

TO: Board of School Directors

FROM: Suzanne E. Sterner, Board Recording Secretary

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: June 4, 2012  
7:21 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

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

District: Karyn Brown, Robert Lombardo, David Renaut

Absent: Emily Sindlinger, Board Member  
George Ioannidis, District

The Directors’ Study Forum meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Spring Grove Area School District was called to order at 7:21 PM by Douglas Stein, Board President. Mr. Stein noted eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robin Russo, Heidelberg Township, followed up Mr. White’s summer school question during the earlier voting meeting, stating the district should not be paying 100% of the costs associated with this program. He requested the board consider holding the student and/or parent at least partly responsible.

Dr. Lombardo noted George Ioannidis’ attendance this week at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, where he will be representing public education and Spring Grove interacting with some of the brightest officers of the armed forces and learning leadership skills from world-renowned strategy instructors and makers. This is a national invitation and a prestigious opportunity.

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Lombardo presented a schedule for athletic field resting and a rotation of maintenance for board members’ information. A recent evaluation and analysis was conducted by the administration, with the assistance of a consulting firm, and confirmed the need for continued maintenance and repair of district playing fields. Doug White suggested using youth clubs to offset some of the expense. Brookhart suggested partnership with school affiliated organizations to promote a fundraising campaign for the purchase of turf field(s). Mark Czapp, who developed the rest / rotation schedule, indicated watering of the fields will take place a maximum of one time per week, with concentration given to those fields being rested. Czapp noted the district offers fields to local fire companies when they run their practice drills.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

David Renaut, Assistant Superintendent, presented additional revisions to Policy #213, Grading of Student Progress, for discussion. Changes include removing grading information. Renaut stated various roots of assessment at each academic level identify students’ differing needs and abilities, and grading is then proportionate to the type of testing the students receive. Specific level grading will be included in Administrative Procedure and Student/Parent Handbooks, which are also an agenda item for review. Policy #213 will move forward for a second reading at the June voting meeting.

Brent Hoschar presented changes to Policy #606, Tax Collections, for review. The proposed change removes language concerning collection of per capita taxes. The board will consider approval of a first reading at the June voting meeting.

Dave Renault presented a chart listing those Federal, State and other programs and grants that the district is eligible to apply for. The board will consider approval of the Superintendent and/or his designee to enter into all necessary agreements to meet the mandates for participation in these programs, at the June voting meeting.

Hoschar presented 2012-2013 Student/Parent Handbooks for discussion. Karyn Brown, Pupil Services Director, indicated one major change from the prior year is the inclusion of Electronic Devices policy language at each academic level. Stein noted building-specific grading methods are stated in individual building sections of handbooks. Following lengthy discussion, Brown noted that handbooks will be shared with board members and parents in the form of a CD this year. The board will consider approval at the June voting meeting.

Hoschar presented for discussion, an invitation to board members from Dallastown Board President, Butch Potter, to participate in bi-monthly collaborative board member meetings. Trettel suggested each board submit five topics to Mr. Potter for consideration. Brookhart stated a major topic might focus on boards' communication with their administration. Doug will reply to Mr. Potter, stating the board is open to meet.

Renaut presented the 2012-2013 District Assessment Plan for Classroom Teachers, which included a recommendation for replacement of 4Sight testing with Study Island assessments and Classroom Diagnostic Tools. He noted that while Keystone Exams are not listed, PDE has directed that all students in the graduating class of 2016-17 pass a listing of exams; however, there is considerable uncertainty of the process to be used and how AYP will be calculated for the High School, if PSSAs in eleventh grade are eliminated. The administration will keep the board apprised of information as it becomes available from PDE. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval of the Assessment Plan at the June voting meeting.

### **PLANNING**

Cindy Huber requested an update to the Glatfelter Bridge closing. Dr. Lombardo noted the end of the school year went well, but the full impact of the closing won't be felt until the start of the new school year, particularly when inclement weather becomes a concern.

Brookhart stated Mr. Russo's comment concerning the costs of the summer school program, warrants consideration. The administration will conduct an analysis of "pros and cons" associated with students and/or parents taking on some of the costs associated with summer school participation. The administration will bring a summary back to the board for review at a future discussion meeting.

Mr. Stein called for executive session for personnel immediately following adjournment of the meeting. Meyer moved for adjournment at 8:17 PM. The motion, seconded by Huber, was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne E. Sterner  
Board Recording Secretary