

TO: Board of School Directors

FROM: Suzanne E. Sterner, Board Recording Secretary

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: August 1, 2011
7:54 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS: School Board: Michael Brookhart, Eric Cable, Mary Dolheimer,
Emily Sindlinger, Douglas Stein

District: Karyn Brown, Robert Lombardo, David Renaut

Absent: Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber, Anne Jones, Stacy Meyer

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:54 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that five Board members remained present from the voting meeting, which was followed by an executive session for legal and personnel purposes.

BUSINESS / FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Brookhart presented a listing of proposed fund raising organizations for the 2011-2012 school year. If approved, collections by students on behalf of these outside organizations will be permitted during the school year. The board will consider approval of the list as presented at the August 15 voting meeting.

Mark Czapp, Support Services Director, shared information with board members concerning damage sustained to district facilities during a recent series of severe storms. Mark presented a breakdown of damages by individual occurrence, noting a majority of the items listed have already been addressed and most of the cleanup has been completed. Damages sustained to buildings, particularly roof damage at the old middle school, are an insured item and the district is working with Co-Stars to schedule emergency repairs without the requirement to seek bids. Materials are ordered and the job will be scheduled when materials are received. Mark will share a breakdown of costs with the board at the August 15 meeting.

Mr. Czapp stated that additional work is needed to address damaged trees located between the stadium and the high school that were sheared off by the storms. Mark presented three options for board consideration in dealing with the repair and restoration of the area, noting that insurance does not cover damage to or loss of trees. The board may opt to purchase seedlings at a nominal expense, but if too young, the seedlings may prove difficult to raise. Another option is to purchase more mature trees, which would increase the price. Consensus of the board was to remove the few straggler trees left from the storm (a local company is interested in the wood) and replant new seedlings. Mr. Czapp will obtain prices for seedlings and more mature trees, and present figures to the board at the August 15 meeting.

During a prior meeting, the board directed the administration to survey other local school districts concerning policies in place for public use of athletic fields. Mr. Czapp presented results of the survey conducted. The board discussed a number of scenarios, should the board consider changes to existing policy language. Following lengthy discussion, the board determined that present policy language will remain in effect, along with the present Fee Schedule, with Mr. Czapp and Mr. Slagle continuing to evaluate and determine the best use of fields, by request, based on availability and condition of the fields at the time.

Eric Cable presented two years' history of sporting event gate receipts vs. ticket staff costs, broken down by sport, for board discussion. The information presented validated the need to charge attendees for the event in order to absorb some of the costs. Dr. Lombardo noted the board may wish to consider increasing the ticket price in the future. Mr. Brookhart encouraged the administration to consider cutting costs by lessening game management personnel at events, when appropriate.

Mr. Cable presented a listing of proposed organizations, either located within the district or providing service to the district, eligible for waiver of rental fees for the 2011-2012 school year. If approved, fees for use of facilities may be waived; however, additional custodial, cafeteria or other costs incurred are still billable. The board will consider approval of the list as presented at the August 15 voting meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Emily Sindlinger presented a proposal for major trip for PSU THON in February of 2012, for discussion. Dr. Lombardo noted that due to reducing field trip costs, the district is not financing this trip; rather, funding of the trip will come through THON fundraising activities. The board will consider approval of the field trip at the August 15 voting meeting.

Mrs. Sindlinger presented two tournament requests for discussion: a Girls' Volleyball tournament on October 1, 2011 and a Jr. High Wrestling tournament on February 10-11, 2012. The administration will move the requests to the August 15, 2011 voting agenda for consideration.

PLANNING

Dr. Lombardo noted that George Ioannidis, Business Manager, will be discussing the budgetary timeline for the 2012-2013 fiscal year during the September 12 discussion meeting.

Emily Sindlinger moved for adjournment at 8:27 PM. The motion, seconded by Mary Dolheimer, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne E. Sterner
Board Recording Secretary