

TO: Board of School Directors

FROM: George W. Ioannidis, Board Secretary

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ September 12, 2011  
TIME: 7:45 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

District: Karyn Brown, Robert Lombardo, David Renaut

Absent: Michael Brookhart, Eric Cable

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 seven Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

**BUSINESS / FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Jones presented 2010-2011 year-end budgetary transfers for discussion. Following review of the items presented, the board will consider approval of the transfers at the September 26 voting meeting.

George Ioannidis, Business Manager, presented the 2012-2013 budgetary timeline for board review and discussion, and noted preliminary budget adoption will be earlier than usual due to 2012 primaries. A tentative January 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting date was noted, which George indicated to be predicated on a board decision to go beyond the index. Budget discussions will begin in October, with board calendar discussion in November. Larger discussion item will be for the board to consider staying within the index. If electing to go beyond the index, the board will be required to adopt the preliminary budget on January 16. George shared a base index projected at 1.7%, which will estimate the district’s enhanced index at 2.2%, noting he will likely recommend the board stay within the index. Board members will need to consider exceptions by the November 21 action meeting.

Anne Jones presented a proposal for Arbitrage Rebate Counselors (ARC) to perform arbitrage liability calculations for Series 2006 and 2006A bonds, for review and discussion. Following brief comments, the board will consider approval of the proposal at the September 26 voting meeting.

Mrs. Jones presented a proposal from Harold Gaughan to prepare calculations as part of Plancon J, the next step in the process of concluding the Middle School Renovation Project. Mr. Gaughan’s fee of \$3,000 includes CPA review of their work. Mr. Ioannidis noted that once Plancon J is submitted to PDE and approval is received, the district will be issued a permanent reimbursement rate. The board will consider approval of the proposal at the September voting meeting.

Mr. Ioannidis shared with board members that several months ago, a small group of districts joined together for a joint purchasing venture to purchase electricity. Weekly conference calls with Direct Energy to discuss ongoing electricity commodity purchases have resulted in the district experiencing an approximate savings of 10% from the utility price-to-compare for a six-month period and slightly lower than that of LIU 12.

Mr. Ioannidis noted as part of the 2010-2011 CAC, the district has several areas with potential to be considered as Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (ESCO) projects. The administration requested board consent to pursue a request for proposal process, with support from the solicitor, to determine if there are suitable projects within the district. The process begins with a questionnaire to potential vendors, and may require out of pocket expenses up front. Consensus of the board was for administration to proceed with preliminary development, and keep board members informed of expenses prior to incurring them.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hoschar presented Policy No. 201, Admission of Students, for board discussion. Amended language to policy is in follow up to discussions during voting action in August. The board will consider approval of a first reading at the September voting meeting.

Mary Dolheimer presented a memo concerning Paradise Elementary third grade enrollment figures for discussion. Dr. Lombardo shared that over the summer, the third grade class at Paradise received a number of enrollments. In the past, any class above 25 students received board consent to hire an over-enrollment aide. The board gave consent to move forward with the interview process and hire two aides for three third grade classes at Paradise Elementary. Mr. Renaut recognized Mrs. Julius, Principal and third grade teachers at Paradise Elementary for their willingness to work together for a viable solution.

Mr. Stein commented on other recent elementary enrollments. Dr. Lombardo shared in keeping with former discussions from last year's CAC, a future request by administration may be for board approval of RFPs to conduct a district-wide feasibility study.

Dr. Lombardo introduced Ms. Cugliari, who reviewed statistics following the 2011 summer school credit recovery program. Ms. Cugliari shared it was a five-week program, with 25 work sessions, which assisted students in staying on track for graduation with their class. She feels results were favorable, and Dr. Lombardo applauded Ms. Cugliari and teachers for their efforts. There was no charge to students for the program, which is carried through to class options during the current school year.

Ms. Cugliari shared an AP data update in four major subject areas, and noted statistics from 2010 to 2011 showed significant increases in the number of students taking the classes, as well as the number of those scoring successfully on the exams. Results indicate that Spring Grove scored higher than the national average. A 2011 graduate attending Drexel shared with High School teachers that the university transferred 40 credits upon enrollment for AP and college in the classroom courses completed at Spring Grove. Dr. Lombardo recognized Ms. Cugliari for her work.

Emily Sindlinger presented two Major Trip Proposals for discussion and review. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval of the Hiram G. Andrews Center and FBLA State Leadership Workshop field trips at the September 26 voting meeting.

Anne Jones motioned for adjournment at 8:15 PM. Cindy Huber seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis  
Business Manager / Board Secretary