

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ April 2, 2012  
TIME: 7:09 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS: School Board: Michael Brookhart, Eric Cable, Brent Hoschar,  
Cindy Huber, Emily Sindlinger,  
Douglas Stein, David Trettel, Douglas White

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

Absent: 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 7:09 PM by Mr. Douglas Stein, President. Mr. Stein noted that eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Mr. David Renaut, Assistant Superintendent, presented a memo highlighting new/revised curriculum for eleven (11) new courses approved in November 2011. The curriculum is accessible for review through TechPaths. Dr. Cugliari, High School Principal, introduced teachers to summarize course curriculum, as follows:

Kyle Showalter – Advanced Music Theory; Brian Hastings – AP Physics B; Kathleen Krall – AP U.S. History; Stephen Perago – SAT Preparation; Katie Gindlesperger – Computer Applications I & II, Web 2.0 Tools and Game Programming and Design; and Steven Wible – Informational Tech Essentials.

Dr. Lombardo, Superintendent, congratulated Brian Hastings and student teams on recent accomplishments at the “Team America Rocketry Challenge” regional competition. Hastings noted the High School placed first, taking 13 of 23 events, and the Middle School took third overall out of 13. Both groups qualify for states, with some qualifying for nationals. Lombardo also commended administration and teachers for their efforts in writing curriculum, noting the increase in rigor and development of courses over previous years.

Mr. Renaut addressed new materials for courses, noting samples were on display in the rear of the board room for the courses summarized by teachers. Renaut applauded teachers and administrators for a diligent effort to limit costs, and noted new materials for the 11 courses totaled approximately \$8,500. Request for board approval of curriculum and materials will be scheduled for the May voting meeting.

Karyn Brown, Director of Pupil Services, and Tony Miller, High School Phys. Ed teacher, presented a proposal to the board members for an in-house Alternative Education Program at the High School beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Review and consideration of the program were listed as part of the district's Operational Plan objectives for 2011-2012.

Mr. Miller noted several staff members as part of the yearlong analysis process of interviewing students and visiting other programs: Bruce Weaver, Celeste Barnes, Kyle Sprenkle, Michelle Mummert, Josh Ross, Holly Baublitz, Edel Quinn, Matt Robinson, Dave Dietrich, Karyn Brown and Tony Miller. Brown noted the program would work in partnership with River Rock Academy, an outside placement facility that has proven successful for Spring Grove students, who will provide the behavior specialist while the district provides the academic component through scheduling of staff. The program would decrease the cost of placements outside of the district, saving as much as \$100,000. It could also serve as a transitional placement for students returning to the public setting following an outside placement. The program will be included on the April voting meeting agenda with request for approval.

Kathleen Krall and Abbie Sechrist, High School Foreign Language teachers, presented a trip request for approximately 18-20 students and three (3) chaperones to travel to France and Germany in July 2013. Krall noted American Council for International Studies is assisting with details and travel arrangements to include hotel accommodations and tour managers. Scheduled fundraisers will give students the opportunity to raise money. The request will be included on the April agenda with request for approval.

#### **BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

George Ioannidis, Business Manager, presented information concerning the district's opportunity to refinance the remainder of the Series 2006A Bonds, as well as the 2007A and 2007B Series. Chris Gibbons of Concord Public Financial Advisors shared background information and possible considerations of action by board members. Steve Flaherty of RBC previewed the draft Parameters Resolution and explained approval of this document would not bind the district into agreement; however, when the window of opportunity opens with the most substantial savings, execution of this document would allow RBC to move quickly to close the transaction. The board will consider approval of the Resolution at the April voting meeting. Ioannidis noted that refinancing the remaining portion of the 2006A bonds would result in the same rescission of the millage rate as this year. This will be part of the discussion for the preparation of the FY 2013-14 budget.

Ioannidis presented the 2012-2013 General Fund Budget for discussion, reviewing a millage rate of a net effect year-to-year increase of 2.1%. Options for decreasing expenditures and increasing revenues were shared with board members, listed as items E-1 through E-14 and R-1 through R-4 of a handout. Ioannidis also listed possible deferred expense options D-1 through D-4. Ioannidis requested direction from board members in order to prepare a tentative budget slated for adoption at the April 16 voting meeting, noting such adoption is preliminary and does not lock members into figures included as part of that approval. After lengthy discussion, board members requested Ioannidis and administration include itemized line items as discussed during tonight's presentation for final review and decision. Board members also requested Ioannidis share an extended view of future budgets using the 2.1% overall increase with presented cuts for perusal, as well as additional scenarios to include the maximum allowable millage increase. Board consensus was to remove the elimination of mid-day kindergarten transportation as a possible reduction, but include in 2013-14 budget discussions. Dr. Lombardo noted along with the mid-day transportation, a systematic and objective review to programs will be conducted.

Brookhart presented a proposal to dispose of outdated/obsolete computer equipment for discussion. The district is looking to dispose of the items no longer useful in buildings and/or usable on the network, through Egreen, who will recycle electronic waste and reimburse the district a sum of \$940. The board will consider approval at the April voting meeting.

Brookhart presented an updated listing of 2011-2012 approved fund raising organizations for discussion, noting the addition of Spring Grove Wrestling Club. Approval of the updated listing will be requested at the April voting meeting.

Eric Cable presented information concerning consulting services for an Energy Savings Contract (ESCO). Administration suggested bringing representatives of ECG company to discuss the process of assisting the district with a review and analysis to identify potential projects under ESCO. Representatives from ECG are tentatively scheduled to present at the May or June DSF meeting, with a potential vote by board members to follow in June, 2012.

Cable presented Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company's request for a temporary right of way. The right of way will allow Glatfelter to drop pine trees located on the Strausbaugh property, and load them on district property adjacent to the Strausbaugh's. Board approval will be requested at the April 16 meeting.

Cable presented a request from students of the District JV Softball Team to plant a tree as a memorial to Coach James T. Evans who passed away suddenly in the fall of 2011. High School administration supports the tree planting, but discourages donors from placing any memorial plaque or signage at the tree in keeping with previously denied requests. Consensus of board members was to support the tree planting request; however, members requested administration review past practice with regard to plaques to determine why such protocol is in place. District administration will review language of board policy 702.1, Memorials and research origin and funding of any existing plaques located on district property. There may be potential to generate revenue for scholarship/education fund(s); administration may want to consider running requests for plaques through these non-profit organizations.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Emily Sindlinger presented a request for the High School competition cheerleading squad to attend the national competition scheduled for Virginia Beach, VA in May 2012. Registration is a budgeted item for this event. Following lengthy discussion concerning the squad's status as a sport, board consensus was to consider approval of the request at the April meeting, with members requesting the administration review all athletics for equitability.

### **FUTURE PLANNING**

Mr. Stein noted future board discussion meetings are slated to include district activity fees and the 2012-2013 Code of Student Conduct. Mr. Cable requested an agenda item to discuss athletic programs, specifically the noted drop in student participation and coaching staff retention. Spring Grove is below average when compared to other districts. Field usage also needs to be reviewed for maximization and equitability between all sports. On a related note, the administration may want to reconsider how forms are being distributed to parents for participation in clubs.

Doug White requested administration review the field trip policy to determine when it is necessary to obtain board approval

Mr. Stein noted an executive session would be held for personnel reasons following adjournment of the meeting, with no additional business to be discussed.

Cable moved for adjournment at 9:43 PM. The motion, seconded by Huber, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis  
Business Manager / Board Secretary