

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ November 7, 2011
TIME: 7:12 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

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

Absent: Mary Dolheimer

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:12 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phyllis Daniels, North Codorus Township, commented on the football program, and feels that her son, as a member of the team, is being disrespected. Ms. Daniels suggested holding a meeting where parents could discuss issues with administrators and football coaching staff members.

Dawn Delaughter, Paradise Township, stated the football coaches have done a phenomenal job and does not see a problem with the current program.

Anne Strickland, Spring Grove Borough and district employee, spoke in support of the football program and commented on the coaches’ overall support of students, on and off the field.

Ben Cregger, HS junior and member of the football team, stated that despite the record, the team is in great shape and has really come together this year, something that had been missing in the past. He does not believe anything should change.

Gary Guinn, Heidelberg Township, stated having knowledge of football coaches saying things to students on the football team that are inappropriate and considered a “put down” by some of the kids. Mr. Guinn is concerned for kids – that sports should be an avenue to escape from the world’s pressure – not be an additional source of the pressure.

Seth Hildebrand, 10th grader, stated this year’s coaching staff have pushed team members to retain a higher GPA than in previous years, and Coach Stoner shows his support of kids by making sure they are passing classes and staying mindful of post-secondary education options, a new mindset for the team.

De’Andre Gaskins, HS sophomore, stated that coaches encourage team members to become better players and better people. They watch films in the locker room to learn better skills.

Katarion Tisdale, HS sophomore, stated his ninth grade year was a horrible year; however, the new coaching staff saw his potential and encouraged him to continue.

Keith Lentz, Paradise Township, stated his displeasure overhearing Coach Stoner using belligerent language directed toward parents of Spring Grove students.

Bob Eichelberger, Spring Grove Borough resident and Athletic Booster board member, shared his experience of being removed as a volunteer coach because of an altercation with an official during a game. He understands coaches should be held to a higher standard, and urged board members and the administration to exercise consistency and equitability during any investigation into the comments about the football program.

Andy Stauffer, Heidelberg Township resident and football coach at the varsity level, stated when an entire coaching staff is turned over as was done in Spring Grove, some may not be happy with the changes and expectations placed on kids may be misinterpreted as intimidation. All players are expected to give their best, and some players are aspiring to go on to play at the collegiate level.

Eric Glass, SG Borough resident and coach at the varsity level, stated many positive things were done this year with the team, which helped all the players in the long run. There has been an overwhelming amount of parental support and the locker room atmosphere with the team has been great.

Allotted time for public comment per Board Policy #903 expired at 7:42 PM. Mike Brookhart motioned for an extension of 15 minutes. Huber seconded and the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Kyn'Shon Hunter, HS senior, stated that he loves the sport of football, works hard for the sport, and appreciates that the coach cares about the kids and is not selfish.

Dee Guinn, Heidelberg Township, stated while there are very good things happening with the football program, respect for parents and guardians is being overlooked. Dee asked that coaches be expected to use positive methods to get results with students, and to refrain from using intimidation and humiliating tactics.

Victoria Stauffer, Heidelberg Township, stated that coaches have worked tirelessly to help and support students this year. She stated coaches have worked the students very hard, which is not wrong, but malicious and slanderous comments about coaches posted on Facebook accounts is wrong and unlawful.

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE

Doug Stein stated the administration will review and investigate the statements made during tonight's meeting. He added that at the close of each sports season, an evaluation is completed by the administration, and recommendations are then made for next year's season. Concerns and comments are welcome by phone call or by way of a note to the board and/or administration as part of this process. However, a public forum will not be used to discuss these evaluations and/or the results of any investigation into comments shared during tonight's public comment.

Dr. Lombardo, Superintendent, shared that it was announced today, Spring Grove football team and coaching staff won the county sportsmanship award. Officials voted Spring Grove number one for their commendable behavior on the sidelines.

Mr. Stein called for a short recess at 7:53 PM, and recalled the meeting to order at 8:01 PM.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Anne Jones introduced Tony Miller, Phys Ed instructor, who gave a first marking period summary of the new Physical Education/Nutritional Program started in Spring Grove this year. Tony shared comparisons from 2010 vs. 2011, as well as before and after results from an Extended Strength and Conditioning Test. Students are enjoying the program and sharing their positive experiences with Mr. Miller, requesting that the program be available to them again in the spring.

Rosemary Cugliari, High School Principal, presented 13 New Course Proposals for the 2012-2013 school year, describing each course in some detail, and indicating that some will replace courses currently being taught. There was brief discussion concerning AP courses, and the expectations on students which will be the same as that of a college freshmen. Board members will be asked to vote on all course proposals presented at the November 21 regular voting meeting. Assistant Superintendent, Dave Renaut, recognized teachers for their willingness to prepare proposals on an accelerated timeline.

Mr. Renaut shared official results of 2011 PSSAs. He shared two charts indicating district proficiency levels by cohort and by grade. The district made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) when viewed overall; however, the high school and middle school did not meet PDE targeted benchmarks, and presently, school improvement teams are meeting to address this issue. Mr. Renaut recognized Paradise Elementary for ranking 17th out of 1707 elementary schools in the state in achievement scores, and New Salem Elementary for achieving 100% proficiency in mathematics.

Emily Sindlinger presented two Proposals for Major Trips. Following brief comments concerning balance and equitability when reviewing requested field trips, the board will consider approval of the following at the November 21 voting meeting: Total Experience of Our Government, in Washington, D.C. on December 7, 2011; and the Science Olympiad State Competition, in State College, PA, on April 26 and 27, 2012.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brent Hoschar presented the 2012 Tentative Board Meeting Schedule for discussion. The board will consider approval of the tentative schedule at the December Reorganization meeting (Dec. 5).

Mr. Hoschar presented information concerning donation of a Hardman Peck Piano at the High School level. The board will vote to accept the donation at the November 21 meeting.

BUSINESS/FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Ioannidis made a second presentation for the budget preparation process for the 2012-13 fiscal year. He revisited Act 1 Index requirements, reviewed 2012-13 Budget Parameters, gave an overview of fund balance management and spoke to specifics of the Act 1 Opt Out Resolution. Board members viewed a recap of 2010/11 and 2011/12 fiscal years, as well as a preliminary overview of 2012/13. Mr. Ioannidis indicated the board must consider adoption of the Resolution not to exceed the Index by January 5, 2012, or adopt a preliminary budget by January 25, 2012. Future budget discussion will include the real estate tax – installment plan requirement, a review of parameters, expenditure profile, and preliminary 2012/13 figures.

Mr. Ioannidis presented information concerning finalization of the sale of Bond Series 2006A, and PDE's contention that this refinancing invokes the rule to repeal a portion of the millage rate, when the debt still exists (whether in part of in its entirety) after the refinancing. Board members were given action scenarios to consider as the budget process continues over the next weeks and months. The District may be required to re-apply for the original debt exception taken for the 2006A Bonds in order to maintain the current millage rate.

Eric Cable presented a memo listing repairs to the central storage freezer located at the technology center totaling \$13,350. Board members gave approval for Mark Czapp to continue with removal and installation repairs as quoted by Worden and Shewell under contract #008-059.

Mike Brookhart presented a revised listing of the 2011-2012 Fund Raising Organizations, adding Hope for Cope Foundation and Penn State Children's Hospital. The board will consider approval of the revised list at the November 21 meeting.

PLANNING

Tentative January discussion items include the Parental Code of Conduct at/for extracurricular activities and a review of the number of advisors for band program(s).

Mr. Stein announced an executive session will be held after adjournment of the meeting for legal purposes.

Sindlinger moved for adjournment at 9:24 PM. The motion was seconded by Huber and was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary