



MINUTES
SPRING GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
DIRECTORS' STUDY FORUM MEETING

DATE/TIME of MEETING: January 11, 2021 @ 7:20 PM

LOCATION of MEETING: VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

ATTENDANCE: **The following School Directors were in attendance:**
Karen Baum, Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber, Rachel Rohrbaugh,
Todd Staub, Doug Stein, Dave Trettel, Doug White

The following School Directors were absent:
Maurice Gaskins

The following Spring Grove Area School District Administrators were in attendance:

Dr. George W. Ioannidis, Superintendent
Dr. Mary Beth Grove, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations
Ms. Karyn Brown, Director of Pupil Services

A Directors' Study meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was held on Monday, January 11, 2021, following adjournment of the voting meeting. Cindy Huber, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM, noting the same Board members in attendance from the earlier voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

BOARD OR ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE:

n/a

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum

Hoschar welcomed Dr. Grove, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Guadagnino, Middle School Principal, to provide an update regarding student early dismissal days implemented November 4, 2020. They noted positive outcomes for distance learners and increased interactions among all students in either learning platform. Amy Thompson, Middle School Math instructor, shared constructive comments from a teacher's perspective. Paige Little, High School student and Student Representative to the Board, thanked board members and shared appreciation for the change on behalf of the students. Grove thanked Karen Baum for visiting educational buildings during early dismissals and giving positive feedback. Ioannidis would like to maintain the current schedule through the remainder of the school year. Hoschar questioned if a vaccine will have an impact, which is not yet known.

Hoschar presented a memorandum and Grove discussed timelines regarding the process to update the Comprehensive Plan to be submitted to PDE in March 2022. Guadagnino reported that various stakeholder groups will review and update the plan over the next 15 months, using PDE's online portal. Doug Stein, Maurice Gaskins, Karen Baum and Brent Hoschar confirmed their interest as committee participants.

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BUSINESS/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget and Finance

Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations, shared an update to the debt refinancing transaction. The District realized just over \$2.1 million value savings, to remain in the General Fund until the close of the fiscal year when the Board may consider a potential transfer to Capital Reserve.

Czapp shared a brief update to next year's proposed budget preparation process in lieu of a presentation. He stated that at present, the 2020-2021 budget is trending as in previous years. A detailed presentation, to include a preview of the preliminary proposed budget for 2021-2022, is slated for the February 8th Directors' Study Forum.

Czapp presented a list of proposed 2020-2021 budgetary transfers, to be considered for approval at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

Czapp presented the YCST proposed 2021-2022 General Operating Budget for review and consideration, noting a 5.73% increase over the previous year. Trettel stated the increase is largely due to a rise in healthcare costs. The Board will consider approval of the proposed budget at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

Czapp presented LERTA requests from Northpoint Development and Predix Properties for consideration of tax abatements to develop properties located within the District. After lengthy discussion, Stein requested an executive session for legal purposes to consider precautions before the Board is asked to take action. Ioannidis will reach out to the solicitor and schedule a brief presentation with the Board prior to the next scheduled meeting. Czapp will prepare a spreadsheet listing options for consideration to be presented with February 8th Directors' Study Forum items.

Czapp presented an updated Tax Collector Compensation Resolution for review and recommended the Board maintain the current level of compensation, affirmed in 2017. The Board will consider approval of the proposed Resolution, noting no increase to the tax collector rate at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

Christopher Enck, District Technology Coordinator, presented for consideration a proposal from Candoris Technologies, LLC to conduct a network penetration test and vulnerability assessment. Enck stated that the independent company's unfamiliarity with the school district lends merit to an objective evaluation. Karyn Brown, District Safety Coordinator, shared her support of the recommendation. Information will be shared with the School Safety and Security Committee in February, and results and findings are expected to be shared with the Board during executive session as part of Act 44 requirements. The Board will consider approval of the proposal at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

Buildings and Grounds

Ioannidis shared the final version of the Peer-to-Peer study of the Roth Church Road Partnership Project with Board members. He noted his excitement about the prospects of the project, including recent interest expressed from the Family First healthcare organization. Impact on campus appearance and prospective tenants are at the forefront of considerations for usage of the site. The Board will be informed as updates become available.

Transportation

Ioannidis provided a memorandum and update to the Request for Proposals for pupil transportation services beginning July 1, 2021. He thanked Mark Czapp, Lori Stine and Rachel Rohrbaugh for their work to consider finalists. Czapp noted the District is recommending Krise Transportation and requested the Board's authorization to move forward with negotiating the details of the contract for consideration of Board approval at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy

Grove presented two 2021-2022 draft calendars for consideration, with a recommendation to select Option A that includes a start date of August 16 for staff and August 18 for all students, including those enrolled in the Launch Program. It is recommended that students in grades 7 and 9 begin one day earlier than all other students for orientation and peer mentoring purposes. Option B proposed a start date one week later, on August 23. Following discussion, the Board will consider approval of Option A at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting.

Personnel

AnJie Doll, Human Resources Director, provided a memorandum and update to the District's Wellness Benefits implementation and 2021 open enrollment status. The HR office partnered with Community Relations and the Business Office to launch staff communications that spanned a full year to educate and prepare staff for benefit changes and encourage necessary enrollment steps. Special thanks to Doll and her HR Department for a very successful process.

Stein presented a memorandum proposing personnel action items for consideration of approval at the January 25th Regular Voting Meeting. Hoschar requested an executive session to discuss proposed actions, to be held following adjournment of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Rohrbaugh moved for adjournment at 8:31 PM. Baum seconded. The meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

Mark A. Czapp,
Director of Business Operations/Board Secretary