



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

DATE/TIME of MEETING: March 8, 2021 @ 7:27 PM

LOCATION of MEETING: EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER / VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

ATTENDANCE: **The following School Directors were in attendance:**
Karen Baum, Maurice Gaskins, Cindy Huber, Rachel Rohrbaugh,
Todd Staub, Doug Stein, Dave Trettel (*via Zoom*), Doug White (*via Zoom*)

The following School Directors were absent:
Brent Hoschar

The following Spring Grove Area School District Administrators were in attendance:
Dr. George W. Ioannidis, Superintendent
Dr. Mary Beth Grove, Assistant Superintendent (*via Zoom*)
Mr. Mark Czapp, Director of Business Operations (*via Zoom*)
Ms. Karyn Brown, Director of Pupil Services (*via Zoom*)

A Directors' Study meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, following adjournment of the voting meeting. Cindy Huber, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM, noting the same Board members in attendance from the earlier voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trettel stated his concern over recently released reports indicating that students wearing masks is a hindrance to their social growth and development. With infection rates decreasing, Trettel questioned how long before the District determines masks are no longer needed.

BOARD OR ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE:

n/a

BUSINESS/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Finance

As shared with board members during previous meetings, Dr. Ioannidis and Mr. Czapp presented additional information related to two (2) LERTA requests for abatement of school taxes to develop properties located within the school district. Czapp welcomed Seth Predix, Predix Properties, and Brent Miles, NorthPoint, who shared additional information regarding their respective requests. Spring Grove Borough has approved an abatement as requested by Predix, and Jackson Township has approved NorthPoint's request as submitted, although they (NorthPoint) have not yet closed on the property. After lengthy discussion, Board consensus was to consider a LERTA resolution for each property for six years, beginning at 60% and reducing by 10% per year, at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting. A request was made for Czapp to reach out to Northeastern School District to ask if LERTA exceptions were granted for warehouses constructed in their School District.

Czapp presented an update to the proposed 2021-2022 General Fund Budget, noting the District is likely to experience a smaller deficit than originally budgeted in the current year. Czapp presented updated Basic Ed and Special Ed subsidy figures from the Governor's proposed budget, noting an increase in projected real estate taxes due to a 2% increase to county assessment values. The Board will consider approval of a proposed final budget at the April 12, 2021, voting meeting starting with a tax increase at the Act 1 limit. Staub requested a breakdown of millage rate increases over the previous five years compared to the annual Act 1 Index number.

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Ioannidis welcomed Chris Enck, District Technology Coordinator, who presented a list of technology equipment to be recommended to the Board to consider as obsolete. Following acknowledgment by the Board, the District will solicit quotes from recycling vendors to either resell or dispose of the assets. The Board will consider approval of the items at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

Buildings & Grounds

Enck shared a summary regarding the proposed contract from Advanced Network Services (ANS) for services related to a proposed feasibility study at Paradise Elementary School to determine the viability, use cases, and cost of CBRS installation and a private LTE network in that area. Following Enck's remarks and a review of the proposed contract, the Board will consider approval of the agreement at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting. Enck noted that COVID stimulus funds would be used to support costs associated with the project.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum

Dr. Grove, Assistant Superintendent, presented a proposal recommending the Board's consideration of a Summer School / Summer Camp Program beginning in 2021. Grove welcomed Dr. Steve Guadagnino, Middle School Principal, who provided an overview of the program that will offer additional support to traditional and distance learning scholars who have experienced difficulty in core content areas during the latter part of 2019-2020 and the current 2020-2021 school years. Administrators of grades K-6 and 7-12 were present to share a brief summary of each instructional level program. The District will apply COVID-19 funding to support the project. Following lengthy discussion, the Board will consider approval of implementing the programs at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

Dr. Dietrich, High School Principal, presented background information concerning student opportunities that are provided at the secondary level for advanced credit toward post-secondary education through dual enrollment and/or college in the classroom agreements with local colleges and universities. The Board will consider approval for continuation and/or implementation of relationships with designated institutions at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

As an informational item, Mr. Ehrhart, High School Assistant Principal, presented a memorandum indicating additional opportunities on the horizon for high school students. The High School STEM Department is planning to expand relationships with local businesses and provide students opportunity to get a "hands-on" education that will prepare them for the careers of their choice. Board members were also invited to provide insight and opportunities for students based upon their own industry experience.

Ms. Brown, Director of Pupil Services, Ryan Lehman and Kerri Henry, Special Education Supervisors, presented updated information to implement an elementary LSS class and a secondary Transition Class in the District beginning in 2021-2022. Czapp presented a cost analysis associated with the programs. Following the presentation, Board consensus was to consider approval of the programs at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

Ms. Brown, Director of Pupil Services, presented a request for continuation of the District's K-12 Dental Hygiene Program in the 2021-2022 school year. Brown noted a change from previous years of Dr. John P. Popernack as dental consultant, replacing Dr. Brian Reigart. The Board will consider approval to continue to program at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy

Baum presented a recommendation for revisions to three policies, no. 113.1, 113.2, 113.4, for consideration. Policies were revised to clarify the Least Restrictive Environment, physical restraints, and sharing of information under FERPA regulations, among other changes. The Board will consider approval of a first reading at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

Ioannidis shared a proposed Resolution for Charter School Legislative Funding Reform and a brief presentation highlighting the current status of funding and the inconsistency in the financial impact to school districts. The Board will consider adoption of the Resolution to advocate for legislative reform at the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

Personnel

Stein presented a confidential memorandum of proposed personnel actions tentative for the March 22nd Regular Voting Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Baum moved for adjournment at 10:43 PM. Staub seconded. The meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

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