

TO: Board of School Directors

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

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – Directors’ Study Forum

DATE OF MEETING/ November 4, 2013
TIME: 7:26 PM

LOCATION: Educational Service Center

PARTICIPANTS:

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

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

Absent:

Douglas Stein, President of the Board of School Directors for the Spring Grove Area School District, called to order the Directors’ Study Forum at 7:26 PM. Stein noted nine Board members remained present from the voting meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Dr. Cugliari, High School Principal, summarized nine new courses proposed for the 2014-2015 school year, eight courses proposed for name changes only, and two courses involving recommended time allotment changes. Cugliari explained the proposed changes are cost-neutral to the district. The board will consider approval of all proposed courses at the November 18, 2013 voting meeting.

Emily Sindlinger presented four proposals for major trips for review and consideration: two Mock Trial Competitions, one TARC Nationals, and one Music in the Parks. The board will consider approval of the proposed trips at the November 18, 2013 voting meeting.

Dr. Renaut, Assistant Superintendent, explained that results of 2012-2013 PSSAs and Keystone Exams are now official and used a PowerPoint presentation to overview the new methodology behind PDE including scores on the recently released School Performance Profile. Dr. Renaut pointed out that a Title I School achieving high progress is a great honor and recognized the Intermediate School for meeting the criteria for this identification. The administration elected to suppress high school and middle school scores until information is reviewed for accuracy; the board will receive an update when those scores are released in January 2014.

Stacy Meyer presented two Wrestling Team Competition requests for review and discussion. The board will consider approval of the Senior High Wrestling Tournament at State College and the Junior High Wrestling Tournament at West Lawn, PA, at the November 18 voting meeting.

BUSINESS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

George Ioannidis introduced Chris Gibbons, Concord Public Finance, and Steve Flaherty, RBC Capital Markets, to review options of the ongoing debt refinancing opportunity for advance refund of Series A and Series B of 2009 Bonds. The board ratified a resolution to move forward with steps to refinance in June 2013 to achieve at least a 3% savings. The finance team recommended looking at bank loans for the next phase of the refinancing actions and RFPs were sent out to potential lenders. Flaherty shared handouts highlighting potential savings through a number of scenarios, and an action may materialize as early as December yielding a favorable return.

Ioannidis presented challenges and components of the Affordable Care Act, noting the effective date for compliance is January 1, 2015. The Act stipulates the district's (employer's) need to offer minimum essential and affordable coverage to essentially all full-time employees and their dependents, with full time status defined as averaging 30 or more hours per week. Ioannidis outlined action steps and initial estimated cost calculations of the annual excise tax liability. The administration will continue to review mandates, recommended actions, and the impact on the actuarial value of the plan.

Ioannidis presented the 2014-15 initial proposed budget for discussion, noting the estimated ending fund balance for 2013-14 is \$6,770,844. He outlined projected expenditures and revenues and calculated potential ending fund balances annually through 2017-18. Board members will review and update parameters and the staffing profile during December 2013, and Ioannidis noted specific items for consideration. The board will adopt a resolution to stay within the 2.6% enhanced index by January 30, 2014, or, in order to file for exceptions, adopt a preliminary budget no later than February 19, 2014.

Ioannidis stated the District is concluding both State and Local Audits, and the administration anticipates having reports to the board at the December 2, 2013 meeting. No findings are anticipated, and while attendance is not required by board members during the exit conference with the state auditor, all are invited to participate.

Eric Cable noted former Spring Grove teacher and coach, Joe Johnston, passed away over the weekend.

Future agenda items include an overview of the District Cooperative Education program and an update of PTO funding for building programs/events, particularly in the area of field trips.

Cable made a motion to adjourn at 9:10 PM. Huber seconded the motion, unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

George W. Ioannidis
Business Manager / Board Secretary