion to adjourn and Dr. Wright seconded it. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

On October 26, 2020, the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District was called to order at 7:34 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Spring-Ford High School with the following in attendance:

Region I:	Wendy Earle and Linda C. Fazzini
Region II:	Clinton L. Jackson and David R. Shafer
Region III:	Thomas J. DiBello, Christina F. Melton and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer:	Colleen Zasowski
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Eshika Seth

The following Board Member participated via Zoom: **Dr. Margaret D. Wright**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Zasowski announced that the board met in an Executive Session following the last board meeting and again prior to tonight's meeting regarding personnel. She next reminded the public of the maximum attendance capacity, the process for the meeting and for making public comments at the beginning and end of the meeting. She announced that going forward after tonight's meeting and with board direction she said she would like to invite any community members who wish to make a comment to the board to attend future meetings in person as we are now in a position where we are able to accommodate 168 attendees which we are nowhere near close to exceeding that amount in the past few weeks. She suggested that the district continue with live streaming and using Zoom for the board meetings but that anyone wishing to comment attend the meetings in person or email their comment to the email address provided in the meeting advertisements on the website. She asked the board for their input on her suggestion. Mr. Shafer, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. DiBello were in favor of this suggestion. Mr. DiBello felt that the district should revert to the original way the meetings had been broadcast which was via live streaming and not utilize Zoom. Mrs. Zasowski felt that Zoom was a silver lining discovered during the COVID shutdown and that it should continue but that comments should be made in person at the meeting. Mrs. Melton felt the decision regarding Zoom and live streaming should be left up to Mr. Rothermel as he would be the expert on whether there are issues related to one platform or the other but agreed that comments should be made in person since there is an alternative option for the public to email their comments if they cannot ask them in person. Dr. Wright was in support of continuing with the Zoom platform and felt that it was also useful as it enabled the board to be able to interact at meetings with district staff members. Mrs. Zasowski suggested that this topic be taken back to the Community Relations Committee for further discussion and a possible recommendation. Ms. Sullivan commented that whatever the board decides she would hate to see it exclude and parents from participating or posing their questions. Mrs. Earle pointed out that this is really a comment time and not a question and answer session. Ms. Sullivan stated that was okay but regardless of what they have to say, if they cannot come in person then she does not want the parents to be excluded. Mrs. Earle voiced that she felt going with in person is what they needed to do and felt that people have plenty of opportunity to pose questions that if emailed ahead of time can be presented to the person who can best answer them. Mrs. Zasowski appreciated their comments and stated that she was going to take it back to Community Relations, Mr. Rothermel and Ms. Crew and then follow with a formal recommendation to the board. She thanked all of the board for contributing to the discussion.

Eshika congratulated the 2020 Fall PAC Champions; the Girls' Tennis Team, Girls' Tennis Single Player Mia Matriccino, the Boys' Football Team and Boys' Cross Country Team. She added that in addition, the Girls' Tennis Team was named PIAA District 1 Champions and will play Cardinal O'Hara in the first round of states with the winner advancing to the state championship.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, commented if the board is going to consider in person versus Zoom that they need to consider cases such as if you have parents who are quarantined and how you will handle those comments. She commented on the whereabouts of the motion regarding the increase in funds of \$150,000.00 related to the hiring of consultants and Mr. DiBello pointed out that it was under New Programming and Curriculum, Letter D.

Liz Rakoff, Collegeville, advised that she has attended all of the meetings via Zoom throughout the pandemic and said she appreciates the time the board has committed during this time. She urged the board to revisit a hybrid or staggered model for students and staff. Ms. Rakoff stated that time is ticking for students and staff to return. She added that she did not feel we needed to get back to normal as Mr. DiBello just stated as on Saturday there were over 83,000 new cases of COVID in the United States which is the highest it has been the entire pandemic. She urged the board to reconsider a hybrid option saying they keep talking about the numbers within Spring-Ford and she questioned what about the numbers of staff coming to work who live outside of the district and the parents who work outside of the home and not in the district. Ms. Rakoff asked if the board accounted for all of the cases in those municipalities as well. She commented that what the district is doing with the students and staff goes against all recommendations of the CDC and Montgomery County as well as the State of Pennsylvania. She wondered how many sick or worse, dead students and staff, are they okay with?

John Yonchuk, Royersford, commented that the Spring-Ford teachers reported back to their buildings today at exactly the wrong time as the 7-day average for test positivity in Pennsylvania hit 11%. He stated that Montgomery County's data is also rising and is still in the zone recommended for hybrid or remote only. Mr. Yonchuk added that if this was not bad enough, recent events have shown that the administration plans to hold potential super-spreader events for ALICE Training in the coming days. He added that communications to staff while confusing and contradictory are now stating that teachers are required to participate in large in-person training events at each building across the district for up to three hours. Mr. Yonchuk commented that it is not yet clear if these gatherings will meet social distancing guidelines and felt that there was zero justification to hold events in person just to present slides when this can be done over Zoom. He stated that presentations could be made remotely, and drills could be conducted in small groups. He added that CDC guidelines for close contact have been recently updated again to include the latest scientific evidence. He advised that prior guidelines defined close contact as being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more at one time, but new guidelines now define close contact as being within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes total across a 24-hour time span dating back two days prior to symptoms or the specimen collection of a test. Mr. Yonchuk stated that this surely has significant effects on the contact tracing and quarantine guidelines the district will implement as it will likely mean higher numbers of individuals will have to quarantine with each detected or suspected case, especially in the lower grades where the administration has stated that they will not be reaching the six-foot distance in any buildings. He added that the world, the United States, Pennsylvania, and Montgomery County all show signs of the predicted fall and winter surges that scientists talked about so the district must be doing everything it can to reduce community transmission as a priority.

Mrs. Zasowski interrupted saying the meeting must recess at this time in order to investigate something. She asked everyone in attendance to head outside and thanked everyone for their cooperation.

The meeting recessed at 7:48 PM. At 8:25 PM Mrs. Zasowski announced that there had been a faint smell of gas and that the fire company came out to check out the building as is protocol after evacuating a building. She advised that the decision was made to reconvene the meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

On October 27, 2020, the Board Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring-Ford Area School District reconvened at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom with the following in attendance:

Region I:	Wendy Earle, Linda C. Fazzini and Dr. Margaret Wright
Region II:	Clinton L. Jackson
Region III:	Thomas J. DiBello, Christina F. Melton and Diane C. Sullivan
Presiding Officer:	Colleen Zasowski
Superintendent:	Dr. David R. Goodin
Chief Financial Officer:	James D. Fink
Solicitor:	Mark Fitzgerald, Esq.
Student Reps.:	Eshika Seth

The following Board Member was absent: **David R. Shafer**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Zasowski announced that she will officially talk about, invite and welcome the new Student Representative to the School Board, Allison McVey, at the next meeting on November 9th. She advised that Dr. Colyer will announce the Commended and Semi-Finalist Students for the National Merit Scholarship also on November 9th. She added that tonight Dr. Goodin along with some input from Mr. Fink and Mr. Rizzo will provide a reopening update for grades 7-12. She asked the Board Members if they were all in agreement to take off the board and committee reports from the agenda and have the minutes posted on the website once approved at the committee level. The board members did not raise any objections to this. Mrs. Zasowski noted that for the motion under Programming and Curriculum, Letter D, the funding source is from the unassigned fund balance.

Mr. Jackson asked why it was not known where the money was coming from and Dr. Goodin replied that this item is an unbudgeted item and if the board were to act on it then it would need to come from the unassigned fund balance.

It was decided that further discussion on this motion would be done when the board gets to that part of the agenda.

II. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Ed Hudak, Schwenksville, stated that he would like to put a proposal in front of the board to put some more business analytics into these meetings to show some graphs of the budgets and how they are being impacted. He said there are a lot of budget items week after week

that say unaccounted for, we do not know where this is coming from, and next year we are going to reach this cliff where the tax bills are going to be enormous. He felt there should be business analytics in the board meetings to show where the spending is going with regards to the budget and how these business decisions are being made through the overall budget so that everyone is making educated decisions on whether we have enough money to do this versus we are just going to go to the slush fund and hope that taxes pay for everything.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Presentations A-C were pulled and will take place at the November 9, 2020 Work Session meeting.

- A. **Mrs. Colleen Zasowski**, School Board President, to introduce the new Student Representative to the School Board, **Allison McVey**.
- B. **Dr. Robert Colyer**, High School Principal, to recognize the following 19 students on being named as "Commended Students" in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Brendan Baganski
Gregory M. Bolton
Abigail B. Calvert
Katherine G. Fazzini
Joshua R. Hellauer
Nathan Kalish
Aayod Kaul
Julia S. Kotes
Kasey E. Linton
Aditya Madhu

Sam P. Ostrowski
Jessica Pan
Elizabeth M. Power
Alyssa M. Sharma
Trent M. Swanson
Lily A. Undercofler
Riley A. Wallace
Thomas D. Wirant
Owen C. Wright

- C. **Dr. Robert Colyer**, High School Principal, to recognize the following 4 students on being named as "Semi-Finalists" in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Gaurav Chawla
Anshika Gupta
Farnaz A. Khandaker
Jupjowt Singh

Dr. Goodin advised that two opening plans have been approved: one for elementary and one for secondary. He stated that last Friday secondary students were notified of their status whether they were designated blue or gold. Dr. Goodin reported that yesterday was the first day for all teachers to be back in school and added that it is amazing what the teachers are doing as they provide instruction to our students. He advised that over the next few weeks members of the Technology Department will be visiting classrooms to ensure all equipment is syncing together. Dr. Goodin commented that the Technology Department is short on personnel but will be working hard to ensure all teachers and classrooms are ready for the November opening schedule. He reported that at the elementary level the principals are still working out the details with regards to student schedules. He also advised that Chief Boyer and the Principals are working on traffic plans which may involve staggered release times in order to accommodate the number of students that will be dropped off and picked up by parents rather than use the district provided bus transportation. Dr. Goodin assured that as long as we get all of our technology in place then we will be well on track for the November target date to bring back students in grades K-12.

Mrs. Zasowski asked about the usefulness of the GANTT Charts and it was advised that they were very useful for assisting in laying out the scope of work to be done in order to bring students back to school.

Mrs. Melton spoke about the increase in COVID numbers and wanted to confirm that the district was continuing to look at ways of improving our processes in the event we cannot open on the 12th or if we find it necessary to revert back to completely virtual. Dr. Goodin advised that his administration is now conducting tabletop drills for plans to address any staff or students that may need to quarantine in order to make sure everyone is on the same page. He added that the only thing he can see that will prevent the district from opening on November 12th is if something happens at the county or state level.

Mr. DiBello indicated that he would like access to the actual project plan itself as he has concerns after looking at the GANTT charts.

Dr. Wright expressed concern over the class sizes for grades K-6 and wondered if there had been further discussion on possibly hiring long-term substitutes to help if our class sizes large. Dr. Goodin advised that every effort has been made to ensure in-person class sizes are below 24 and virtual below 30. He also added that administration is working hard to minimize the number of changes students will encounter upon return to in-person instruction. He provided the example of a teacher who has 24 students in a virtual classroom and that upon return to in-person learning the plan would be for those students would be assigned to that same teacher they had virtually. Dr. Goodin stated that the schedules for grades K-6 will be released on Friday. Mr. Rizzo provided information on class sizes as of yesterday and advised that the numbers are constantly changing. He advised there would be 136 in-person sections for grades K-6 and 53 virtual sections for K-6. He next broke down the numbers for each individual K-4 building as well as the 5-6 Grade Center. Dr. Wright asked if the district is looking into the availability of long-term substitutes (LTS) and Mrs. Leiss replied yes that she has been in touch with STS for substitute teachers as well as looking into hiring LTS.

Mrs. Zasowski asked about Back to School Nights and if this has been discussed with regards to doing this via Zoom. Dr. Goodin advised that he has a meeting tomorrow to discuss parent-teacher conferences, but he is not aware as of now of any discussion on Back-to-School Nights in the traditional sense as they have been done in the past.

D. **Dr. David Goodin**, Superintendent, **Robert Rizzo**, Assistant Superintendent and **James Fink**, Chief Financial Officer, to provide a Reopening Update.

IV. **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Zasowski reminded everyone that they are foregoing the committee reports and that the minutes from the committees will be posted once approved at the committee level.

Student Rep. Report	Eshika Seth	
Policy	Colleen Zasowski	3 rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.
Curriculum/Technology	Linda Fazzini	3 rd Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Finance	Thomas DiBello	2 nd Tues. 6:30 p.m.
Property	Clinton Jackson	2 nd Tues. 7:30 p.m.
Legislative Committee	Christina Melton	3 rd Weds. 7:30 p.m.
Asst. Superintendent Rpt.	Robert Rizzo	
Solicitor's Report	Mark Fitzgerald	

V. MINUTES

Mrs. Earle made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mrs. Melton seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

A. The Board approved the August 31, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes. (**Attachment A1**)

B. The Board approved the September 14, 2020 Work Session minutes. (**Attachment A2**)

New Minutes

C. The Board approved the September 28, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. (**Attachment A3**)

VI. PERSONNEL

Mr. DiBello asked to separate Items G1 and G2. Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Items A-F, H-I and Mr. DiBello seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

Dr. Wright made a motion to approve Items G1 – G2 and Mrs. Melton seconded it.

Mr. DiBello asked for an explanation on these two motions with regards to the new hires being brought in above the district's starting salary and Mrs. Leiss provided the reasoning.

The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Jackson voting no.

A. Resignations

1. **Amy L. Bonner**; Registered Nurse, Limerick Elementary School. Effective: October 13, 2020.
2. **Barbara M. Bono**; Administrative Assistant, Limerick Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement. Effective: February 1, 2021.

New Resignations

3. **Celeste D. Baumgardner**; Reading Olympics, Royersford Elementary School. Effective: October 16, 2020.
4. **Brian G. Cooper**; Systems Technician, 9th Grade Center. Effective: October 27, 2020.
5. **Christina M. Giamo**; Instructional Assistant, Upper Providence Elementary School. Effective: October 23, 2020.
6. **Helen A. Hiles**; English Teacher, 8th Grade Center. Effective: October 26, 2020.
7. **Christine Mallozzi**; Food Service (3 hours/day), 5/6 Grade Center. Effective: October 19, 2020.

B. Leave of Absence

1. **Kaitlyn A. Morrison**; Elementary Teacher, Brooke Elementary for a child-rearing leave of absence per the Professional Agreement. Effective: September 1, 2020 through the 2020-2021 school year.

C. Change of Status

1. **Aimee E. Kemp**; Instructional Assistant, 7th Grade Center, to Administrative Assistant-Human Resources, District Office, replacing Sydney E. McGill who had a change of status. Compensation has been set at \$19.23/hour with benefits per the Secretarial Benefit Summary. Effective: October 26, 2020.

New Change of Status

2. **Deborah S. Barth**; Instructional Assistant, Senior High School, to Support Technician, 7th Grade Center, replacing Virginia A. Jones who retired. Compensation has been set at \$19.63/hour with benefits per the Support Technician Benefit Summary. Effective: To be determined.
3. **Elizabeth D. Robillard**; Food Service part-time (3.25 hours/day) to Food Service full-time (6 hours/day), Royersford Elementary School, replacing Deborah L. Diehl. Compensation has been set at \$16.77/hour with benefits per the Food Service Employees' Benefit Summary. Effective: November 9, 2020.

D. Tenure Status

The individual listed below has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as temporary professional employee and was, therefore, approved for tenure status:

1. **Jessica L. Noecker**

- E. The Board approved the attached extra-curricular contracts for the 2020-2021 school year. Payments of extra-curricular stipends shall be contingent upon the reopening of schools and the ability as determined by the Administration to provide such extra-curricular offerings to students consistent with CDC guidelines and guidelines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The district reserves the right to prorate or not pay stipends in the event of a school closure, school modification, and/or discontinuation of the activity due to pandemic or other events surrounding the pandemic. *Designates new additions since the work session agenda. **(Attachment A4)**
- F. The Board approved the creation of seven (7) elementary Student Assistance Program Coordinator positions (1 per K-4 building) at a cost of \$402.00 per position for the 2020-2021 school year. School entities are mandated to establish and maintain Student Assistance Programs (SAP) and coordinators at each site as per the PA School Code. The total cost shall not exceed \$2,814.00 and is an unbudgeted expenditure. Additionally, the administration requests approval to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Spring-Ford Education Association (SFEA) for these positions.

NEW PERSONNEL MOTIONS**G. Temporary Professional Employees**

1. **Julie E. Grady**; Special Education Teacher, Evans Elementary. Compensation has been set at M+18, Step 1, \$54,265.00 prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: October 26, 2020.
2. **Angela E. Rowe**; Special Education Teacher, 7th Grade Center, replacing Jamilah F. Bashir who resigned. Compensation has been set at B, Step 1, \$50,000.00 prorated with benefits per the Professional Agreement. Effective: November 12, 2020.

H. Support Staff

1. **Deborah E. Malack**; Instructional Assistant, Brooke Elementary School, replacing Ashley E. Kukucka who resigned. Compensation has been set at \$17.36/hour with benefits per the Instructional Assistants' Benefit Summary. Effective: October 20, 2020.
- I. The Board approved the addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement originally approved on August 24, 2020 between the Spring-Ford Area School District and the Spring-Ford Education Association for the purpose of providing for additional terms and provisions that were not included in the original agreement specific to Special Education Liaisons for Spring-Ford Cyber Learning during the 2020-2021 school year.

VII. FINANCE

Mr. Jackson asked that Item D2 be separated. Mrs. Zasowski asked that Item D7 be separated. Mr. DiBello asked that Item I be separated.

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve Items A-H minus D2, D7 and I. Mrs. Fazzini seconded the motion. Mr. DiBello asked that Mr. Fink provide explanation on Items E and F. Mr. Fink advised that with regards to Item F it is something that occurs each year as this federal funding goes directly to the Intermediate Unit and in turn the district puts in its submissions to collect the money allotted to us for special education expenses. Mr. Fink explained that E is a little different as it has to do with the CARES Act and the money that was appropriated to Montgomery County. The Intermediate Unit is then charged with administering the allotments to the school districts so as we spend for items that can be claimed under the CARES Act we then requisition the MCIU for reimbursement. The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Melton made a motion to approve Item D2 and Mrs. Fazzini seconded it. Mr. Jackson expressed his concern with contracts being post COVID and if we are looking at the differential with regards to what this contract would have cost us prior to COVID. He added that everything is virtual and he wonders how this is priced up and if we go back to last year would this contract be somewhat similar as there would be more in-person interactions. Mr. Rizzo stated that this contract is linked to services provided for a student which mostly will be done in-person. He added that each contract is scrutinized. He asked if the contracts are still being reviewed by Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Rizzo advised that they are. The motion passed 8-0.

Mr. DiBello made a motion to approve Item D7 and Mrs. Fazzini seconded it. Mrs. Zasowski stated that this motion references providing the training for up to 750 staff members and coaches but when she read about this in the weekly board memo it had indicated the full 1100 staff members and she asked for an explanation on this. Mr. Rizzo advised that the goal beginning last year was to eventually have all staff members certified and CPR and AED trained due to the increased medical needs across the district. He added that the hope was that every two years to have all 1100 people trained so we do half per year. He stated that he doubts it will reach that 750 number and may be closer to 550-600 but that the goal is to do half of the staff each year. The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Item I and Mrs. Melton seconded it. Mr. DiBello stated that this expenditure was not a part of the initial monies that we put in for with regards to the grants we were going after with the CARES Act and he expressed concern that he was going to start seeing this become the tagline for items to be covered by the CARES Act. He also expressed concerns over the equipment and what happens if they break and if we will then have to purchase new ones. He added that he also is questioning why we are purchasing this for the buses and why the bus company was not purchasing it. Mr. Fink spoke about the funding source saying that the listing Mr. DiBello was speaking about was for the PCCD Grant that Chief

Boyer was instrumental in securing and that this is coming from the county funds and that we have followed all of the federal guidelines in order to be permitted to do this. Mr. Fink added that the equipment breaking is a possibility, but it does come with a three-year warranty. He added that the alternative is to manually clean the buses which would be very labor intensive and in the end cost more than this system. Mrs. Melton asked what the operational expense would be with regards to the disinfectant and Mr. Fink replied that the expense would be the same if manually cleaning as it would be to use this system as either way you need to purchase disinfectant. He spoke about this system providing the ability to fog the buses mid-day in addition to end of the day. Ms. Earle asked what happens if we are no longer under contract with the current bus company and the response was that the district would then remove the system from those buses and install it in the buses of the newly contracted company. Mrs. Zasowski asked if the warranty covered everything from A-Z and Mr. Fink replied yes. Mr. Jackson spoke about unbudgeted expenditures and things being funded from the CARES Act saying we really need to be tracking the analytics on this as his concern is that we are putting items under monies that we think we are going to get and he is concerned that if we do not receive those funds then that money has to come from someplace else in the district. Mr. Fink confirmed that he and his team do exactly that and track every penny being spent as it relates to COVID. The motion passed 8-0.

- 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. <u>General Fund Checks</u>	
Check No. 211574 – 211722	\$ 939,658.54
2. <u>Food Service Checks</u>	
Check No. 1975 – 1981	\$ 725.63
3. <u>Capital Reserve Checks</u>	
Check No. 2091	\$ 28,829.99
4. <u>General Fund, Food Service, & Capital Reserve and Projects ACHs</u>	
ACH 202100337 – 202100482	\$ 3,487,739.78
5. <u>Wires</u>	
202000031 – 202000040	\$ 2,333,996.43
6. <u>Procurement Payments</u>	
190000151 – 190000411	\$ 70,533.56

C. The following monthly Board reports were approved:

- Skyward Reports
 - Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, Capital Projects, Scholarships and Wires)
 - ACH Check Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)
 - Wires Register (General Fund, Food Service, Capital Reserve, and Capital Projects)

D. The Board approved the following independent contracts:

1. **Martin Luther School dba Gemma Services – Plymouth Meeting, PA.** Provide educational 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 \$59,252.00.
2. **Behavior Interventions – King of Prussia, PA.** Provide 1:1 Registered Behavior Therapy (RBT) support services and Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) support services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$134,045.00.
3. **Communication Associates, LLC/Karen M. Clapper – Collegeville, PA.** Provide direct speech and language services for one hour per week and 1 hour of consultation with teachers for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$5,290.00.

New Independent Contracts

4. **Chester County Intermediate Unit, Downingtown, PA.** Provide educational services for five special needs students during the 2020-2021 school year as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$161,142.80.
 5. **Anderson Explorations Partial Hospital Placement (PHP) – Eagleville, PA.** Provide educational and mental health services for the Extended School Year Program for special needs students as per their IEPs. Funding will be paid from The Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$8,603.48.
 6. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit – Doylestown, PA.** Provide educational and related services for a special needs student during the 2020-2021 school year as per the IEP. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$48,305.00.
 7. **Friendship HLH&A, Inc. – Royersford, PA.** Provide Basic Adult/Child/Infant Life Support (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for up to 750 Spring-Ford staff members and coaches over 10 sessions throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Training will be primarily all virtual with a 30-minute in person practicum. Funding will be paid from Title II Funding and the Curriculum Budget and shall not exceed \$13,950.00.
- E. The Board approved entering into an agreement with the MCIU regarding the distribution of CARES Act funding from Montgomery County. The MCIU is acting as the pass-through agent for federal funds received by Montgomery County that have been allocated to school districts. The District will receive \$413,504.00 through this program to offset COVID-19 related expenditures.
- F. The Board approved the pass-through funds from the MCIU for the 2020-2021 IDEA Section 619 - Age of Beginners in the amount of \$6,882.00 and IDEA Section 611 in the amount of \$1,527,619.10.

New Finance

- G. The Board approved a three-year contract with IXL Learning to provide a virtual personalized learning platform for special needs students in grade K-12. This contract will be paid in three yearly installments in order to take advantage of the 15% discount (\$1,485.00) being offered. The installments per year will be; year one \$4,208.00 plus \$495.00 for professional learning services for a total of \$4,703.00, year two \$2,104.00 and year three \$2,103.00. Funding will be paid from the Special Education Budget and shall not exceed \$8,910.00 for all three years.
- H. The Board authorized Fox Rothschild LLP to enter into an agreement for the property located at 1000 Campus Drive in Upper Providence Township and further identified as tax parcel No. 61-00-01009-70-3 leaving the property's assessment unchanged at \$8,731,300 for tax years 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and a portion of 2017, unchanged at \$8,830,370 for a portion of tax year 2017, and setting the assessment of the property at \$7,550,000 for tax years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 and for each subsequent tax year until a change in the property's assessment pursuant to applicable law.
- I. The Board approved the purchase of the Transmit Automated Bus Disinfecting System at a cost not to exceed \$95,000.00. The system will be installed in all 72 passenger school buses for the purpose of disinfecting the buses automatically twice per day. This is an unbudgeted expenditure and will be paid from the unassigned fund balance and will be reimbursed from CARES ACT funds appropriated to the district through Montgomery County.

VIII. NEW PROGRAMMING AND CURRICULUM

Mrs. Zasowski asked that Item D be separated. Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Items A-C and Mr. Jackson seconded it. Mr. Jackson asked for clarity that Item A was only for one year and Mrs. Fazzini confirmed this was correct. The motion passed 8-0.

Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Item D and Dr. Wright seconded it. Mr. Jackson asked for clarification on the need for this, what the consultants will exactly be doing and on the terms of the contract with regards to the "as-needed" language. Mr. Catalano provided the rationale and the explanation on the need for this additional support. He also explained the contract and his correspondence with the company. Mr. DiBello expressed his frustration with being two weeks away from bringing kids back and just dealing with this now. He questioned who was going to oversee these consultants and if he heard correctly that these consultants were needed because teachers did not know how to use the technology we provide. Mrs. Zasowski stated that she did not feel that Mr. Catalano was saying that teachers did not know how to use the technology, but it was more of a situation where all of the devices needed to all be synced together. Catalano spoke about the process that the technology staff will perform in each of the classrooms in order to sync all of the devices as well as show the teachers the process so that virtual learning will be the best that it can be. The motion passed 7-1 with Mr. Jackson voting no. Mr. Jackson referenced the motion wondering if it was clear that this is being self-funded and then repaid from the Technology Budget over the next 4 years and Mrs. Zasowski responded that at the beginning of the meeting she had advised that the funding for this motion had changed to the Unassigned Fund Balance. Discussion took place on the fact that when voting on this that it was not clear to some that they were voting on the amended motion showing the revised funding source as being the Unassigned Fund Balance. It was decided to take another vote on this motion to state that they were voting on the motion as amended.

Mrs. Zasowski read the amended motion. Mrs. Fazzini made a motion to approve Item D as amended and Mrs. Melton seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. The Board approved the purchase of Vernier Pivot Interactives in the amount of \$1,601.40. Vernier Pivot Interactives is a digital program that provides an interactive virtual lab experience for students and will be used in AP Biology, Academic and Honors Chemistry, and Academic and AP Physics. Digital licensing is for one year and up to 370 students. Funding will come from the Curriculum Budget.
- B. The Board approved the Interagency Agreements between Spring-Ford Area School District and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit (MCIU) for Title I Federal Program Services. This agreement is to provide required Title I services to non-public schools. The district shall pay the MCIU \$8,107.00 the equitable non-public share for Title I instructional services for the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. The Board approved the Interagency Agreement between Spring-Ford Area School District and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit for Title II Federal Program Services. This contract is a revision of a previous contract with updated dates of service to reflect a three-year term as required by Federal Programming Guidelines.
- D. The Board approved an agreement with EBS, Inc. of Media, PA for Information Technology Consultants. These consultants will be used on an as-needed basis. The total cost of shall not exceed \$150,000.00 and will be paid from the Unassigned Fund Balance.

IX. NEW CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP APPROVAL

Dr. Wright made a motion to approve Item A and Mr. Jackson seconded it. The motion passed 8-0.

- A. **Robert Rizzo**, Assistant Superintendent, to attend *"PASA Virtual Summit for Assistant Superintendents and Supervisors: Bridging SEL Research and the Applied Implementation of SEL in Schools"* on November 6, 2020. The total cost of this virtual summit is \$69.00 (registration). No substitute is needed.

X. NEW INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Mr. DiBello acknowledged the donation by Ace Hardware and welcomed them to the school District.

- A. Administration acknowledges the acceptance of a donation from **Ace Hardware** in Royersford for donating 59 rolls of painter's tape for our Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy students to use as markers on the floor during virtual sessions. There is no cost to the district.

XI. BOARD COMMENT

Mr. DiBello commented that the Girls' Soccer Team had won the PAC Championship this evening and that the Boys' Football Team had won the PAC Championship on Friday night as well. He stated that even in these weird and unprecedented times Spring-Ford is still trying to excel and succeed in all areas that we can.

Dr. Wright spoke about Zoom meetings going forward saying would hope that the district considers continuing to use Zoom as we have so many families that are participating and not everyone feels comfortable coming into a large group setting. The Board expressed their opinions in favor of continuing with Zoom as a way for the public to participate in board meetings.

Dr. Goodin and Erin Crew advised that the Girls' Tennis Team won the PAC Championship, there was an Individual Girls' Tennis Single PAC Championship and Boys' Cross Country also won the PAC Championship.

XII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mary Jo Mcnamara, Royersford, spoke about the Curriculum and Technology Committee meeting held two weeks ago and that there were two actions that came out of that meeting. One was the motion that the board just finished discussing and the other was one that was more important to her as a parent which was regarding teacher accountability or metrics on what is the student/parent virtual experience. She added that it was clearly communicated that the experiences that are happening virtually are being posted all over social media but might not be getting back to the place where they can be dealt with effectively and positively. Ms. Mcnamara advised that there was an action regarding this that came out of that meeting but she did not hear anything about this tonight regarding how we were going to do this. She stated that she thinks it would be helpful to look at metrics for dealing with student performance as in her conversations with parents there are a lot of parents who are saying their kids are doing a lot worse and that their student used to be an honor student but is now failing. She commented that she is not sure if there is a way that we can positively present that virtual is effective and she asked if there was an effective way to show that virtual is working and students who were "B" students last year are still "B" students this year as she felt this might be helpful for parents to see. Ms. Mcnamara spoke about the temporary consultants being brought in and she asked if there was a way to put a temp to hire clause into the contract as this way you are utilizing knowledge transfer and not knowledge attrition when they leave in six weeks as this may help the technology staffing situation. She asked if there was a way to look at the trending pattern of the help desk tickets as they should be trending down from September to now. She also made the suggestion of prioritizing the visiting of classroom according to those that my need the most help and may not be technology savvy so that they get addressed first as you are talking about six weeks which is not November 12th but rather the end of the marking period which hopefully will be after all of the surges when kids can return back to school. She expresses concern that the talk is about a six-week period and not a two-week period.

Mr. Rizzo commented that Erin Crew did put out for families a virtual suggestion box with information on who to contact and when to contact them as well as a form to fill out if you have any questions or concerns which will be forwarded to the correct person as well.

Kate Doyle, Collegeville, thanked everyone for all they are doing to ensure the safety of staff, students, and teachers during these unprecedented times. She stated that as the rates continue to increase across the country, state, and county she hoped that the school district will continue to do all that they can to reduce the risk of community spread. Ms. Doyle expressed that while she applauds the district for doing all that they can to get the kids back into school, she hoped that events such as parent-teacher conferences and staff training will continue to take place in virtual settings in order to reduce any risk of infections. She added that while the capacity restrictions have been lifted it should not warrant the unnecessary risks associated with larger gatherings. She again thanked everyone for all they are doing and said the administration and staff have done an inordinate amount of work on top of the everyday activities of running the school and teaching students. She stated that they should be commended for their efforts as well as the efforts of the IT Department for going above and beyond the enormous burden of supporting the additional workload created by the virtual and hybrid learning as well as the reopening plans that are shifting.

Abby Deardorff, Royersford, stated that she was speaking as a Spring-Ford parent, community member and as a coalition partner with the Movement 4 Black and Brown Lives in Montgomery County; a movement to hold our elected officials accountable for the marginalization of people of color in Montgomery County. She advised that Spring-Ford School District was contacted on

October 8th and on October 22nd to invite Board Members and student organizations to attend as their guest, participate or speak at their rally against racism in front of the Norristown Court House on Sunday, November 1st at 1:00 PM. Ms. Deardorff commented that it is the goal to educate our county on racial inequality, mobilize voters and give our young constituents a place to be heard. She added that it is their hope to bring our community together in a time that feels very divided. She reported that at this time the movement had heard from North Penn School District, Upper Dublin School District, Cheltenham School District and Norristown School District. Ms. Deardorff stated that the Movement 4 Black and Brown Lives wants to stress the imperative nature of this event as it provides an opportunity for our scholars county-wide to express their voice. She added that due to the heightened sensitivity of race issues that everyone is challenged with, we cannot be afraid of having these uncomfortable conversations. Ms. Deardorff commented that our scholars do not have the privilege of turning a blind on their racialized experiences. She said, at a time when everyone and everything seems so polarized, we here in Montgomery County need to demonstrate a unified approach to courageously and collectively validate resident voices. Ms. Deardorff stated that we need to collaborate on comprehensive plans that mitigate tension, hostility, and negative discourse. She commented that the coalition believes that this begins with the school community because everyone is concerned about the well-being of our students and their educational future. She encouraged Dr. Goodin to respond to the emails sent and also to invite the community to attend this rally on November 1st in front of the Norristown Court House. Mr. Jackson responded that each board member has a public email address and he told her to feel free to forward something of that nature or anything else to board members. He added that this is the first time he is hearing about this.

Maria Cagliola, Royersford, stated that she wanted to comment on a previous caller who spoke about the stats for virtual education with regards to how kids are doing. She relayed that she would be curious to hear about this as well and felt that it was a great suggestion as she is hearing the opposite and that a lot of parents in her neighborhood and other locations are saying that their kids are doing great and that the teachers are doing a fabulous job. She added that she does believe data is very important so she would be curious for that. Ms. Cagliola commented that she is really pleased to hear that the board is keeping Zoom on for the board meetings as the meetings are happening during the pandemic and gathering in large numbers is not recommended and could place people at risk and it gives everybody the ability to be included and have their voices heard no matter what their risk tolerance is. She added that she felt it was really important since the district is made up of working families with various jobs and various hours so leaving the kids home at night is not an option in some cases and this gives the ability for all parents to talk as they have. Ms. Cagliola stated that another reason is that some families are caring for older family loved ones and they do not want to add a risk to them as well. She again expressed that she was happy to hear that the board is going to keep Zoom as a board meeting option to be able to attend and weigh in as a community.

Michael Fabrizio, Pottstown, said he was calling regarding the vote that took place today on Items G1 and G2. He stated that there was a no vote for that and he is very concerned that we are worried that we are paying four thousand dollars extra for a teacher to go into our Life Skills Program. He commented that if we are going to look at budgetary items to cut then that is not a place to go and nickel and dime. Mr. Fabrizio stated that people that work with the life skills students are hard to find and those kids need the best available teachers possible. He did not feel that paying four thousand dollars above what the minimum is was too much to ask for a life skills teacher.

Carol Speers, Oaks, advised that she had shared her comments with a few board members last evening and today regarding the ability for parents to comment via Zoom. She asked the board to consider the parents that may not be able to attend in person and realize there is many, many barriers that prevent them from being able to attend in person. She said there are single parents, parents working night shift or opposite shifts than their partners, students or parents that have been requested to quarantine, any essential workers that need to limit their contact with others

outside of their work environments. Ms. Speers commented that during the pandemic our state and our elected leadership has continued to recommend telework wherever feasible and have recently discussed the risk of small group and indoor gatherings. She asked that the board please consider these points before committing to eliminate public comment through Zoom for the foreseeable future. She relayed that personally she would not be available to attend in person as her husband works in the evening and she is working from home during the day with a kindergarten and second grader. Ms. Speers added that they have shifted their schedules to accommodate the inability to have childcare in their home so it is not just busy schedules and recreational activities that would not allow her to attend an in-person board meeting. She advised that she would love to but it is just not feasible at this moment so she is really happy to hear that a variety of board members have supported the continuation of public comment via Zoom.

John Yonchuk, Royersford, said he learned some new information today that Dr. Goodin had essentially said that unless otherwise, our plan is going ahead on November 12th despite the fact that Pennsylvania today recorded its highest number of COVID cases to date. He reminded the board that as they stop the meeting and go back and revote on things because of the way they are written on the agenda that they all also approved a written plan by the administration that stated that they would be in accordance with Montgomery County and State Health guidelines which currently do only allow for hybrid or remote learning only. Mr. Yonchuk urged them to remember that they are elected as leaders and not as followers. He added that just because the state or county is punting that decision to you does not mean that you should punt it back to them. He urged the board to strongly reconsider at this point returning any students fully into buildings such as in the K-6 plan.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Fern
School Board Secretary

**2020-2021 EXTRACURRICULAR CONTRACTS
NOVEMBER 2020**

	Contract Title	Season	Last	First	Stipend
*1	Asst. Wrestling Coach (7/8/9th Grade) (1/2 Contract)	Winter	Anspach	Jason R.	\$2,445.14
2	Athletic Event Supervisor-Winter-MS	Winter	Corroplese	Shawn R.	\$1,181.00
3	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 1 - Grade 8	Winter	Ehnot	Jane D.	\$402.00
4	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 2 - Grade 8	Winter	Ehnot	Jane D.	\$402.00
5	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 3 - Grade 8	Winter	Ehnot	Jane D.	\$402.00
*6	Volunteer Assistant Track Coach -Boys' & Girls'- HS	Winter	Giovagnoli	Heather L.	Volunteer
7	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 13 - Grade 8	Winter	Harrison, Jr.	Richard L.	\$402.00
8	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 15 - Grade 8	Winter	Harrison, Jr.	Richard L.	\$402.00
9	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 7 - Grade 8	Winter	Harrison, Jr.	Richard L.	\$402.00
10	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 8 - Grade 8	Winter	Harrison, Jr.	Richard L.	\$402.00
11	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 9 - Grade 8	Winter	Harrison, Jr.	Richard L.	\$402.00
12	Asst. Wrestling Coach (7/8/9th Grade) (1/2 Contract)	Winter	Hayes	Ryan C.	\$2,222.85
13	Basketball Coach-Boys' (7th Grade)	Winter	Heffernan	Michael B.	\$3,679.83
14	Swimming Coach-HS	Winter	Huff	Gregory S.	\$6,918.00
15	Head Cheerleading Winter-7th Grade	Winter	Kajak	Brittany E.	\$1,875.00
16	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 4 - Grade 8	Winter	Kerkusz	Jason A.	\$402.00
17	Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach - Boys'- HS	Winter	Kurtz	Matthew R.	Volunteer
18	Volunteer Assistant Basketball Coach -Girls'- HS	Winter	Moley	Marisa	Volunteer
19	Asst. Basketball Coach-Boys' -HS	Winter	Pufko, Jr.	George	\$5,029.50
*20	Asst. Basketball Coach-Boys' -HS	Winter	Stanek	Nicholas E.	\$4,790.00
21	Co-Ed Fitness Intramural # 16 - Grade 8	Winter	Terry	Vincent E.	\$402.00
*22	Indoor Winter Percussion Director - HS	Winter	Thurston	Mark D.	\$3,197.00
23	Head Cheerleading Winter-8th Grade	Winter	Yurko	Tara M.	\$1,875.00
24	Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach -HS	Winter	Zimmie	Brendan S.	Volunteer
25	TV Studio Coordinator, Grade 8	Year	Bowers	Todd G.	\$1,471.00
*26	SAP Building Coordinator – HS/9th	Year	Dubbs	Valarie A.	\$402.00

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Career and Technical Education
Code	115
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	

Authority

The Board shall provide a program of vocational-technical education in order to: [\[1\]\[2\]\[4\]\[6\]\[15\]](#)

1. Prepare students for gainful employment as skilled workers or technicians in recognized, new and emerging occupations.
2. Prepare students for enrollment in advanced or skilled career and technical education programs and postsecondary education programs.
3. Assist students in choosing meaningful career pathways.

The Board shall ensure that all students and persons in parental relations are informed of the student's right to participate in vocational-technical education programs and courses and that students with disabilities enrolled in such programs are entitled to services under state and federal laws and regulations. [\[1\]\[16\]\[17\]\[18\]\[19\]](#)

All students participating in career and technical programs sponsored or supervised by the Board shall be considered regularly enrolled in district schools and shall be subject to Board policies and district administrative regulations and rules.

The Board shall support a program of technical education which may include:

1. Technical courses of study interwoven and articulated throughout the curriculum of the school. [\[1\]\[4\]\[15\]](#)
2. A work-study program for the employment of qualified students in public agencies and institutions. [\[5\]](#)
3. A cooperative education program to offer students experience in private employment. [\[1\]\[3\]\[5\]\[20\]](#)
4. Attendance at the Western Montgomery Career and Technical Center (WMCTC) and participation in a cooperative program of career development. [\[1\]\[6\]\[7\]\[15\]](#)

In order to maintain a program of technical education, the Board shall:

1. Approve the content, organization and assessment standards of all courses stated in the Comprehensive Plan.[\[1\]](#)[\[8\]](#)
2. Approve the placement of students in work-study and career preparatory programs and supervise the nature and conduct of their employment.[\[1\]](#)[\[20\]](#)
3. Operate programs in compliance with the current state plan for technical education.[\[1\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[21\]](#)
4. Employ and supervise certified district technical staff.[\[10\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[22\]](#)
5. Provide adequate facilities and equipment for maintenance of the district's program.
6. In cooperation with the Western Montgomery Career and Technical Center, establish the number of credits to be awarded toward graduation for technical education courses of study and for cooperative education programs.

The Board shall establish appropriate advisory committees to advise the Board, administration and staff concerning the aspects of the educational program delegated to each committee.[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)[\[23\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing procedures which ensure that:

1. All district programs are operated in conformance with the current state plan for technical education and State Board regulations.[\[1\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[20\]](#)
2. All district teachers are properly certified for their specific technical teaching assignments.[\[20\]](#)
3. All approved planned instruction is carried out.
4. Students participating in cooperative education programs are not exploited, illegally employed, or employed under conditions that fail to safeguard their health and interests.
5. Development of district technical curricula is integrated with a continuing assessment of the employment demands of the community and the state, as well as the needs and interests of students.
6. Students and persons in parental relations are informed that admission to technical education programs is accessible to regularly enrolled students, in accordance with established criteria for admittance.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[9\]](#)[\[25\]](#)

The Superintendent shall seek and utilize all available state, federal, and private sources of revenue for the financial support of technical education.

All students participating in technical programs supervised by this Board or in technical programs sponsored by this Board are considered to be regularly enrolled in district schools and are subject to the policies and rules of the Board, and jointly established policies and rules of this district and the Western Center.

Guidelines

Child Abuse Prevention Requirements

Employers who participate in district internship, externship, work study, co-op, or similar programs shall adopt policies and procedures that ensure compliance with the following procedures required by the Child Protective Services Law.

Identification of Adult Responsible for Child's Welfare -

When a district student under the age of eighteen (18) years old participates in an internship, externship, work study, co-op, or similar program with an outside employer, the district and the employer shall, prior to commencing participation, identify an adult(s) who will be the student's supervisor while the child participates in the program. The identified adult(s) will be the person responsible for the child's welfare. [\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)

The identified adult(s) shall be in the immediate vicinity of the child at regular intervals during the program. **Immediate vicinity** shall mean an area in which an individual is physically present with a child and can see, hear, direct and assess the activities of the child. [\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)

Certifications -

Prior to commencement of the program, the identified adult shall submit the following information to the Superintendent or designee: [\[27\]](#)

1. PA Child Abuse History Clearance - which must be less than sixty (60) months old.
2. PA State Police Criminal History Record Information - which must be less than sixty (60) months old.
3. Federal Criminal History Report - which must be less than sixty (60) months old.
4. Disclosure Statement – which is a statement swearing or affirming applicant has not been disqualified from service by reason of conviction of designated criminal offenses or being listed as the perpetrator in a founded report of child abuse. [\[28\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall review the information and determine if information is disclosed that precludes identification of the adult as the supervisor responsible for the child's welfare.

Information submitted by an identified adult in accordance with this policy shall be maintained centrally in a manner similar to that for school employees.

Arrest or Conviction Reporting Requirements -

An identified adult shall notify the employer, in writing, within seventy-two (72) hours of the occurrence, of an arrest or conviction required to be reported by law.[\[28\]](#)

An identified adult shall also report to the employer, within seventy-two (72) hours of notification, that they have been listed as a perpetrator in the Statewide database, in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law.[\[28\]](#)

Failure to accurately report such occurrences may subject the identified adult to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and criminal prosecution.[\[28\]](#)

The employer shall immediately require an identified adult to submit new certifications when there is a reasonable belief that the identified adult was arrested for or has been convicted of an offense required to be reported by law, was named as a perpetrator in a founded or indicated report, or has provided written notice of such occurrence.[\[28\]](#)

If the employer receives notice of such occurrences from either the adult or a third party, the employer shall immediately report that information to the Superintendent or designee in writing.[\[28\]](#)

Child Abuse Reporting -

Identified adults who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is the victim of child abuse shall make a report of suspected child abuse in accordance with the Child Protective Services Law.[\[29\]](#)[\[30\]](#)

Legal

- [1. 22 PA Code 4.31](#)
- [2. 22 PA Code 12.41](#)
- [3. 24 P.S. 1801](#)
- [4. 24 P.S. 1806](#)
- [5. 22 PA Code 11.28](#)
- [6. 24 P.S. 1807](#)
- [7. 24 P.S. 1841](#)
8. Pol. 100
- [9. 24 P.S. 1850.1](#)
- [10. 24 P.S. 1106](#)
- [11. 24 P.S. 1808](#)
- [12. 24 P.S. 1842](#)
- [13. 22 PA Code 4.33](#)
- [14. 24 P.S. 1212](#)

[15. 22 PA Code 339.2](#)

16. Pol. 103

17. Pol. 103.1

18. Pol. 113

19. Pol. 138

[20. 22 PA Code 339.29](#)

[21. 22 PA Code 339.22](#)

[22. 22 PA Code 339.41](#)

[23. 22 PA Code 339.13](#)

[24. 22 PA Code 339.14](#)

[25. 22 PA Code 339.21](#)

[26. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6303](#)

[27. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6344](#)

[28. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6344.3](#)

[29. 23 Pa. C.S.A. 6311](#)

30. Pol. 806

Child Protective Services Law - 23 Pa. C.S.A. Sec 6301 et seq

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Alternative Instruction Courses
Code	124
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	October 13, 2014

Authority

The Board may grant credit toward high school graduation for course work successfully completed through approved summer school, correspondence courses, distance education, online courses and dual enrollment, in accordance with this policy. [\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The High School principal shall be responsible for reviewing and approving high school student applications for earning credit toward graduation through approved alternative instruction courses.

The High School building principal shall determine the number of credits assigned to such a course as part of the approval process before the student begins the course.

Guidelines

Students shall submit to the building principal a written request for approval of each proposed course and the number of credits sought.

The course subject must be included in the district's planned instruction and be relevant to established academic standards. [\[7\]](#)[\[8\]](#)

The student shall receive the same letter grade for credit that is assigned by the alternative instruction course.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 502](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1525](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 1901](#)

[4. 24 P.S. 1903](#)

[5. 24 P.S. 1906](#)

6. Pol. 217

7. Pol. 102

8. Pol. 107

[24 P.S. 1901 et seq](#)

[22 PA Code 4.41](#)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Class Size
Code	126
Status	
Adopted	May 28, 2013

Authority

Class size shall be determined by the Board after consultation with the Superintendent and principals.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations for class size, which shall take into account:

1. Subject matter.
2. Type of instruction.
3. Ability of students.
4. Age group of students.
5. Use of instructional assistants.
6. Use of special facilities and equipment.

Legal
[24 P.S. 510](#)
Pol. 000

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Immunizations and Communicable Diseases
Code	203
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	

Authority

In order to safeguard the school community from the spread of certain communicable diseases, the Board requires that guidance and orders from state and local health officials, established Board policy and administrative regulations, and Board-approved health and safety plans be followed by students, persons in parental relations and district staff.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

Definitions

Certificate of Immunization - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The certificate is filled out by the person in parental relation or health care provider and signed by the health care provider, public health official or school nurse or a designee. The certificate is given to the school as proof of full immunization. The school maintains the certificate as the official school immunization record or stores the details of the record in a computer database.[\[3\]](#)

Medical Certificate - the official form furnished by the Pennsylvania Department of Health setting out the immunization plan for a student who is not fully immunized, filled out and signed by a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant, or by a public health official when the immunization is provided by the Department of Health or a local health department, and given to a school as proof that the student is scheduled to complete the required immunizations.[\[3\]](#)

Guidelines

Immunization

All students shall be immunized against specific diseases in accordance with state law and regulations, unless specifically exempt for religious or medical reasons.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

A certificate of immunization shall be maintained as part of the health record for each student, as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.[\[5\]](#)

A student shall be exempt from immunization requirements whose person in parental relation objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds or whose physician certifies that the student's physical condition contraindicates immunization.[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

A student who has not been immunized in accordance with state regulations shall not be admitted to or permitted to attend district schools, unless exempted for medical or religious reasons, provisionally admitted by the Superintendent or designee after beginning a multiple dose vaccine series and submitting proof of immunization or a

medical certificate on or before the fifth school day of attendance, or in accordance with programs or guidance established by the PA Department of Health.[\[1\]\[4\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]](#)

Homeless students who have not been immunized or are unable to provide immunization records due to being homeless shall be admitted in accordance with the provisions of applicable law and regulations.[\[5\]\[8\]\[9\]](#)

Foster care students and students transferring into a school within the Commonwealth shall be admitted in accordance with law and regulations, and shall have thirty (30) days to provide proof of immunization, a medical certificate detailing the plan to complete a multiple dose vaccine series or to satisfy the requirements for an exemption.[\[5\]\[10\]](#)

Monitoring of immunization requirements shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent or designee and the [\[1\]](#) school nurse.

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Ensure that persons in parental relations are informed prior to a student's admission to school, or a grade requiring additional immunizations, of the requirements for immunization, the requisite proof of immunization, exemption available for religious or medical reasons, and means by which such exemptions may be claimed.[\[1\]\[5\]\[6\]\[7\]\[8\]\[12\]](#)
2. Designate school personnel to review student medical certificates in accordance with law and regulations to ensure compliance with full immunization requirements.[\[3\]\[5\]](#)
3. Annually review state standards for immunization and direct the responsible district personnel accordingly.
4. Investigate and recommend to the Board district-sponsored programs of immunization that may be warranted to safeguard the health of the school community. Such program shall be subject to Board approval and may be conducted in cooperation with local health agencies.

The Superintendent or designee shall report immunization data electronically to the PA Department of Health by December 31 of each year. If the district is unable to complete the report electronically, the Superintendent or designee shall report the immunization data on the required form to the PA Department of Health by December 15.[\[13\]](#)

Communicable Diseases

The Board directs that students who have been diagnosed by a physician or are suspected of having a disease by the school nurse shall be excluded from school for the period indicated by regulations of the PA Department of Health or guidance from state or local health officials for specified diseases and infectious conditions.[\[14\]\[15\]\[16\]\[17\]](#)

At the beginning of the school year, persons in parental relations shall be notified of this policy and that during the school year it may be necessary for a student to be excluded from school due to communicable disease. Persons in parental relations of a student needing to be excluded shall be notified and required to come to school or have a designated emergency contact come to school to transport the student home or to an appropriate place of care. Students may return to school when the criteria for readmission following a communicable disease, as set forth in law, regulations or guidance from state or local health officials, have been met.[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)

The Board directs school staff to request emergency contact information from persons in parental relations of students at the beginning of each school year and request that it be updated as necessary during the school year.

The school nurse shall report the presence of suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate local health authority, as required by the PA Department of Health.[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee shall direct that health guidelines, Board-approved health and safety plans, and universal precautions designed to minimize the transmission of communicable diseases be implemented in district schools.

Instruction regarding prevention of communicable and life-threatening diseases shall be provided by the schools in the educational program for all levels, in accordance with state regulations.[\[21\]](#)

Persons in parental relations shall be informed of and be provided opportunities during school hours to review all curriculum materials used in instruction relative to communicable and life-threatening diseases, in accordance with Board policy.[\[21\]](#)[\[22\]](#)[\[23\]](#)

Health Records

The District shall require that prior to admission to school for the first time, persons in parental relations shall complete a medical history report form for the student being enrolled.

A comprehensive health record shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the district. The record shall include the results of required tests, measurements, screenings, regular and special examinations, and medical questionnaires.[\[17\]](#)[\[24\]](#)

All health records shall be confidential, and their contents shall be divulged only when necessary for the health of the student or to a physician at the written request of the person in parental relation. The district may disclose information from health records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency when necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.[\[25\]](#)[\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)[\[28\]](#)[\[29\]](#)[\[30\]](#)

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1303a

2. 28 PA Code 23.81 et seq
3. 28 PA Code 23.82
4. 22 PA Code 11.20
5. 28 PA Code 23.85
6. 28 PA Code 23.83
7. 28 PA Code 23.84
8. Pol. 200
9. Pol. 251
10. Pol. 255
11. 28 PA Code 27.77
12. Pol. 201
13. 28 PA Code 23.86
14. 28 PA Code 27.71
15. 28 PA Code 27.72
16. Pol. 204
17. Pol. 209
18. 28 PA Code 27.2
19. 28 PA Code 27.1
20. 28 PA Code 27.23
21. 22 PA Code 4.29
22. 22 PA Code 4.4
23. Pol. 105.1
24. 24 P.S. 1402
25. 24 P.S. 1409
26. 20 U.S.C. 1232g
27. 34 CFR Part 99
28. Pol. 113.4
29. Pol. 216
30. Pol. 805
Pol. 105.2

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Postgraduate Students
Code	205
Status	
Adopted	May 28, 2013

Authority

The Board shall assume no responsibility for making its regular educational program available to district residents who are high school graduates, nor after the end of the term in which a student reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years. The Board shall not be responsible for the continuing education of such residents in any other school district. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an individual attains the age of twenty-one (21) years during the school, and has not already graduated high school, such individual shall be permitted to complete the school year..[\[1\]\[2\]\[24 P.S. 1301\]\[22 PA Code 11.12\]\[22 PA Code 12.1\]](#)

The Board will not assume responsibility for the transportation of students pursuing postgraduate studies.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 502](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1901](#)

[24 P.S. 1301](#)

[22 PA Code 11.12](#)

[22 PA Code 12.1](#)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Accident Insurance
Code	211
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	October 26, 2015

Purpose

The Board recognizes the need for insurance coverage for unforeseen accidents that may occur to students in the course of attendance at school or participation in the athletic and extracurricular programs of the schools.

Authority

The Board shall provide persons in parental relations the opportunity to purchase insurance coverage, at no cost to the Board, for injury to the students resulting from accidents in any activity during school hours and in any activity round-the-clock.

The premium will be paid by the persons in parental relations.

The Board shall maintain insurance coverage by a qualified insurer over and above the first responsibility of family coverage at no cost to the student for injury resulting from accidents sustained while participating in an interscholastic program, according to the terms and limitations prescribed by the insurance carrier.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall be responsible to:

1. Prepare specifications and secure suitable coverage from qualified insurance carriers for recommendation and Board approval.
2. Notify all students and persons in parental relation of students who may be eligible for insurance.
3. Ascertain that where the Board assumes the full cost of insurance, each eligible student is properly insured.

Legal
[1. 24 P.S. 511](#)
Pol. 122
Pol. 123

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Reporting Student Progress
Code	212
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	November 13, 2017

Purpose

The Board recognizes that communication between school and home is a vital component in the growth and education of each student. The Board acknowledges the school's responsibility to keep persons in parental relations informed of student welfare and academic progress and also recognizes the effects of state and federal laws and regulations governing student records.[1]

Authority

The Board directs that the district's instructional program shall include a system of measuring all students' academic progress.[2][3][4][5]

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish a system of reporting student progress that requires all appropriate staff members to comply, as part of their teaching responsibility, with a reporting system which includes academic progress reports, grade reports, and parent-teacher conferences with teachers.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, in conjunction with appropriate staff members, shall develop administrative regulations for reporting student progress to persons in parental relations.

All appropriate staff members, as part of their professional responsibility, shall comply with the systems established for measuring and reporting student progress.[3][4]

Guidelines

Various methods of reporting appropriate to grade level and curriculum content shall be utilized.

Both student and person in parental relation shall receive ample warning of a pending grade of failure, or one that would adversely affect the student's academic status.

Scheduling of parent-teacher conferences should occur at times that ensure the greatest degree of participation by persons in parental relations.

Grade reports shall be issued at intervals of not less than nine (9) weeks.

Review and evaluation of methods of reporting student progress to persons in parental relations shall be conducted on a periodic basis.

Legal

1. Pol. 216

[2. 22 PA Code 4.11](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 1531](#)

[4. 24 P.S. 1532](#)

5. Pol. 127

[24 P.S. 510](#)

Pol. 102

Pol. 138

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Complaint Process
Code	219
Status	
Adopted	May 28, 2013

Purpose

The Board recognizes that students have the right to request redress of complaints. In addition, the Board believes that the inculcation of respect for established procedures is an important part of the educational process. Accordingly, individual and group complaints shall be recognized, and appropriate appeal procedures shall be provided.

Definition

For purposes of this policy, a **student complaint** shall be one that arises from actions that directly affect the student's participation in an approved educational program.

Authority

The Board and its employees will recognize the complaints of students, provided that such complaints are submitted according to the guidelines established by Board policy. The student complaint procedures set forth in each student handbook should be grade-level appropriate.

Guidelines

The student should first make the complaint known to the staff member most closely involved or, if none is identifiable, a guidance counselor; and both the staff member and the guidance counselor shall attempt to resolve the issue informally and directly.

For complaints that must move beyond the first step, the student shall prepare a written statement of their complaint which shall set forth:

1. Specific nature of the complaint and a brief statement of relevant facts.
2. Manner and extent to which the student believes they have been adversely affected.
3. Relief sought by the student.
4. Reasons why the student feels entitled to the relief sought.

The complaint may then be submitted, in turn, to the building principal, the Superintendent and the Board, with a suitable period of time allowed at each level for hearing of the complaint and preparation of a response.

At each level the student shall be afforded the opportunity to be heard personally by the school authority.

At each step the school authority hearing the complaint may call in the student's person in parental relation.

The student may seek the help of a person in parental relation at any step.

A student shall not be subject to retaliation or any reprisals due to filing a complaint.

Legal

[24 P.S. 510](#)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Care of School Property
Code	224
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	October 26, 2015

Purpose

The Board believes that the schools should help students learn to respect property and develop feelings of pride in community institutions.

Authority

The Board charges each student in the district's schools with responsibility for the proper care of the school property, school supplies and equipment entrusted to the student's use.

It is the policy of the Board that students who willfully cause damage to school property shall be subject to disciplinary measures. Students and others who damage or deface school property may be prosecuted and punished under law. Persons in parental relations shall be held accountable for the actions of their child.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The Board may report to appropriate juvenile authorities any student whose damage of school property is serious or chronic in nature. In no case shall referral to juvenile authorities be made without prior notification to the student's person in parental relation.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy which include rules for safekeeping and accounting of textbooks, supplies and equipment and an established schedule of fines for lost or damaged textbooks, supplies and equipment.[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

The Superintendent shall submit a report on incidences of significant vandalism to the Board on each occurrence.

Vandalism reports shall include the number and kind of incident, cost to the district, and related information the Superintendent deems necessary.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 777](#)

2. Pol. 218

3. Pol. 233

4. 24 P.S. 109

5. 24 P.S. 801

Pol. 000

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Student Government
Code	228
Status	
Adopted	
Last Revised	October 26, 2015

Purpose

The Board acknowledges the importance of offering students the opportunity to participate in self government within the schools.

The purpose of student government shall be to develop student leadership, provide a learning experience in democratic decision-making, and offer another avenue toward the realization of district goals.

Authority

The Board establishes that students shall have the right to organize, conduct meetings, elect officers and representatives, and petition the Board.[\[1\]](#)

The Board will recognize the Student Government as the official voice of the student body.

The charter, constitution or bylaws of the organization for student government shall be approved by the Board.

The Board shall appoint a qualified member of the faculty to serve as an advisor for student government activities.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall establish rules to implement this policy which:

1. Ensure that all students have equal access to the student government and an equal opportunity to vote and hold office.
2. Require fiscal accountability and adherence to Board policy for all financial aspects of student government activity.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)
3. Require that decisions made and actions taken by the student government organization, in accordance with and within the scope of its constitution, shall not be voided or vetoed by any staff member.

A Student Government Representative shall have a seat on the School Board and the right to speak on all matters, but not the right to vote.[\[3\]](#)

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 511](#)

2. Pol. 618

3. Pol. 004

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Public Performances by Students
Code	230
Status	
Adopted	May 28, 2013

Purpose

The Board recognizes the value of students sharing their talents and skills with the community through student participation and performances in public events.

Authority

The Board endorses public performances by students when they constitute a learning experience that contributes to the educational program; they do not interfere with other scheduled activities; and the circumstances of the event do not pose a threat to the health, safety or well-being of the students who are involved.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

All requests for public performances by student groups require the approval of the Superintendent.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Guidelines

Permission from persons in parental relation shall be sought and received before students may participate in any public performance.

No student shall be compelled to participate in a public performance or be penalized in any way for failure to do so.

When public performances are scheduled as a regular part of a planned course of instruction taken for credit, students shall be informed in advance of their obligation to participate; and they will be excused from participation only in accordance with the rules and procedures governing school attendance.[\[2\]](#)

No district student, group of students, or employees may receive compensation for a public performance of students organized as school representatives.

The interests of students shall be protected and guarded against exploitation.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 511](#)

2. Pol. 204

Pol. 000

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Adult Education
Code	125
Status	
Adopted	

Purpose

The Board recognizes the value of educational growth and advancement to adult members of the community and the need of both adults and minors for educational programs.

Authority

The Board may establish and maintain a program of adult education based upon the needs and interests of the residents, consistent with the educational goals and policies of the district.[\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#)

The Board may employ staff, utilize available facilities, supply instructional and supplementary materials, and provide administrative leadership required to maintain the adult education program. The Board shall establish the tuition rate for each course offered in the adult education program.[\[24 P.S. 1903\]](#)

Guidelines

Admission to an adult education program shall be open to:

1. All adult residents of this district.
2. Adult residents of other districts who apply and whose admittance will not deprive admittance to a district resident.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Utilize appropriate staff members.
2. Assess the needs and resources of the community.
3. Develop a program of adult education and present that program to the Board for approval.
4. Develop and implement means to inform the public of adult education offerings.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 502](#)

[2. 24 P.S. 1901](#)

[3. 24 P.S. 1903](#)

[4. 24 P.S. 1906](#)

[24 P.S. 1904](#)

[24 P.S. 1905](#)

Book: Policy Manual

Section: 200 Pupils

Title: Attendance

Code: 204

Status: Active

Purpose

The Board recognizes that attendance is an important factor in educational success, and supports a comprehensive approach to identify and address attendance issues.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board requires the attendance of all students during the days and hours that school is in session, except that temporary student absences may be excused by authorized district staff in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, Board policy and administrative regulations.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Definitions

Compulsory school age shall mean the period of a student's life from the time the student's person in parental relation elects to have the student enter school, which shall mean no later than age six (6) until age eighteen (18). The term does not include a student who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school.[\[8\]](#)[\[9\]](#)

Habitually truant shall mean six (6) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.[\[9\]](#)

Truant shall mean having incurred three (3) or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a student subject to compulsory school attendance.[\[9\]](#)

Person in parental relation shall mean a:[\[9\]](#)

1. Custodial biological or adoptive parent.
2. Noncustodial biological or adoptive parent.
3. Guardian of the student.
4. Person with whom a student lives and who is acting in a parental role of a student.

This term shall not include any county agency or person acting as an agent of the county agency in the jurisdiction of a dependent child as defined by law.[\[10\]](#)

School-based or community-based attendance improvement program shall mean a program designed to improve school attendance by seeking to identify and address the underlying reasons for a student's absences. The term may include an educational assignment in an alternative education program, provided the program does not include a program for disruptive youth established pursuant to Article XIX-C of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.[\[9\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, persons in parental relation, staff, local children and youth agency, and local magisterial district judges about the district's attendance policy by publishing such policy in student handbooks and newsletters, on the district website and through other efficient communication methods.[\[1\]\[11\]](#)

The Superintendent shall require the signature of the person in parental relation confirming that the policy has been reviewed and that the person in parental relation understands the compulsory school attendance requirements.

The Superintendent or designee, in coordination with the building and/or house principals, Attendance Officer, and/or Home and School Visitor shall be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for the attendance of students which:

1. Govern the maintenance of attendance records in accordance with law.[\[12\]\[13\]](#)
2. Detail the process for submission of requests and excuses for student absences.
3. Detail the process for written notices, School Attendance Improvement Conferences, School Attendance Improvement Plans, and referrals to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, the local children and youth agency, or the appropriate magisterial district judge.
4. Clarify the district's responsibility for collaboration with nonpublic schools in the enforcement of compulsory school attendance requirements.
5. Ensure that students legally absent have an opportunity to make up work.

Guidelines

Compulsory School Attendance Requirements

All students of compulsory school age who reside in the district shall be subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements.[\[5\]](#)

A student shall be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board; the student is receiving approved tutorial instruction, or health or therapeutic services; the student is engaged in an approved and properly supervised independent study, work-study or career education program; the student is receiving approved homebound instruction; or the student's placement is instruction in the home.[\[2\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[15\]](#)[\[16\]](#)[\[17\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[19\]](#)[\[20\]](#)

The following students shall be excused from the requirements of attendance at district schools, upon request and with the required approval:

1. On certification by a physician or submission of other satisfactory evidence and on approval of the Department of Education, children who are unable to attend school or apply themselves to study for mental, physical or other reasons that preclude regular attendance.[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)[\[21\]](#)
2. Students enrolled in nonpublic or private schools in which the subjects and activities prescribed by law are taught.[\[5\]](#)[\[22\]](#)
3. Students attending college who are also enrolled part-time in district schools.[\[23\]](#)
4. Students attending an approved home education program or private tutoring in accordance with law.[\[5\]](#)[\[18\]](#)[\[24\]](#)[\[25\]](#)[\[26\]](#)[\[27\]](#)
5. Students fifteen (15) or sixteen (16) years of age whose enrollment in private trade or business schools has been approved.[\[5\]](#)
6. Students fifteen (15) years of age, as well as students fourteen (14) years of age who have completed the highest elementary grade, engaged in farm work or private domestic service under duly issued permits.[\[7\]](#)
7. Students sixteen (16) years of age regularly engaged in useful and lawful employment during the school session and holding a valid employment certificate. Regularly engaged means thirty-five (35) or more hours per week of employment.[\[7\]](#)[\[15\]](#)
8. Students participating in agricultural fairs in conformity with section 1329(b) of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P.S. § 13-1329(b)).

The Board will recognize other justifiable absences for part of the school day. These shall include medical or dental appointments, court appearances, driver examinations and/or family emergencies.

The Board may report to appropriate authorities infractions of the law regarding the attendance of students below the age of eighteen (18). The Board shall issue notice to those persons in parental relations who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.

Excused/Lawful Absence

For purposes of this policy, the following conditions or situations constitute reasonable cause for absence from school:

1. Illness, including if a student is dismissed by designated district staff during school hours for health-related reasons. [\[3\]\[6\]](#)
2. Obtaining professional health care or therapy service rendered by a licensed practitioner of the healing arts in any state, commonwealth or territory. [\[6\]](#)
3. Quarantine.
4. Family emergency.
5. Recovery from accident.
6. Required court attendance.
7. Death in family.
8. Participation in a project sponsored by a statewide or countywide 4-H, FFA or combined 4-H and FFA group, upon prior written request. [\[1\]\[6\]](#)
9. Observance of a religious holiday observed by a bona fide religious group, upon prior written request from the person in parental relation. [\[28\]](#)
10. Adult-Sponsored Tours and Trips - Upon receipt of a written request from the parents of the pupils involved, pupils may be excused from school attendance to participate in a family trip provided during the school term at the expense of the parents when such trip is evaluated by the district Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee(s). Pupil participants therein are subject to direction and supervision by an adult acceptable to the district Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee(s) and to the parents of the pupils concerned.

The following regulations are applicable:

- a. Absences for non-school trips shall not be excused unless a written request by the parent has been approved by the building principal. For the purposes of this policy, written request may also include email from a person in parental relation as long as the email address is registered as belonging to the person in parental relation in Skyward. Such requests are to be submitted in a format developed by school officials ten (10) days prior to the date of the trip
- b. Only ten (10) days of absence for non-school trips during any school year will be classified as excused. If a student already has a number of excused days (cumulative of sick, previous non-school trip or other excused reason) for that school year, only the difference between the number of accrued excused days up to ten (10) will be approved as excused. The remaining days will be considered unexcused. Additional days will be classified as unexcused and/or unlawful and

will be subject to the legal procedure prescribed by attendance regulations.

- c. Coursework missed during a period of excused absence to participate in a trip must be completed satisfactorily after return to school within fourteen (14) calendar days subsequent to the last approved day of absence. Given adequate notice of planned absences, teachers are requested, insofar as such is possible, to provide an outline of assignments for completion during the period of absence. Work submitted by students in conforming with this requirement is to be evaluated, without penalty, for late submission.
 - d. Absences from school to participate in adult-sponsored tours and trips may not be approved for students who are failing two (2) or more subjects; for students who are identified as habitually truants and/or, for students for whom a physician's excuse is required.
 - e. Students who participate in non-school trips of educational merit shall, at the discretion of the teacher, give an oral or submit a written report concerning the highlights of the trip. At the discretion of the teacher, such report may be accepted in lieu of comparable course requirements.
 - f. Family or non-school sponsored trips that exceed ten (10) consecutive school days will result in the student being disenrolled from the school district. Upon return from the family or non-school sponsored trip, a person in parental relation will need to re-register with the District by first scheduling and attending an appointment with the District Office.
11. College or postsecondary institution visit, with prior approval.
12. Other urgent reasons that may reasonably cause a student's absence, as well as circumstances related to homelessness and foster care.[\[3\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[30\]](#)[\[31\]](#)

The district may limit the number and duration of nonschool-sponsored educational tours or trips and college or postsecondary institution visits for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school year.

Temporary Excusals –

The following students may be temporarily excused from the requirements of attendance at district schools:

1. Students receiving tutorial instruction in a field not offered in the district's curricula from a properly qualified tutor approved by the Superintendent, when the excusal does not interfere with the student's regular program of studies.[\[5\]](#)[\[14\]](#)[\[18\]](#)
2. Students participating in a religious instruction program, if the following conditions are met:[\[28\]](#)[\[32\]](#)
 - a. The person in parental relation submits a written request for excusal which may also include email as long as the email address is registered as belonging to the person in parental relation in Skyward. The request shall identify and describe the instruction, and the dates and hours of instruction.

- b. The student shall not miss more than thirty-six (36) hours per school year in order to attend classes for religious instruction.
 - c. Following each absence, the person in parental relation shall submit a statement (written or via registered email address) attesting that the student attended the instruction, and the dates and hours of attendance.
 - d. All absences from school for religious holidays or for religious instruction, subject to the requirements of this section, shall be excused, and no student so excused shall be deprived of an award or eligibility to compete for an award or the opportunity to make up a test given on the religious holiday.
3. School age children unable to attend school upon recommendation of the school physician and a psychiatrist or school psychologist, or both, and with approval of the Secretary of Education.[\[21\]](#)

Parental Notice of Absence –

Absences shall be treated as unexcused until the district receives a written excuse (including email from a registered email address) explaining the absence, to be submitted within three (3) days of the absence.

A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences (including excused days for non-school trips) verified by parental notification shall be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days shall require an excuse from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts. An absence or period of absence shall be deemed unexcused if a physician's statement is not submitted as required under the provisions of this policy.

Unexcused/Unlawful Absence

For purposes of this policy, absences which do not meet the criteria indicated above shall be permanently considered unexcused.

An out-of-school suspension may not be considered an unexcused absence.[\[9\]](#)

Parental Notification –

District staff shall provide prompt notice to the person in parental relation upon each incident of unexcused absence.

Enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Requirements

Student is Truant –

When a student has been absent for three (3) days during the current school year without a lawful excuse, district staff shall provide notice to the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student within ten (10) school days of the student's third unexcused absence.[\[33\]](#)

The notice shall:[\[33\]](#)

1. Be in the mode and language of communication preferred by the person in parental relation;
2. Include a description of the consequences if the student becomes habitually truant; and
3. When transmitted to a person who is not the biological or adoptive parent, also be provided to the student's biological or adoptive parent, if the parent's mailing address is on file with the school and the parent is not precluded from receiving the information by court order.

The notice may include the offer of a School Attendance Improvement Conference.[\[33\]](#)

If the student incurs additional unexcused absences after issuance of the notice and a School Attendance Improvement Conference was not previously held, district staff shall offer a School Attendance Improvement Conference.[\[33\]](#)

School Attendance Improvement Conference (SAIC) –

District staff shall notify the person in parental relation in writing and by telephone of the date and time of the SAIC.[\[33\]](#)

The purpose of the SAIC is to examine the student's absences and reasons for the absences in an effort to improve attendance with or without additional services.[\[9\]](#)

The following individuals shall be invited to the SAIC:[\[9\]](#)

1. The student.
2. The student's person in parental relation.
3. Other individuals identified by the person in parental relation who may be a resource.
4. Appropriate school personnel.
5. Recommended service providers.

Neither the student nor the person in parental relation shall be required to participate, and the SAIC shall occur even if the person in parental relation declines to participate or fails to attend the scheduled conference.[\[33\]](#)

The outcome of the SAIC shall be documented in a written School Attendance Improvement Plan. The Plan shall be retained in the student's file. A copy of the Plan shall be provided to the person in parental relation, the student and appropriate district staff.[\[33\]](#)

The district may not take further legal action to address unexcused absences until the scheduled SAIC has been held and the student has incurred six (6) or more days of unexcused absences.[\[33\]](#)

Student is Habitually Truant –

When a student under fifteen (15) years of age is habitually truant, district staff:[\[34\]](#)

1. Shall refer the student to:
 - a. A school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
 - b. The local children and youth agency.
2. May file a citation in the office of the appropriate magisterial district judge against the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.[\[34\]](#)

When a student fifteen (15) years of age or older is habitually truant, district staff shall:[\[34\]](#)

1. Refer the student to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program; or
2. File a citation in the office of the appropriate magisterial district judge against the student or the person in parental relation who resides in the same household as the student.

District staff may refer a student who is fifteen (15) years of age or older to the local children and youth agency, if the student continues to incur additional unexcused absences after being referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program, or if the student refuses to participate in such program.[\[34\]](#)

Regardless of age, when district staff refer a habitually truant student to the local children and youth agency or file a citation with the appropriate magisterial district judge, district staff shall provide verification that the school held a SAIC.[\[34\]](#)

Filing a Citation –

A citation shall be filed in the office of the appropriate magisterial district judge whose jurisdiction includes the school in which the student is or should be enrolled, against the student or person in parental relation to the student.[\[35\]](#)

Additional citations for subsequent violations of the compulsory school attendance requirements may only be filed against a student or person in parental relation in accordance with the specific provisions of the law.[\[35\]](#)

Special Needs and Accommodations

If a truant or habitually truant student may qualify as a student with a disability, and require special education services or accommodations, the Director of Special Education shall be notified and shall take action to address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[16][36][37][38]

For students with disabilities who are truant or habitually truant, the appropriate team shall be notified and shall address the student's needs in accordance with applicable law, regulations and Board policy.[16][36][38]

Discipline

The district shall not expel or impose out-of-school suspension, disciplinary reassignment or transfer for truant behavior.[\[33\]](#)