

The Spring Grove Area School Board of Directors met for its regular session on Monday, April 18, 2011. This meeting was held in the gymnasium of Paradise Elementary School, 6927 Lincoln Highway, Thomasville, PA. Mr. Douglas Stein, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Roll call by the Board Recording Secretary showed Eric Cable, Mary Dolheimer, Brent Hoschar, Anne Jones, Stacy Meyer, Emily Sindlinger, and Douglas Stein present. Mr. Stein noted Cindy Huber was absent due to a work commitment outside of the country and Mike Brookhart would be arriving late. Mr. Stein indicated one executive session was held since the last sunshine meeting, on April 4, 2011 for legal purposes.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Robert Lombardo, Superintendent, reported High School Computer Fair Regional Competition results to board members, noting students’ achievements with first, second and third place standings, qualifying them for competition at the state level. Dr. Lombardo also shared that five Spring Grove teams recently competed at the Team America Rocketry Challenge, with one team advancing to competition at the national level in West Virginia. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success were extended to all students.

Dr. Lombardo shared a congratulations letter addressed to the Superintendent from Mr. Ron Tomalis, PA’s Acting Secretary of Education, congratulating the board and administrative staff of Spring Grove for accomplishments shown by the audit of operations for fiscal years ending June 30, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005. The Audit Report did not contain any findings. Dr. Lombardo commended previous administrators Dr. Stricker and Mr. Howlett for their thorough and astute efforts.

Miss Tuesday Altland gave the Student Representative Report, updating board members of activities and events taking place throughout the district during April. Tuesday noted results from the Math Madness Challenge at Spring Grove Elementary resulted in four students advancing to the regional competition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Robin Russo, Heidelberg Township, addressed board members concerning the proposed 2011-2012 budget, requesting the board consider program cuts, which would result in an additional reduction of staff and show the board’s seriousness to cut expenditures. Mr. Russo spoke concerning the administration’s proposal to remove the per capita tax. He asked board members to remove this item from discussion and not approve it.

Ray Lawson, Heidelberg Township, requested to see an opinion from the district Solicitor concerning a school board member’s vote on actions that affect his wife, who is a staff member. Mr. Lawson asked if the Board has investigated several items, including a later start time for students, turbine power as an energy saving measure, and an increase in the per capita tax. He stated that currently renters are not paying taxes in the district. He also suggested that nameplates of board members and administrators seated at board meetings include position titles.

Mr. Brookhart arrived at 7:08 PM

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Stein noted that renters typically pay an additional amount within their rental fee in order to accommodate the homeowner’s taxes on the property.

Mr. Cable noted the board previously discussed a later start time for students; however, conversations ceased when public response was one of total opposition.

Mr. Ioannidis stated that an increase in the millage rate to make up for elimination of the per capita tax would be borne by a larger tax base and spread over all properties in the district, not just per capita taxpayers. This would result in an increase each year from potential growth in properties in the district.

CORRESPONDENCE

No report.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Brent Hoschar reported the House voted 200-0 to approve HB915, which increases federal funds for the Education Jobs Fund and reduces state funds for basic education. The House Education Committee approved HB 1306 and amended HB 1307, while the Senate Finance Committee approved SB 704.

YORK COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

No report.

YORK ADAMS ACADEMY

Anne Jones reported that as of a meeting on March 22, all (12) Spring Grove seats at YAA were filled, with (10) students awaiting placement. Enrollment stands at 170 and rising, with 46 students expected to graduate in June, three of which are Spring Grove. A lengthy meeting is anticipated for April 26.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Anne Jones moved and Emily Sindlinger seconded the approval of the following minutes: Regular Board Meeting, March 21, 2011, Voting Meeting, April 4, 2011, and Directors' Study Forum, April 4, 2011. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Michael Brookhart presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending March 31, 2011.

2. Mr. Brookhart moved and Mary Dolheimer seconded the approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Vote by roll call resulted in the motion carrying with a unanimous vote by board members in favor.

BUSINESS/FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Ioannidis shared a handout with board members listing proposed revenues and expenditures for the 2011-2012 budget. Changes from expenditures listed at the April 4th discussion meeting include an additional number of staffing adjustments, administrative and level V wage freezes, and cuts to the overall athletic budget, all of which total approximately \$260,000. Mr. Ioannidis anticipates a relatively low Index for the 2012-2013 fiscal year (approximately 1.0 or 1.2% for Spring Grove). The expected reduction in social security reimbursement could have an impact on our funding if our aid ratio falls below .500. The anticipated 3% increase in future years in the PSERS rate will also impact our expenditures.

Dr. Lombardo noted more than 20 professional members have been removed from the 2011-2012 budget, with only one other York County district reducing staff by that amount. This will result in programming changes by increasing class size and adding responsibilities to staff. Dr. Lombardo will meet with Association reps this week to discuss intentions with 2011-2012 wages. Future board discussions will include program stipulations tied to graduation requirements, since the board cannot consider program cuts without reviewing policy. Difficult decisions are ahead, which include how the board will fulfill our mission statement and consider program cuts at the same time. Dr. Lombardo noted that with program reductions, a decrease in athletics also becomes an issue for consideration.

Dr. Lombardo noted that if professional staff were open to the idea, the teachers’ contract could be reopened and renegotiated.

Mr. Ioannidis noted that Spring Grove remains one of the few districts in the county to levy the Per Capita / Occupation Tax. Mr. Brookhart stated if the board were to consider repealing the Per Capita tax, the district would avoid internal costs associated with collection of the tax.

At 7:58 PM, Doug Stein called a recess.

Mr. Stein reconvened the meeting at 8:18 PM.

3. Following a report of the Budget and Finance Committee’s recommendations read by Mike Brookhart, Mr. Brookhart moved and Mary Dolheimer seconded the following:

- I. Approval of the Accounts Payable lists as presented.
- II. Approval to accept Per Capita/Occupation tax exonerations from tax years’ 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010 per listings from Statewide Tax Recovery, dated March and April 2011.

TAX YEAR	NUMBER OF EXONERATIONS	REASON FOR EXONERATION	DOLLAR AMOUNT EXONERATED
2010	5	Deceased, Low Income, Non-Resident	\$137.50
2009	2	Deceased, Non-Resident	\$55.00
2008	2	Deceased, Non-Resident	\$55.00
2007	2	Deceased, Non-Resident	\$55.00
2006	2	Deceased, Non-Resident	\$55.00
2005	2	Deceased, Non-Resident	\$55.00
2004	1	Deceased	\$55.00
	16		\$467.50

III. Approval of the Proposed General Fund Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, with total revenues of \$53,268,878 and total expenditures of \$57,309,465, with the shortfall of \$4,040,587 to be funded from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance, and setting the real estate tax millage rate at 19.67 mills, an increase of .54 mills.

IV. Approval of the attached Final Budget Notice and Per Capita Tax Notice, which gives notification to the public that the 2011-2012 Proposed Final Budget is available for public inspection, and states intention to present for adoption as a Final Budget at the June 6, 2011 school board meeting, allowing for amendments before final adoption.

V. Approval of the attached Resolution Authorizing Proposed Final Budget Display and Advertising and Per Capita Tax Notice, supporting the Final Budget Notice and Per Capita Tax Notice.

Mr. Brookhart clarified that item III as presented reflects budget reduction items E-1 through E-12, E-14 through E-16, an Index increase of 1.8%, a repeal of the Per Capita / Occupation Tax, and allowance of the PSERS exception to an amount equal to the PC / OC tax total of \$303,000.

Anne Jones requested a separate vote on items III, IV and V, collectively.

Vote by roll call on items I and II resulted in the motion carrying, with a unanimous vote by board members in favor.

Vote by roll call on items III, IV and V resulted in the motion failing, with Brookhart, Cable, Dolheimer and Stein voting in favor. Hoschar, Jones, Sindlinger and Meyer voted against.

Following lengthy discussion, Mr. Brookhart made a motion to amend item III as follows, and moved to reconsider for approval, along with items IV and V, as previously read:

Approval of the Proposed General Fund Budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, with total revenues of \$53,268,878 and total expenditures of \$57,309,465, with the shortfall of \$4,040,587 to be funded from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance, and setting the real estate tax millage rate at 19.47 mills, an increase of .34 mills.

Mary Dolheimer seconded the motion to amend item III and reconsider items IV and V.

Mr. Brookhart clarified that item III as amended reflects budget reduction items E-1 through E-12, E-14 through E-16, an Index increase of 1.8%, no PSERS exception and no repeal of the PC and OC tax.

Vote by roll call on amended item III, as well as items IV and V resulted in the motion carrying, with Dolheimer, Cable, Hoschar, Sindlinger and Stein voting in favor. Meyer, Brookhart and Jones voted against.

MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

4. Following a report of the Policy Committee’s recommendations read by Brent Hoschar, Mr. Hoschar moved and Anne Jones seconded the following:

I. Approval of a first reading for the following policies:

- A. Policy No. 122.1: PROGRAMS, Athletic/Co-Curricular Eligibility Requirements
- B. Policy No. 601: FINANCES, Objectives
- C. Policy No. 619: FINANCES, District Audit (*new*)

II. In accordance with Board Policy #702, Gifts, Grants and Donations, acceptance of a donation of two computer monitors from Dorothy Romero, High School Math Instructor, to be placed into general circulation by the Technology Department.

Vote by roll call resulted in the motion carrying with a unanimous vote by board members in favor.

5. Following a report of the Personnel Committee’s recommendations read by Mary Dolheimer, Ms. Dolheimer moved and Brent Hoschar seconded the following:

I. Approval of the following resignation:

- A. District Groundskeeper/Maintenance Support – Ray Dietrich, effective April 15, 2011, due to personal reasons.

II. Approval of the following appointment:

- A. High School Head Boys’ Soccer Coach – Matthew Spahr, effective April 19, 2011 for the 2011 – 2012 school year. Compensation established at \$2,785.00 in accordance with the Spring Grove Education Association.

III. Approval of the following professional substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate of \$95.00 per day and \$110.00 per day beginning on the 21st day cumulative:

- A. Sandra Loeffelholz – Elementary & Middle Level English
- B. Shonna Smyser – General Science & Biology
- C. Amy Watson – Elementary
- D. Kara Webb – Elementary & Special Education

IV. Approval of the following individual for the remainder of 2010 – 2011 school year to work athletic events at the established rate of \$8.00 per hour:

- A. Pearl Wintrode

Vote by roll call resulted in the motion carrying with a unanimous vote by board members in favor.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

6. Following a report of the Curriculum Committee’s recommendations read by Emily Sindlinger, Mrs. Sindlinger moved and Anne Jones seconded the following:

- I. Request approval for Bruce Weaver, Driver Education Instructor, to visit Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the Bethlehem Learning Center on May 15 & 16, 2011.
- II. Authorization to conduct a self-supporting, six-week Summer Music Program for band and string students in grades 4 through 12, at the Spring Grove Area Middle School, beginning June 6, 2011.
- III. Approval to purchase the following textbooks for the District Music Program for the 2011-2012 school year:

<u>Title of Book</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Tonal Harmony (Sixth Edition)	9 - 12	McGraw Hill	\$2,131.25
Tonal Harmony (Instructor's Manual)	9 - 12	McGraw Hill	\$ 39.50

Vote by roll call on items presented resulted in the motion carrying with Hoschar, Brookhart, Jones, Cable, Dolheimer and Stein voting in favor. Meyer and Sindlinger voted against.

Mary Dolheimer moved and Anne Jones seconded the motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager/Board Secretary