

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: June 6, 2011  
7:25 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS:

School Board: Michael Brookhart, Eric Cable, Mary Dolheimer,  
Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber, Anne Jones, Stacy Meyer,  
Emily Sindlinger, Doug Stein

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

Absent:

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:25 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that nine Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Douglas Meckley, SGEA President, stated that in light of difficult economic times, SGEA has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the school district concerning a salary freeze for instructional staff for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Mr. Meckley explained salaries for professional employees will be frozen during the 2011-2012 school year and employees will resume their salaries and step progression during the 2012-2013 school year. This freeze will result in a savings to the district of \$812,663.

On behalf of the administration and board, Dr. Lombardo and Mr. Stein thanked Doug for his leadership with professional staff in making this happen, and extended gratitude to all of the teachers.

Tom Long, Jackson Township, requested the board’s consideration of opening up some of the district’s athletic fields (baseball / softball) for community use, to be equitable with how the High School swimming pool is being used by the public. Currently, the community does not have the option to use these fields; opening them may lend greater excitement to students preparing to enter the high school sports arena.

Ray Lawson, Heidelberg Township, stated his concern for senior citizens now that the district has approved eliminating the per capita tax. He requested the board and administration consider options for exempting senior citizen community members from the additional millage rate increase as a result of the elimination. Mr. Lawson asked if any member(s) of district administration receive a “slush fund,” and applauded teachers, administrators and other district staff for voluntary wage freezes for 2011-2012. Dr. Lombardo confirmed that no one in Spring Grove has a slush fund.

Robin Russo, Heidelberg Township, requested clarification on the savings experienced through the teachers’ wage freeze, and where that savings is reflected in the budget.

Dr. Lombardo and Mr. Ioannidis confirmed that figures in the budget passed during the voting meeting did include salary increases. The newly announced teachers' wage freeze will ultimately reduce the overall deficit, but will not change the millage rate increase or budgetary figures. The savings experienced will result in a decrease to the overall deficit after deferred costs, which will aid future budgets as the administration's preparations begin for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Future anticipated increases may be reduced as a result of this year's savings.

### **BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Cable introduced Citizens' Advisory Council members, Mike Hartman and Tom Long, who presented 2010-2011 CAC committee findings to the board. 24 members from a cross-section of the community and district served on the committee to discuss the topic, "A Comprehensive Review and Analysis of all District-Owned Property and Facilities." The following options were presented for board consideration by Mr. Hartman and Mr. Long as a result of the committee's findings:

1. Renovate the "former" Middle School and relocate the administrative offices, maintenance operations, (potential) instructional space, additional space;
2. ESC to be vacated if move to "former" MS is feasible; consider sale/convert to taxable parcel;
3. Maintenance Office to be subdivided and consider sale/convert to taxable parcel;
4. Farmhouse: hold the property and charge rent at FMV in the interim; and,
5. River Rock (Elementary Center) subdivide property, sell at FMV and convert to taxable parcel.

Mark Czapp shared a Capital Facilities Spend Plan with the board, for years 2013 – 2021. He explained if the board acts on CAC recommendations, this Spend Plan represents a portion of the potential savings the district will realize.

Lengthy discussion took place concerning existing use of facilities and potential for future use. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Long encouraged the board to consider a feasibility study as the next step. Dr. Lombardo directed Mr. Ioannidis to make the initial contacts to move forward with the study. George thanked the gentlemen for their efforts on the committee and presentation to the board, and recognized Mark for his committee leadership over the past year.

Mr. Brookhart requested the administration investigate Mr. Long's request regarding community use of district facilities, fields and the stadium. Mr. Cable noted that opening district property and/or facilities to additional community use will necessitate additional monitoring and supervision. The administration will look into what is currently provided and whether additional offerings could be made. A report will be shared with the board during the August meeting.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Mr. Renaut introduced professional staff members who presented New / Revised Curriculum, explaining these curriculums are being reviewed as a result of the 6-year cycle timeline. Tony Miller, Kevin Baum, Mike Holtzapple, Rosemary Cugliari, and Lisa Gunnet presented updated information on various curriculums, which will be considered for approval at the June 20 voting meeting. Mr. Renaut thanked teachers for the tremendous amount of work over the past months.

The board briefly discussed the possibility of students' participation in sports being considered as partial credit for Phys Ed requirements. Dr. Deisley stated this consideration would require a Phys Ed teacher to oversee the athletics program. Mr. Miller indicated his intentions are to implement a strength training/nutritional program, which will be offered to students on a voluntary basis beginning in 2011-12. Dr. Lombardo asked Tony to compile a report at the close of the first quarter, to include male/female participation and a summary of activities/discussions, which will be shared with the board.

**BUSINESS/FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued**

George Ioannidis presented the Educational Technology Plan (2011 – 2014) for board review and discussion, highlighting district actions and initiatives for the next three years, as well as anticipated costs. Deadline for the plan's submission to PDE is September, with peer review necessary prior to final review. The board will be asked to consider approval of the final plan at the August voting meeting.

Mike Brookhart presented the 2011-2012 Federal Programs Report, indicating no major changes from the previous year. The board will consider approval at June 20 voting meeting.

Mr. Brookhart presented two requests for Disposal of Obsolete / Surplus Equipment. These items are of no current value to the district. The board will consider approval of gifting the lights of the old High School stadium to Spring Grove Area Youth Baseball Association, and 75-80 stacking chairs housed at the old Middle School to Windy Hill Senior Center, at the June 20 meeting.

Mr. Brookhart presented a memo concerning district reimbursement to administrators who use personal mobile telephones in lieu of a district cell phone. This option for administrators comes with the expectation that the personal phone hosts equitable services provided through a district phone. Reimbursement will be \$25 / month upon presentation of a personal bill incurred by the administrator.

Mr. Ioannidis presented a memo indicating that the district will continue its relationship with Security Benefit Group to provide a flexible spending account to employees. The expectation is the service level will improve and the plan will be administered at no cost to the district, through the end of the 2012 calendar year. The district will implement a "short plan year" from October to December, 2011; then continue the plan based upon a calendar year beginning January 1, 2012.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Brent Hoschar presented the following policies for discussion, noting minor revisions: Policy No. 101, Philosophy of Education / Mission Statement; No. 105.1, Curriculum Review by Parents and Students; No. 106, Guides for Planned Instruction; No. 116, Tutorial Instruction; and No. 117, Homebound Instruction. Board consensus was to consider approval of a first reading at the June 20 meeting.

Dr. Lombardo noted the administration continues to evaluate possible revisions to Policy No. 237, Electronic Devices. Any such revisions will be brought before the board for discussion at a later meeting. The previously approved Code of Student Conduct will be modified to reflect existing Policy 237 language and brought back to the board for approval at the June 20 meeting.

Mr. Ioannidis shared a memo with the board concerning a recent request from Freedom Path Ministries to establish a modified payment schedule for delinquent taxes. The request comes based upon the organization's non-profit status. The board denied a prior request to exonerate the tax.

Mr. Stein called for an Executive Session for legal purposes immediately following adjournment of the meeting. Anne Jones moved for adjournment at 9:00 PM. The motion, seconded by Cindy Huber, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis  
Business Manager / Board Secretary