

TO: Board of School Directors

FROM: George W. Ioannidis, Business Manager / Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: June 20, 2011
7:45 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS: School Board: Eric Cable, Mary Dolheimer,
Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber, Anne Jones, Stacy Meyer,
Emily Sindlinger, Douglas Stein

District: Karyn Brown, Scott Deisley, George Ioannidis,
Robert Lombardo and David Renaut

Absent: Michael Brookhart

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:45 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Lawson, Heidelberg Township, asked for clarification of correspondence read by Mr. Stein during the voting meeting. Mr. Stein indicated the letter was standardized correspondence from PDE approving PlanCon H documents submitted as part of the renovation process at the Middle School.

Mr. Lawson questioned who the students/attendees are at York Adams Academy. Anne Jones responded that this is a high school program, educating enrollees who for various reasons did not receive a high school diploma and have since decided to work toward this achievement.

Mr. Lawson stated that during the voting meeting the board approved a listing of new and/or revised courses, and questioned if the district uses criteria for determining a minimum number of students to run a particular class.

Robin Russo, Heidelberg Township, stated that when he addresses the school board publicly, he is basing his comments on information he has retrieved from the district website, and/or knowledge gained through observations of board actions at public meetings as well as publications / writings by the district. He stated his primary interest is to share publicly what observations he has made, and he is not concerned with what opinions the board may have about his comments.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Stein responded to earlier public comment concerning taxation considered by local municipalities, and stated he has no idea what townships do or do not do. Mr. Cable noted that periodically, and at a minimum of every other year, the district invites township supervisors to participate in a meeting hosted by the district, in order to exchange information. The meeting is poorly attended by township officials.

Mr. Stein stated as Board President, he has the option to revise agenda items as he deems appropriate, which he did during the May meeting with reference to Doug Meckley. He had no ulterior motive.

George Ioannidis responded to comments from Mr. Nivens and Mr. Russo, stating that any consideration by a township taking over a tax is beyond the school district's control. Mr. Ioannidis shared that when the board first contemplated the repeal of the PC tax, there was public discussion concerning the tax being claimable by another entity. Whether they opt to do so is beyond the district's control, as municipalities are not obligated to notify the district of their intentions, nor vice versa. Financial pressures being experienced by public school districts are also being felt by local municipalities, and they are seeking options to augment their expenses.

In response to Mr. Lawson's question concerning class size, Dr. Lombardo indicated the district makes every attempt to set a minimum class size of 12. Class size numbers this year will be higher because of staff reductions. While 12 is the goal, Dr. Lombardo noted that remediation classes, as one example, may be the exception because they are a required class and cannot be eliminated.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brent Hoschar presented a draft of the 2011-2012 Operational Plan for discussion. Dr. Lombardo indicated the district will continue work on Best Practices, RTII, and analyzing the Gifted and HS Alternative Education programs as major focuses under Curriculum and Instruction. Under Management, the district will continue with action steps recommended from the previous year's CAC Committee final report on property and facilities, as well as continuing with technology infrastructure discussions and upgrades and better working relationships at the High School level. Mr. Ioannidis and Dr. Lombardo have started to look at the next two years' budgets. The 2011-12 Operation Plan will be presented for approval at the July 18 voting meeting.

Mr. Hoschar presented a proposed 2011-2012 Citizen's Advisory Council Topic for discussion. The exploration of best practices for the use of personal devices in the classroom seems most fitting in conjunction with ongoing policy discussions of students' use of electronic devices, as well as current plans to continue technology upgrades. This 2011-12 CAC Topic will be presented for approval at the July 18 voting meeting.

Mr. Hoschar presented a draft of the 2011-2012 Student / Parent Handbooks for review and discussion, explaining that a CD was placed at each board member's seat to take home and preview. Beginning this year, students will be given a CD in place of a hard copy handbook. The district will experience a savings of \$2,400 dollars by going the electronic route. Binders with a hard copy of the information will be available in building libraries and offices. In addition, the website will include a copy of the handbook. The board will consider approval of the handbook content and new format at the July voting meeting.

Dr. Lombardo noted he also foresees doing board agendas electronically in the future.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Emily Sindlinger presented Enhanced Math Skills 12 as a course proposal for discussion. Dr. Deisley indicated this is a remedial course and is the next step toward students who did not score proficient in meeting math graduation requirements. Preliminary numbers indicate approximately 53 students taking the course this year. The course will be presented for approval at the July voting meeting.

Dr. Lombardo reminded board members there is no study meeting scheduled for the month of July, and the voting meeting will include few items.

Eric Cable moved for adjournment at 8:02 PM. The motion, seconded by Cindy Huber, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary

