

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ TIME: October 7, 2013
7:37 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS:

School Board: Eric Cable, Brent Hoschar, Cindy Huber, Stacy Meyer,
Todd Staub, Douglas Stein, David Trettel, Douglas White

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

Absent: Emily Sindlinger

Douglas Stein, President of the Board of School Directors for the Spring Grove Area School District, called to order the Directors’ Study Forum at 7:37 PM. Stein noted eight Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Robert Lombardo presented information concerning the District’s Summer Pre-K Program, citing that registering kindergartners undergo a screening process, which identifies those students with particular needs. Parents of those identified students receive an invitation for their child to take part in the Pre-K program. He introduced Annette Julius, Paradise Elementary Principal, who shared a handout of District Benchmark Assessment Data over the past four years. The data evidenced the program’s effectiveness by showing increases in student achievement. Board members support its continuation.

Dr. Lombardo presented a Proposal for Major Trip from the High School Music Department, to travel to Williamsburg, VA and Washington, DC, in April 17-19, 2014. Meyer noted a concern with district funding of substitute teachers. Following brief discussion, the board will consider approval of the trip at the October 21 regular voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Lombardo commented on the school lunch program, noting a current deficit of \$6,260 resulting from students’ non-payment for lunch. The Superintendent noted many districts in York County share this issue. For clarification, he indicated a student who does not have lunch money at the elementary level receives a sandwich and milk; at the High School level, students are extended a maximum negative balance of \$5.00 before being denied a lunch.

George Ioannidis shared information concerning the district S.T.R.I.V.E. Program, noting a slight increase in participation the last two years. The business office received a request to raise the \$5.00/hour rate of reimbursement. Hoschar was not opposed to raising the rate; Trettel proposed an increase comparable to the percentage increase of property taxes. Ioannidis will include calculations in the 2014-2015 budget figures, being mindful of maximums before issuing a 1099 to participating seniors.

Ioannidis presented a memo proposing district purchase of a hand-held two-way radio system as a means of communication when employees are out of the wireless range of phone systems. The administration recommends the purchase to provide a more reliable means of communicating during bus dismissals, recesses, and possible emergencies. There is no annual license fee, and includes a onetime cost of \$14,880, yielding two channels and four phones per school, for six schools. The board will consider approval of the procurement at the October 21 voting meeting.

Cable presented a proposal for the district to move from the existing Global Connect automated mass messaging system, to One Call Now, which would promote greater interfacing capabilities with the district's MMS database, and decrease the need for extensive manual manipulation of the data. The administration expects no additional financial expense to make the change. The board will consider approval at the October 21 voting meeting.

Ioannidis presented 2014-2015 projected budget information, recapping the 2012-13 fiscal year, and presenting an official base Act 1 Index of 2.1% for the 2014-15 fiscal year. He noted potential eligibility for PSERS and Special Ed Cost exceptions, and shared 2013-14 enrollment data, assessed values, revenues and expenditures, and an unassigned ending fund balance of approximately \$8,258,984 on June 30, 2014. During the November 4th DSF, Ioannidis will present final 2012-13 data and 2014-15 budget parameters, discuss the Act 1 Index Resolution, review fund balance management, and present factors that influence the budget.

Todd Staub presented for discussion an administrative recommendation to issue a Request for Proposal for Transportation Services, with a goal of awarding the contract to the selected vendor by April 2014. The current Durham contract ends at the close of this school year. The board will consider approval at the October 21 voting meeting.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brent Hoschar presented language of Attendance Policy No. 204 for discussion. Dr. Lombardo noted that the present policy has served the district well, but particular issues have surfaced concerning the restriction of student absences in the first ten days and the last ten days of school. The board will discuss amending the language of Policy No. 204, allowing the Superintendent a certain level of flexibility in this specific area, at the November 4 DSF.

Hoschar presented the proposed 2014 Board Meeting Schedule for discussion. The board will consider approval of the schedule at the October 21 voting meeting.

Hoschar presented the 2013-2014 Spring Grove Education Fund Annual Plan for review. The board will consider approval of the plan at the October 21 voting meeting.

Cindy Huber presented information requesting an increase in hours for a Middle School part time custodian. Dr. Lombardo noted that reductions in staff over the past several years are beginning to reflect upon the district. The board will consider approval of the increase at the October 21, 2013 voting meeting, recognizing the increase does not affect benefits.

Cable stated the board recognizes administration's proactive steps to cover district vacancies, and noted the board is not opposed to considering appropriate actions to fill needs. Dr. Lombardo shared the administration evaluates every position following a retirement or resignation. He is currently considering a proposal to hire a PIMS administrator and/or additional tech support person to help with increasing PIMS requirements.

Trettel requested a breakdown of how changes in the health care bill will affect the district, as a future agenda item. Ioannidis will include projected costs and information in updates he will provide to members at the next budget presentation, November 4.

Stein reminded the Negotiations Committee members of the next scheduled meeting on October 21, prior to the regular voting meeting, at the Middle School.

Stein called an executive session for personnel after adjournment of the meeting, following a short break.

Huber made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 PM. Trettel seconded the motion, unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary